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## EPIC Adventures Goes Deep at Genesee

MELISSA HODDE

EPIC Adventures launched its first trip off-campus with an overnight paddle on the Genesee River on September 28th and 29th. Twenty-six students from all class years participated, led by Dr. Laura Alexeichik. "A varied group of people came on the trip - people from different majors, friend groups, and ages," noted Becca Loomis, a senior who also participates in Dr. Alexeichik's Canoeing class. Most had never paddled a canoe or a kayak before. "Some people spent a little more time in the water than I think they had planned for," chuckled Dr. Alexeichik. She noted that the abundance of downed trees in the otherwise pleasantly winding riverhead made for a lot of capsizes among the new paddlers. They remained undaunted however. Freshman Ansley Green recalls her own misadventure with a tree branch as "my favorite story", and fondly refers to the hefty metal canoe she paddled with Loomis as "Big Al". "I would definitely do another epic trip," she said. "It lived up to its name, I certainly made new long lasting friendships as we 'roughed it' in our lean-tos."



Doobie the dog goes for a paddle with EPIC Adventures

COURTESY OF LAURA ALEXEICHIK

While still 'roughing it', the group's home base offered them easy access to the outdoors without the level of intense preparation that might intimidate newcomers to adventure programming. "We have a connection with Trout Run Campground," explained Dr. Alex-

eichik, "which has the lean-tos and a campground right on the river, and so we worked with them. . . It was nice because we don't have to worry about tents, we can just use the lean-tos, we've got a great place for our campfire, right on the river - there's wildlife, you don't feel

like you're on a campground per se." According to Dr. Alexeichik, the owners of Trout Run want to continue offering the campground as a space for Houghton students to relax off-campus.

Students on the trip felt that the site was a good fit. "It

was really fun sleeping out in a lean-to with several other people and having s'mores around the campfire," said junior Lydia VanKirk. While they rested, the group bonded over card games and a few rounds of Mafia, a memory fondly recounted by Loomis and sophomore Morgan Ring. "I didn't know anyone on the trip super well," Loomis later remarked, "and I felt like I bonded with the people there because of our shared experience. It's so nice to see my new friends around campus, now!"

For Dr. Alexeichik, the experiential bonding Loomis described was far more important for the trip's success than keeping all the canoes upright. "We want to provide authentic, intentional experiences for students with the environment, with each other, with who they are," she said. The relational focus of the trip paid off for many students, as attested by more than Loomis and Green. "It is wonderful how in just one night of camping that I got to laugh, talk and have fun with people whom I just met during the trip," said freshman Nuri Park. He emphasized the importance of the whole experience beyond the titular activ-

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## EQUESTRIAN CENTER DEDICATED

DAVID KRALT

A new Equestrian Center building has been dedicated and opened to the public. The 36,400 square foot building includes an education center, horse stalls, an 100' x 220' feet indoor stadium and more. To celebrate the event, a demonstration displaying a variety of different styles of riding and training was showcased.

The dedication began at 9:00am on Saturday, October 6, 2018, with the opening ceremony at 9:30 and a prayer and song led by Lauren Grifoni '19. Grifoni is a senior equestrian student who also studies music. She described to the audience the differences between each style, and where they originated from for the duration of the event.

After the ceremony, a practice called dressage was performed, followed by a stadium jumping competition, then a hunter competition. Dressage is a European style designed

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## Students take the bus for Shakespeare



Professor Lipscomb and six students drove to Ontario to see *The Tempest*

COURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

JOHANNA FLOREZ

What makes half a dozen students skip all their Thursday classes and spend eight hours sitting in a van? Maybe any number of reasons - but at the on September 27th, it was a professor who drove students

to see Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario.

Professor Susan Bruxvoort Lipscomb organized the trip, ordered theatre tickets and lunches, and drove the six students who went. Doctor Lipscomb is the chair of

the Department of English and Writing. This semester, she is teaching Shakespeare in the Classroom, a course which emphasizes engaging with Shakespeare as drama instead of treating it as pure literature. But the invitation to join the trip was extended beyond that class to

all students in the Department of English and Writing. Students of various years and majors left campus at 9 a.m. to see the matinee performance of *The Tempest* and arrived back around twelve hours later.

*The Tempest* finds its central character in Prospero, the Duke of Milan, whose brother usurped his throne and banished him to an island with his daughter Miranda. Prospero is a magician and has spirits and a witch's son serving him. He orchestrates a terrible storm that wrecks his brother and several other nobles responsible for his banishment on the island, bringing about not only vengeance and restoration of his rightful title, but also new love and reconciliation.

Student feedback on the play was very positive. "It was the first Shakespeare play I've seen at that level of production," says Samantha Moore, a junior English and Writing major. "I love plays, so it was just nice to

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# International // LGBT Romania



DEVEN BLOWERS

An effort to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage through a referendum was halted in Romania after two days of voting last week. According to the BBC, 20.4% of voters cast ballots when 30% was required for the referendum to pass. Although not directly banning same-sex marriage, this vote would have made it constitutionally illegal and harder to revoke. Romania held this referendum as a way to redefine marriage and family in its constitution from gender-neutral language to consisting of “one man and one woman,” David Molloy of the BBC writes. As a result, this definition, already stated in Romania’s civil code, would be constitutionally sound. According to the BBC, the

failure of the referendum has sparked confusion. “As a poll on Friday indicated support for the change was as high as 90%.” However, no such change will take place at this time, and LGBTQ advocates are cheering. Marius Tufis, a retired engineer who opposes same-sex marriage, reflects the polls by stating “I believe most Romanians want this.” The government even extended the voting further than one day, but that was not enough to receive the minimum percentage of voters. Tufis exemplifies the disappointed voter’s sentiment by saying “So how come no one else showed up?” Joanna Kakissis of NPR, concerning Tufis, writes, “he worries that the European Union, which he sees as divided between the liberal West and the conservative East, will force Romania to change the law.” In context, Milena Veselinovic and Laura Smith-Spark of CNN write, “More than 40 members of the European Parliament wrote to Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă in the run-up to the referendum to express their dismay that the vote was being held at all.” This is not Romania’s first conflict with the Euro-

pean Union regarding homosexuality. The country was previously required as “a precondition for entering the European Union” to decriminalize homosexuality in 2001. This news comes amidst an upswing of posts on social media promoting people to vote as part of the democratic process. If the polls were an accurate description of the majority opinion in Romania, then this is just another example to all that if someone believes in something, they

need to vote in order to affect the lawmaker’s decisions. This is also seen as an example of the power of protest. Opposers boycotted the referendum and are celebrating this victory. “Romanians rejected being divided and hating each other, it is a victory for Romanian democracy and moreover, Romanians rejected the involvement of the Orthodox Church in the state’s secular affairs,” according to Vlad Viski, an executive director of an LGBT rights group based in Bucha-

rest. For now, the laws in Romania regarding same-sex marriage will remain the same as they were yesterday, yet the liberal views of the Western European Union will likely continue to clash with the Eastern Orthodox Church’s efforts to preserve the state of the civil code of Romania. ★ *Deven Blowers is a Junior majoring in Writing and English.*



Courtesy of The Guardian

## STRATFORD *from page 1*

be able to go to a really great play and have it be a play we’re also learning about in class.” She explains that having discussed *The Tempest* in Shakespeare in the classroom helped her understand the importance of scenes she as she watched them, while she still remained immersed in the director’s interpretation of the play. “It was a long car trip for one play, one day,” Moore acknowledges. But, she says, “Would I do it again? Yes, I would, because I really did enjoy it.” Nicole Soggs, another junior Writing major, is not in the Shakespeare class. She accepted the department’s invitation to go to Stratford both to enjoy the break from classes and also to enhance her storytelling. “It’s kind of helpful for me to see people acting out things, because when I write scenes I always act it out first,” she says. Soggs describes the long car ride as “nostalgic” and “peaceful”, reminding her of family vacations. She suspects she was so comfortable in the setting of the tightly-packed van “because I’m a junior, so I’ve already established myself here, and I already feel safe and secure” around other Houghton students. Both Moore and Soggs appreciated the opportunity to expand their Houghton ex-

perience beyond classes on campus. As Moore says, “I love field trips and I haven’t been on one in college yet.” According to Doctor Lipscomb, the Department of English and Writing is always looking for opportunities to engage students with experiences related literature and writing. Logistically, this can be challenging. While Doctor Lipscomb was planning the Shakespeare in the classroom course over the summer, she struggled to find any Shakespeare performances in Buffalo or Rochester that fit with the semester’s schedule. The distance to Stratford is not ideal for a day trip, but the Stratford Festival is “world class,” Lipscomb notes. “It’s really the best North American actors who are performing, so it’s giving students a chance to experience Shakespeare at the highest caliber of production and performance.” This was her first time at the Stratford Festival, although she has known about it and wanted to visit for some time. The *Tempest* trip gives Lipscomb and the department a sense for how similar trips could be done in the future—whether as single days off campus, or overnights to see multiple plays. The course is described by Lipscomb as “a little bit experimental, with approaching Shakespeare from the perspective of how Shakespeare is taught.” “Methods”

courses are expected for Education majors, but are unusual as English classes. Lipscomb is teaching the course without any model to copy, so this semester is an ongoing process of finding out which techniques work and which do not. But some of her priorities are clear: “In my teaching [of plays], it’s essential to always see or experience a performance.” The students of the English and Writing Department can expect to be invited on similar trips in the future. ★ **CENTER** *from page 1* to help train the horse. The dressage was shown by Hannah Williamson ‘20 on her horse Gus, and Abigail Fulmer ‘19 on Otto. Show Horse events are often split into two categories of performance: jumpers and hunters. Stadium jumpers is a timed event. The rider’s position and how the horse jumps doesn’t really matter, the fastest pair without any knocked rails or refusals wins. The leads to much more speed and agility focused competitions. Good rider position will help the rider go faster however, even though you won’t be judged on it. The Stadium Jumping event was performed by Emilia Blakeslee ‘20 on Phoenix, Celeste Kenny ‘20 on Bree and Mariah Haas ‘21 on Red. Kenny won the competition, followed by

Haas then Blakeslee. The goal for hunters is to jump around a course and position themselves best they can. Only the rider’s performance is judged. This event is centered around how the horse is ridden, not how fast it is. The practice originated around fox hunting, and traversing rough terrain where riders needed to be careful while jumping over obstacles. The Hunting event was performed by Macy Baumgarten ‘19 on Ethan, Fulmer on Willion, and Anne Goth ‘21 on Balou. The stadium will help equestrian students practice more often and more effectively. “I am very excited about the new building,” said Blakeslee, an aspiring veterinarian who grew up riding horses and cares for her own horse on Houghton campus. “It has already been such a blessing because it allows more people to ride at once when the weather is less than ideal. I really appreciate that it is temperature controlled, and I’m excited that I won’t have to wear 17 layers when I ride this winter!” She continued, “I like horseback riding because it is challenging and allows you to form a connection with one of God’s most amazing creatures (horses are the best). It builds character and creates a strong work ethic. You are working as a team with another creature that is depending on you to be your best and to treat them with kindness.

Horses communicate primarily through body language so paying attention to their body language is a good way to understand what they are thinking/feeling, and a big part of working with horses is learning how to use your own body language to communicate with them.” ★ **EPIC** *from page 1* ities of kayaking and canoeing: “...it was the people and all the events that took place before the canoeing that made the trip so special,” he said. VanKirk affirmed that she and her paddling partner “had a ton of fun together navigating the rapids and the swift current” Dr. Alexeichik draws from personal experience in making her programs impactful. “As a student, these kinds of trips were meaningful for me,” said Dr. Alexeichik. “So that’s why we’re trying to run a fall break trip, we’re trying to run opportunities that students have to get off of campus, even things that are just right down the road like Rushford Lake.” In Dr. Alexeichik’s day, outdoor activities came from Wilderness Adventures, a program founded and led by Doris “Mabel” Nielsen of Mabel’s Trail and Nielsen Center fame. “That’s what EPIC adventures is now, what Wilderness Adventures was,” Dr. Alexeichik explains. “Mabel had a vision to engage people in the outdoors and think about how we often see life differently when we have a chance to get outside and



# Houghton's Hidden History

## Vetville

CHRIS CILENTO

*In this column, I will attempt to shed some light on the hidden history of Houghton College and the town of Houghton. Every day we walk past history without even realizing it! Hidden stairs on an overgrown hill, crumbling foundations lost in forgotten corners of the campus, memorials to fallen heroes, and much more dot this campus and the town. Follow me and I will guide you through Houghton's hidden history.*

September 2, 1945. The Allied Forces had just declared victory over the Axis powers and hundreds of thousands of servicemen would soon be on their way home. For the small Wesleyan institution of Houghton College, this posed a logistical conundrum. During the summer of 1945 it became apparent that the campus would be inundated with returning veterans and new students. With that realization came the concern of where to house them. In an effort to temporarily find student housing for returning vets, a summer dormitory was “winterized” (a generous description at best) on the Wesleyan Methodist campground adjacent to Houghton College (where Shen, Nielsen Center, and the Art building currently stand). That fall, another barracks type building was erected to house another 26 students. In 1946, even more veterans chose to come to Houghton as a new community was being built just across the creek from the campus (where Houghton Academy currently stands). Dubbed “Vetville,” this community would consist of 38 apartments to house

veterans and their families. Ten buildings in all with two containing three apartments and the other eight containing four apartments each. Of these apartments, twenty would have two bedrooms while the remaining eighteen were one bedroom. From the September 1946 issue of The Houghton Alumnus: “Gone are the days when baby-buggies were a novelty on the campus and formulas were something that the Chem. Students worried about. Grocery lists also serve as bookmarks and menus are as much a part of ‘homework’ as math. Vets have accepted Houghton as part of their rehabilitation program and they are definitely part of ours.” Houghton College is currently participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program covers tuition of Houghton Veterans not covered by the GI bill. As we approach the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day and the end of WWI, what better tribute to our Veterans could this institution provide than to hearken back to the days when Houghton College actively helped returning veterans rehabilitate and acclimate to civilian life? Our own College Flats could easily house many veteran families and the venerable old Steese Cottage (on the hill across from the art building) would make a fine Veterans Center. These additions would be a great way to both boost attendance and honor those that have sacrificed deeply. ★

### EPIC from page 2

close to nature - but also, we engage with people differently, we have more face to face time.” She found this to be true on the EPIC trip as well. “We weren’t on our phones, we weren’t texting people back or worrying about catching up with this or that show, and so that space to get outside and to be thoughtful is something that’s different.” Dr. Alexeichik felt that the weekend was “a good start to the semester”, an impression echoed by the participants. “Our trip down the Genesee river was very memorable, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” said Loomis. “[Dr. Alexeichik] is also an amazing person, and I recommend anyone to get to know her during their time at Houghton. I’m so glad I came, and I’m excited to see how EPIC Adventures grows as a program as more people become aware of it!” ★

### EPIC Adventures Q&A

**Why is it called EPIC Adventures?**  
*Alexeichik:* It stands for Experiential Programs, Intentional Community. I’ve been charged to focus on Houghton students and providing opportunities for connection that they wouldn’t normally have, and to be thinking about how, when we offer different activities on campus, we can pull from a number of different groups of people.

**So are the EPIC Adventures programs and activities intended for a certain kind of student, or to be a part of everyone’s Houghton experience?**  
*Alexeichik:* “It should be a part of everyone’s experience. I think sometimes we often say no to things like this because we don’t know anybody else, or we think that we’re not sure how to be in a canoe, or we think that we’re supposed to have a specific set of skills, but I want to provide opportunities for people that don’t

have any background, all the way to the other side of things where maybe we’ve been working on a specific skill-set and it’s a little bit more of a technical challenge. . . I think people assume ‘Well, I’m not a recreation person, so therefore this trip is not for me.’ This is for all students. We have opportunities for the community, for families, for younger kids, but really it’s for Houghton students who are just interested in stepping outside their normal.”

**Are there service opportunities with EPIC Adventures?**  
*Alexeichik:* I’d love to partner with Eco Reps, I’d love to partner with Education or other [academic] areas [to ask] “How do we reach youth at risk? How do we reach environments that need service or ministry programs overseas? Can we do an EPIC adventure that takes us to Puerto Rico that involves doing some adventurous types of things but also relying on the fact that we might have opportunities for ministry or helping provide service and cleanups and

things like that. So yeah, for sure - it’s just one project at a time.

**Can students help with leadership?**  
*Alexeichik:* “I have so many dreams of how students could be involved, but also we’re looking at doing an EPIC facilitator team, or an EPIC adventure team, in the sense [of] students who are interested in working with other people - whether that be through trips, outings, ropes course groups, the rock wall, or just learning about leadership, learning about how they can invest in people - and I want to build that, so we’re looking for students to be involved, because I can’t do some of these other opportunities without the student assistance.”

**You lead EPIC Adventures: What else do you do?**  
*Alexeichik:* So I’m the [Sport, Recreation and Wellness] Department chair, and I’m also in charge of the rockwall and advisor to the rock wall, advisor to Paddle Sports . . . [I run] Equestrian Camp during the

summers, and then teaching - and then EPIC is in there somewhere.”

**What happened to the Recreation major? Is it gone?**  
*Alexeichik:* The Recreation Major has been integrated into the Sport Recreation and Wellness major, and then people can also specifically minor or do a concentration in outdoor recreation, but none of the requirements of what we had back when I was a student have significantly changed, we’ve just added more options, and we’ve added more opportunities and classes. It’s actually been a strength, seeing the Recreation major close but strengthening it with a business background, strengthening it with a broader perspective of different areas. The Sports Recreation and Wellness major has changed the dynamic . . . we used to have a large number of Recreation majors, and now what we have is a large number of Sport Recreation and Wellness majors with a smaller component of recreation minors. ★

# Spiritual Reflections

MORGAN SMITH

What is it to worship God? As we in Houghton tend to practice it, worship most often means praise, thanksgiving, and adoration. We respond to the redemptive grace and material blessings God gives us with offerings of words and music. And I think this is right, a good and joyful thing. But I also think these patterns of worship – both individual and corporate – are by themselves profoundly incomplete.

Part of this incompleteness has to do with the limited range of activities we stereotypically count as worship. In general, I think worship is something like an attitude of reverential address towards God embodied in concrete actions. On this view, worship is not identical with any one activity. Rather, the whole church service – music, prayer, silence, sermon, Eucharist, healing, testimony, and so on – is worship. Nor is worship confined to explicitly religious activities: study, rest, laundering, and morning coffee can be lived as acts of worship, too.

But this is not the whole story. Besides the limited range of activities they typically include, I think our usual patterns of worship are incomplete in that they fail to be honest about the evil we witness in the world. Each person carries individual burdens; our families and communities suffer from a thousand kinds of brokenness; every news cycle delivers a fresh batch of national and international catastrophes. Against all this, merely singing uplifting songs seems a profoundly impoverished response. When we address ourselves to God, we should acknowledge both the goodness and the evil in Creation, in keeping with the full range of what actually happens.

A right response to evil, I think, involves (at least) recognizing evil for what it is, mourning evil as a trespass against God’s nature and will for the world, and protesting against evil with everything we have. These responses should manifest in practical ways – in the sharing of our attention and money, for instance. But they should also constitute a regular component of our worship, in the form of laments, petitions, and liturgical commitments to being and acting for the good. We should start by using the many beautiful poems of lament and petition in our scriptures, and expand our resources from there.

I’ll leave you-all with this cry of desolation, adapted from Lamentations 4:

*How the gold has grown dim,  
how the fine gold is changed!  
The sacred stones lie strewn  
at the head of every street.*

*The children of Zion, priceless,  
worth their weight in fine gold—  
now nothing but rough earthen vessels,  
the product of a potter’s hand.*

*The tongues of the nursing children  
stick in their mouths for thirst;  
the little ones clamor for bread,  
but not a soul will offer to them.*

*Those who fed on delicacies  
languish in the streets;  
those born to noble scarlet  
wallow in mounds of filth.*

*The rulers of the earth did not believe—  
nor even a single dweller of the world—  
that the invader and the enemy would enter  
the gates of Jerusalem.*

*Yet our eyes have given out, peering for help;  
we watched with such hope  
for a nation that could not save* ★



# History Department Welcomes Dr. Esh



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUGHTON

Dr. Christian Esh graduated from Houghton in 1998 and returned this semester as Associate Professor of History

KAYLA SIMMONS

Another alum has joined Houghton Faculty this semester, Dr. Christian Esh, as Associate Professor of History. A Vermont native, Dr. Esh was raised with a strong emphasis on education and graduated from Houghton in 1998. He has since earned his doctorate at the University of Maryland and taught

at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho for over a decade. Dr. Esh described Houghton as “a really warm, caring environment with astoundingly high quality academics that trained me to examine who I was and examine things about the world that I’d never really thought of before.” He expressed excitement at being back, with one minor ex-

ception: “I’m obsessed with coffee, which has been the hardest thing about moving to Houghton,” he said, reminiscing about the coffee scene in the Seattle area. “In a sense, Houghton hasn’t changed at all Except the music building, the view from here [his office] is completely identical to what it would’ve been like 20 years ago.” He commented that many of the faculty that

were a part of Houghton when he was a student have retired. Dr. Esh spoke fondly of Dr. Cameron Airhart, who retired earlier this semester. As a student, Dr. Esh began his time at Houghton as a bio pre-med major, but soon changed courses to pursue a degree in History. He cited a specific experience as a sophomore, where he had the opportunity to hold and read original Benjamin Franklin manuscripts. “It sort of blew my mind,” he remembers, and he began taking more classes with Dr. Airhart and Dr. Ron Oakerson. His specific interest in American history emerged from a trip to London, as part of a program Houghton previously ran for upperclassmen. “That’s when I realized I was fascinated with America,” Dr. Esh said, mentioning differences between Americans and British he noticed during his time in London. “We’re really unique, and I didn’t know that until I got to England.” He also spoke passionately about the importance of history in education, particularly at Houghton. “It teaches us how to be fully human and fully alive, and the best that we can be,” Dr. Esh said. He also notes that history provides

a perspective of the human experience based on “real events and real people,” more so than one might find in other humanities. As Dr. Esh puts it, history “acquaints us with this perspective of who we are as human beings that’s grounded in reality.” Dr. Esh went on to say “American history in particular is essential to a place like Houghton because my sense is that we don’t know who we are anymore...American history is supposed to give you knowledge of yourself, at least if you’re American...I don’t feel like we know our own story very well...” Dr. Esh joked that his teaching style is “not fashionable,” being grounded in lectures. “I think history is about stories though, so it’s different,” he explained, “as a history student, someone has to tell the stories, and everyone has to learn the stories, everyone has to learn the facts.” His upper level classes tend to be more socratic, and Dr. Esh admits that “I love to argue, I love to get students to argue with me.” He went on to say “I like to teach from argument, and for students to argue on their own and take positions.” ★

# Review // Secure the SPOT 2018

JARED HOBSON

At long last, after some mysterious advertising and much-anticipated hype, we finally saw Hannah Sievers and Hannah Ferland take the stage this past Saturday night at SPOT. Acting as a campus officer and officer-to-be, Sievers and Ferland, respectively, brought many laughs and excitement to the chapel to conclude Purple and Gold Week of 2018. “I think it ended up going super well,” says Sievers, “The morning of, Hannah and I were super worried that people weren’t going to come to it because they didn’t quite understand our theme or that we hadn’t amped it up enough.” But Collin Zehr ‘22 begs to differ, saying, “[SPOT was] impressive! ... With Hannah and Hannah, it was really entertaining. There was never a dull moment.” The upbeat energy between Sievers and Ferland was truly contagious, the two of them performed so well together. But did you know that it was SPOT that brought the Hannahs together? In fact, Siev-

ers and Ferland barely even knew each other beforehand. Sievers explains, “I got a text message from a friend saying would you ever consider hosting SPOT with Hannah? I was super confused but I was like OK I’ll give this a shot and we got lunch we talked it over and decided to go for it. I think what made us great hosts working together was that we come from two totally different social groups on campus which created a big draw for our friends supporting us personally.” As for the acts themselves, there was a great variety. It felt like a little bit of everything; from a tap dance performance so good it was bad, to an appearance from the sea-faring men of Houghton Yacht Club, to hilarious stand-up comedian Derrick Tennant - an alum whose first public comedy shows were at SPOT twenty-five years ago. This year a couple acts bridged the gap between live performance and video, such as the brawling Houghton Hockey guys and *The Bachelor: Houghton College*, featuring Dan Bussey and five lucky “ladies” competing for his final rose. The video creators definitely did

not fall short this semester either. “There were a lot of good videos,” senior Chris Henderson said about the night, “The Houghton vine compilation was my favorite thing ... I don’t think I’ve laughed that hard at SPOT before.” But we can’t forget the terrifying panda video or either video starring Andrew Sherman, which flawlessly captured Sherman’s awkward-funny humor. There seemed to be a tendency toward video over live act and talent this semester, which received mixed responses. Altogether, though, SPOT was a genuinely fun event and lived up to the anticipation that it always seems to build every semester. In gratitude, Sievers said, “I was so thankful for the help from our band and the tech team spent their entire day there getting the lights and the sound all ready for the evening. As well as for safety and security for being such good sports about the whole thing. Our main goal was to do something funny that the whole campus would relate to but also bring attention in a good light to the hard work that safety and security put in to our campus.” ★



PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNAH SIEVERS

“Officers” Sievers and Farland in costume



# Review // Trench

TYGER DOELL

“You’ve been asleep... It’s time to wake up.” This was the wake-up call that Tyler Joseph gave through a music video on July 11th, 2018, to the dedicated members of the twenty one pilots fanbase, affectionately known as “The Skeleton Clique” but often shortened to “The Clique.” Before this, the band had been on a year long hiatus, recovering from the demands of their rigorous Blurryface tour which lasted for two years after their last album of the same title came out in 2015. Since they announced their hiatus, the band was almost completely silent for a year. Almost completely, as they managed to release a series of cryptic tweets, websites, and images aimed at building up a fictional world in which the new album would take place.

In July, the band surprise released two singles, accompanied quickly by two music videos which told the story continued from the cryptic leaks about Clancy, a fictional man trapped in the fictional city of Dema, a world said to be ruled by ten bishops, which many fans speculated to represent sins or insecurities that the band’s

lead singer struggled with. While Blurryface represented these insecurities and how Tyler deals with them, it became clear that Trench would represent both Clancy’s attempts to escape Dema, as well as Tyler’s attempts to control and do away with his insecurities.

When the album itself, Trench, was released, fans were not disappointed. While the previous album set a more dismal tone, with not a lot of hope to be had, Trench offers the listener a promise of companionship and strength amidst trials. This is promoted by the song “Levitate,” from which the album’s title is taken. The song welcomes the listener to “Trench,” a sort of resistance camp meant to represent the Clique.

Within the album, we continue to see the duality between insecurities and self-confidence that we saw in Blurryface. Some songs are about overcoming these insecurities or issues, like in “Neon Gravestones,” where we see Tyler confronting the issue of suicide. He even confronts the pressure not to write love songs in “Smithereens,” in which he writes that he knows people think he’s selling out by writing a song about his wife. Yet despite the hopefulness, there are some songs in which the insecurities seem to win. The song “Jump-suit” speaks about the fear of

change, and the desire not to put ourselves out into a place where we can be criticized. In addition, song “Legend” shows Joseph’s struggle to grapple with the death of his grandfather, who passed away during the recording of the album.

But although the album includes these two dualities which are a recurring theme in the band’s music, Trench offers listeners a reason to be hopeful: they can take comfort in the fact that they aren’t alone.

This theme is highlighted in the song “My Blood,” which could have a multitude of meanings. The song’s speaker will “go with you,” but never quite clarifies who the speaker is. While the speaker could be anyone from the band themselves, to the other members of the Clique, from Christ speaking to Christians, or even Joseph’s blood itself, the message is clear: we are not required to go about the messes and joys of life alone.

But if any song sums up the band’s fifth album, it would have to be the final song, “Leave the City.” The song’s weary speaker talks about a fire that is almost out, and a fear that “it’s almost over.” But what provides them with comfort in the end is those who are around them: “In Trench I’m not alone, these

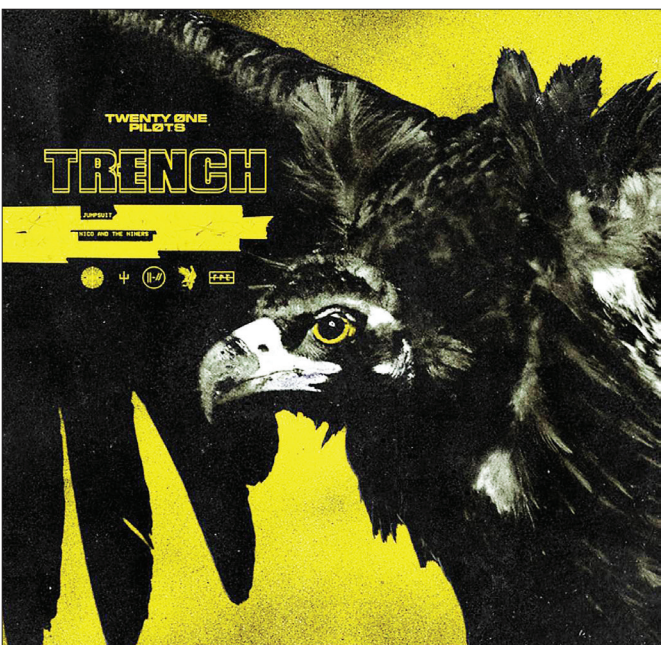


PHOTO COURTESY OF REDDIT  
Twenty One Pilots released their new album on October 5

faces facing me, they know... what I mean.” It is clear, no matter what the scenario is, that Joseph is trying to tell us there will always be others ready to go alongside us in our struggles in life.

This is, I think, the culminating message of the album. Though we may face difficulties, as well as joy and happiness, we aren’t truly alone. Trench shows the band’s dedication and appreciation for their fans; rather than a fear of not being able to please the Skeleton Clique, the album shows Tyler Joseph’s growth in relying on his fanbase to support him and support one another. In Trench he leans

into this trust, and we are left in the end with an image of us leaving the “city” of Dema, which represents our insecurities. Joseph tells us that “in time, [he] will leave the city,” but in the meantime it seems he has helped us to accomplish our goal: to leave our own versions of Dema which plague our minds. The band’s desire to remind others of their ability to overcome their insecurities takes center stage yet again in this album. It is yet another masterpiece, and one that makes me all the more eager to stand by my friends as we jump into the Trenches once again. ★

# Braves Draft Houghton Alumnus

CALEB PHILIPS

On June 6th, 2018, left handed pitcher Victor Cavalieri was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in 2018 MLB First Year Player Draft. Cavalieri was taken with the 1072nd pick in the 36th round of this year’s annual draft. He became the second player from Houghton College, after Steve Burke, to be taken in a professional draft. This followed Cavalieri’s stellar senior campaign at Houghton College, in which he was named to the Empire 8 Second Team All-Conference, the D3Baseball.com Third Team All-New York Region, and led NCAA Division III baseball in strikeouts per nine innings, averaging 15.00 k/9. Cavalieri’s season earned the attention of many scouts from a variety of Major League teams, leading to his selection in this past year’s 2018 Major League Baseball Draft.

Cavalieri describes the experience of getting drafted as “overwhelming”. “I was in shock,” said Cavalieri, about receiving the call from the Braves. “The phone call felt like it was fake, and it really didn’t feel real until [the MLB] announced my name.” His coach at Houghton, Brian Reitnour, was not sure he

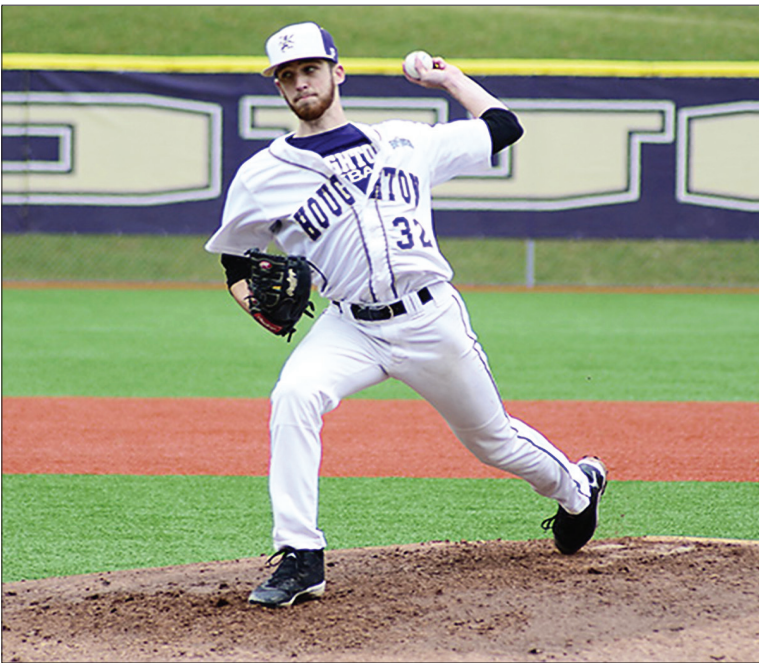


PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUGHTON  
2018 Graduate Victor Cavalieri was recently drafted by the Atlanta Braves

would get the interest he did from pro teams in early January. That all changed with his first start in Florida. “[Cavalieri] hit 91 mph in his first start and I started making phone calls to scouts. He started to garner some interest and we started to see a scout or two at his starts. By early-to-mid April he had at least eight clubs show interest and I began to believe he would get picked up.” In the final game of the season, around 10 scouts were there to watch Cavalieri throw. Teams like the Anaheim Angels showed

interest in him during draft day, the Braves called first and told Cavalieri they he would be their selection in the 36th round of the 2018 MLB Draft.

Once Cavalieri was drafted, he was sent to play with the Atlanta Braves Gulf Coast League affiliate, the GCL Braves. The Gulf Coast League is comprised of mostly draftees from the most recent first year player draft, while a few players from previous classes remain in this league. Cavalieri saw a large difference from the Division III

players he was used to, moving into professional ball. The competition was not only better on the other teams, but his own team. This forced Cavalieri to pitch out of the bullpen, which he had only done thirteen times in his career at Houghton, and he had not done exclusively since his sophomore year. Even with this move, Cavalieri was happy with his first pro season. “I feel like my first season went well,” Cavalieri said, “I learned a lot [this season] adjusting to life as a relief pitcher and how to prepare myself for this new role.” Between June 21st to August 3rd, Cavalieri threw in ten games for the GCL Braves, finishing with a 6.75 ERA, recording two wins, a save, and striking out ten batters. His performance in the GCL earned Cavalieri a mid-August call up to the Braves Advanced-A ball affiliate, the Florida Fire Frogs. Here, Cavalieri finished out his first professional season throwing in six games, recording a 16.71 ERA, while striking out 5 batters, against some of Major League Baseball’s top prospects. This first season allowed Cavalieri to adjust to a new role and new competition, an experience he will remember throughout the remainder of his pro career.

As for next season, Cavalieri plans to work hard this off-season to be ready for next year.

The Braves have given him a throwing program to start in November to help strengthen his arm, and to keep it healthy and ready for Spring Training next season. “They’ve given me a program to help build mass, [engage in] weight training, and exercise my shoulders [more effectively],” Cavalieri said. When the spring comes, Cavalieri will report to the Braves spring training facility in Florida, along with every other player in the organization. Once there, the players are placed with the team they are projected to spend the majority of the upcoming season with. Right now, Cavalieri will mostly likely be assigned to the Rome Braves, of Rome, Georgia, the Braves Low-A affiliate. There, Cavalieri knows he has to put in a lot of work if ever wants to make it to the “Big Leagues”. “I see myself doing this for as long as I can, and my body allows,” Cavalieri said. David Wessells, a teammate of Cavalieri for two years at Houghton, is optimistic of Cavalieri’s chances. “The potential is there, as long as he puts the work in,” Wessells said, “he has the tools he needs to get better...the sky’s the limit.” For now, Cavalieri looks to keep improving, and one day get his shot in the Major Leagues. ★





PAIGE COLLINS  
Columns Editor

Paige is originally from Sylvan Beach, a cute town on a lake where she enjoyed living on a farm, hanging out at the beach, and exploring the wildlife in and around her hometown. Those

hobbies extended past the US and into Africa, where she spent the spring semester reveling in the plains and forests of the Tanzania program, an experience she calls “refreshing and incredible.” Someday, Paige would love to become an anthropologist, although she’ll settle for getting her

BA in Intercultural Studies and Writing for now. When Paige isn’t finding new ideas to make into columns, you’ll probably find her reading in a corner somewhere. Right now, she’s working her way through *The Master and Margarita*, usually with a cup of green tea to keep her company. Given the choice,

Paige will always choose a squashy armchair over a sofa and Thor over Iron Man. She is also a proud Ravenclaw. You can contact Paige with any of your column concerns at: [Paige.Collins19@houghton.edu](mailto:Paige.Collins19@houghton.edu). ★

David is a native of Beamsville Canada (not Beansville, Beamsville), where he grew up appreciating the culture, the free health care, and the Winnipeg Jets. He’s a writing and political science major who originally wanted to be

an English teacher but now dreams of working in local government, although he’d also be content with a career in manufacturing. As a life-long reader of newspapers, David enjoys the impartiality and objectivity of the News Section and loves getting to

work with a revision process in his role as Editor. When he’s not fact checking and contacting writers, he can be found hanging out with his girlfriend or building World War Two models. He’s also a proud vexillologist (a person who studies flag design),

owns over eighteen different flags, and is passionate about flowers. You can email David with any of your news-related thoughts at [David.Kralt20@houghton.edu](mailto:David.Kralt20@houghton.edu). ★

DAVID KRALT  
News Editor



KRISTEN SAVASTANO  
Copy Editor

Kristen is from Long Island, NY where she is a proud East Sider and spent most of her weekends on the boat or the beach. Since coming to Houghton (where there are neither beaches

or boats) she’s gotten into reading, Netflix, and having people over for hot chocolate. She also serves as the STAR’s copy editor, something which she characterizes as “making her mark on the world, in red pen.” Someday she hopes to continue her editing hobby as a career, with some creative writing (and possibly a

dash of film) on the side. Until then, she’s pursuing a Writing degree, with a minor in Communication. When Kristen isn’t running her red pens out of ink, you can often find her collecting sea shells, listening to good music, or reading a psychological thriller/horror story. She has a love of flamingos, plays

the ukulele, and has written two unpublished novels with the moral support of her cat, Shadow. You can dash off any of your burning syntax questions to Kristen at [Kristen.Savastano20@houghton.edu](mailto:Kristen.Savastano20@houghton.edu). ★

A North Carolina native, Kayla grew up in Indiana, after her family moved west when she was in second grade. Her family has now moved back to North Carolina, where Kayla loves visiting because (unlike Houghton) it’s warm. Along with her passion for the sun, Kayla also feels strongly

about language and grammar and carries a special love for the Oxford Comma. Her knowledge of the English language is one of the many things that allows her to enjoy being Features Editor, a position which she holds in tandem with her English major and job at the Writing Centre. Kayla is also a History

major, and if she could, she would love to be a curator at the Wallace Collection (an art and furniture museum) in London. When she isn’t adding punctuation to sentences, you can find Kayla curled up in her room, working her way through a new book or trying to conquer the art of bread

making. She is a dedicated night owl, maintains a love of raspberries, and has a deep fondness for the *Pirates of the Caribbean* saga. You can bother Kayla with any of your Features questions at Kayla. [Simmons20@houghton.edu](mailto:Simmons20@houghton.edu). ★

KAYLA SIMMONS  
Features Editor



MELISSA HODDE  
Editor in Chief

Melissa has lived in Seneca Falls, NY for around seven years. Before that she was a Kentucky native and spent time in various other US and European locations, including one memorable trip where she passed through five countries in as many days. Since coming to Houghton, Melissa has picked up majors in Writing and Environmental Biology and a minor in Education, which she is hoping will lead to a job in a history museum or a botanical garden (or both). She loves synthesis and being able to connect different ideas across her majors, a skill that serves

her well in her capacity as Editor in Chief of the STAR. When she isn’t coordinating writers or liaising with the printer, you can usually find Melissa rereading *Lord of the Rings* and debating her favorite character (current contenders include Faramir, Gandalf, Aragorn, and all of the hobbits). Melissa’s passionate about intrinsic learning, wandering around in the woods, and her pet rabbit, Bob. If asked to identify a best friend, she will rank felines above humans. You can send any commentary or letters to the editor to Melissa at [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com). ★



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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.



# STAFF: BIOS

Formerly from Mannsville, NY, Michael now lives in the town of Houghton, where he enjoys adding many miles to his car and new designations to his diploma. He's currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Communications with a Media Visual Arts

Concentration and a double minor in Fine Arts and Sociology, a combination which makes him well-suited towards the role of Media Coordinator. Michael has served on the STAR staff for three years, filling the roles of Web Coordinator, Tech Guru, and Veteran Fount of Knowledge. When he's not

helping the rest of the staff figure out the Internet, he can be found playing his house's piano very loudly or organizing something. Although Michael works as an Uber driver, he dreams of becoming Joanna Gaines, or at the very least getting job in higher ed. admissions. He is a firm believer that you

ought to be able to see at least three corners of every room. You can pose any of your media, web, or STAR history musings to Michael at [Michael.Sievers18@houghton.edu](mailto:Michael.Sievers18@houghton.edu). ★

**MICHAEL SIEVERS**  
Media Coordinator



**ANNA SCHILKE**  
Opinions Editor

Anna hails from the metropolis of Houghton NY, where she is fond of creek stomping, making campfires, and sneaking into the music building to play the pianos. As

a life-long reader, no one was surprised when she decided to pursue a degree in Writing, to which she has added an eclectic combination of minors in English, Piano Performance, and Spanish. Given the choice, Anna would love to land a job either as a travel writer or a political journalist, but until

then she's content to edit the Opinions Section, which she incidentally thinks is the best section in the STAR. When she's not helping people shape their arguments or clarify their prose, she can usually be found scribbling in her journal or reorganizing the 47 books that currently clutter her library carrel.

Anna is a passionate feminist, moderate, and hater of handlebar moustaches. If she were to steal a painting, it would probably be JMW Turner landscape, although she'd settle for a Monet. You can bombard Anna with your rants and opinions at Anna.Schilke19@houghton.edu. ★

When asked where he's from, Tim will say "goodness...all over," describe his four nationalities (Greek, South African, Canadian, and American), and eventually land on South Africa, where he spent most of his growing up years. Although he originally started out as a chemistry

major, he is now pursuing a degree in Applied Design and Integrated Marketing, subjects he's always loved. Some of his favorite projects have included designing the purple and gold t-shirts, surrealist photoshop work, and typography; he hopes to continue designing by opening his own studio

someday soon. For now, Tim has settled for becoming the STAR's expert Photoshop Wrangler, a position he likes because it allows him to create an enjoyable aesthetic experience for the viewer. When he's not working with one of his beloved Macs, you can find Tim meeting new people, cheering for his

favorite South African rugby team (go Springboks!), or playing guitar. If he were to sell his soul, it would probably be for hot chocolate. You can send any of your photo related queries to Tim at [Timothy.Paschalis20@houghton.edu](mailto:Timothy.Paschalis20@houghton.edu). ★

**TIM PASCHALIS**  
Photo Editor



**SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB**  
Faculty Advisor

Born in Montana, Professor Lipscomb spent most of her childhood in Alberta, Canada where she liked camping in the mountains and having Thanksgiving in October. She completed her undergraduate at Calvin College in Michigan, where she majored

in English, minored in French and worked for the newspaper, first as opinions editor and then as editor in chief. Since graduating, Professor Lipscomb has achieved a PhD in Literature, and now serves as faculty advisor to the Houghton STAR, something she enjoys because it allows her to be "an advocate of the free press." When she's not giving sage wisdom to various staff members, she can be found knitting, gardening, or cooking the things she grows. Her dream holiday would be one that includes a cottage in some beautiful European landscape where she can go for lots of walks and come home to a warm fire at night. Professor Lipscomb believes in community engagement and has a deep love for chickens. You can mail her any STAR advising questions at [susanbruxvoort.lipscomb@houghton.edu](mailto:susanbruxvoort.lipscomb@houghton.edu). ★

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2018

The Houghton  
★ STAR

2019

**MELISSA HODDE** // Editor-in-Chief  
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**KAYLA SIMMONS** // Features Editor

**DAVID KRALT** // News Editor  
**KRISTEN SAVASTANO** // Copy Editor  
**TIM PASCHALIS** // Photo Editor

**PAIGE COLLINS** // Columns Editor  
**MICHAEL SIEVERS** // Media Coordinator  
**SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB** // Faculty Advisor



# Artist of the Week

## Amy Nickelson

// senior studio art major



*Desolation, Acrylic*



“Growing up, I always wished that I could draw. If someone had told me I would be going to Houghton College for an art degree I would have laughed. Art did not come easily to me as a child, and I remember being amazed at anyone who could create something better than my sad little stick figures. But I didn’t let that stop me. Starting in 8th grade, I taught myself the basics of drawing by watching a tutorial on an old VHS tape from the library. Something must have clicked, because here I am still making art almost a decade later. I am excited to see how my skills continue to develop over time.

I enjoy working with a variety of mediums, but my favorite by far is paint, both oil and acrylic. Currently, my work consists mostly of expressive portraiture. If my art elicits an emotion or sparks your imagination, then I would say it is a success. I am not sure how I am going to use art in the future, but a dream of mine is to write and illustrate my own novel one day.”

