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Collins-Blair New Dean of Distance Education

REBEKAH WALLACE

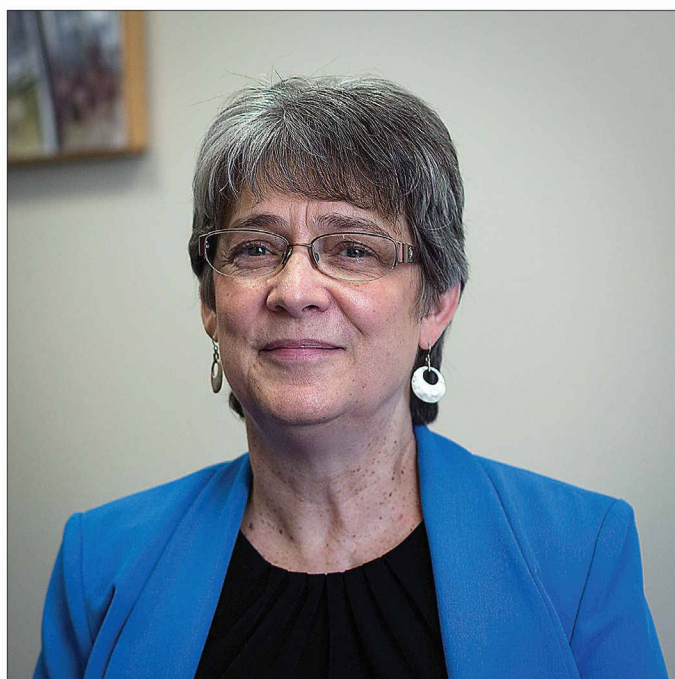
Marlene Collins-Blair, Associate Professor of Spanish, recently accepted the position of dean of distance education. Distance education is a form of education that takes place outside of the traditional classroom. Once based in West Seneca, all adult education programs and online initiatives are now based on the home campus.

"As we have developed our vision for Distance Education at Houghton College," commented Linda Mills Woolsey, Dean of the College, "we have been aware that we can offer a stronger program by basing our on-

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Dean of College to Retire

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN



ANTHONY BURDO

After serving as associate and academic dean for eight years, Dr. Linda Mills Woolsey has decided the time has come for her to leave the office.

Through her time as department chair and in the CCCU leadership development program, Mills Woolsey entered her role as dean with the necessary leadership experience and skills. Yet the office of dean was not something she was seeking. When encouraged to apply to the CCCU leadership development program, Mills Woolsey said at the time, "I have no intention of being a dean," even noting on the application "I don't feel I have a calling." She felt a deep calling to teaching, and had teaching positions at Nyack, King, and most recently, Houghton College.

A phone call from President Mullen several years

Academic dean, Linda Mills Woolsey, hopes to return to her "one true love", teaching.

later changed her course. "She wanted to have an Associate dean who knew the college," Mills Woolsey remembers. She thought and prayed. "I thought, if I needed three years I should consider it. I said 'yes.'"

She moved on to become academic dean from there. Mullen noted, "After doing a national search we didn't find a candidate. We realized our best available candidate was

See **WOOLSEY** page 2

New Options for Off-Campus Studies

HEATHER COONEY

Three off-campus programs were recently approved at last week's staff meeting as affiliated program options for students. The new options will provide opportunities for students to study in Australia, Uganda, and Southern Oregon. Now that these programs are affiliated, students can apply for Houghton financial aid to go off-campus with them. However, only four students per semester will be granted the approval to receive this aid.

Marcus Dean, Director of Off-Campus Studies, shared that Houghton has chosen to approve these programs for a few different reasons. Faculty gathered to vote and discuss each of the reasons before approval.

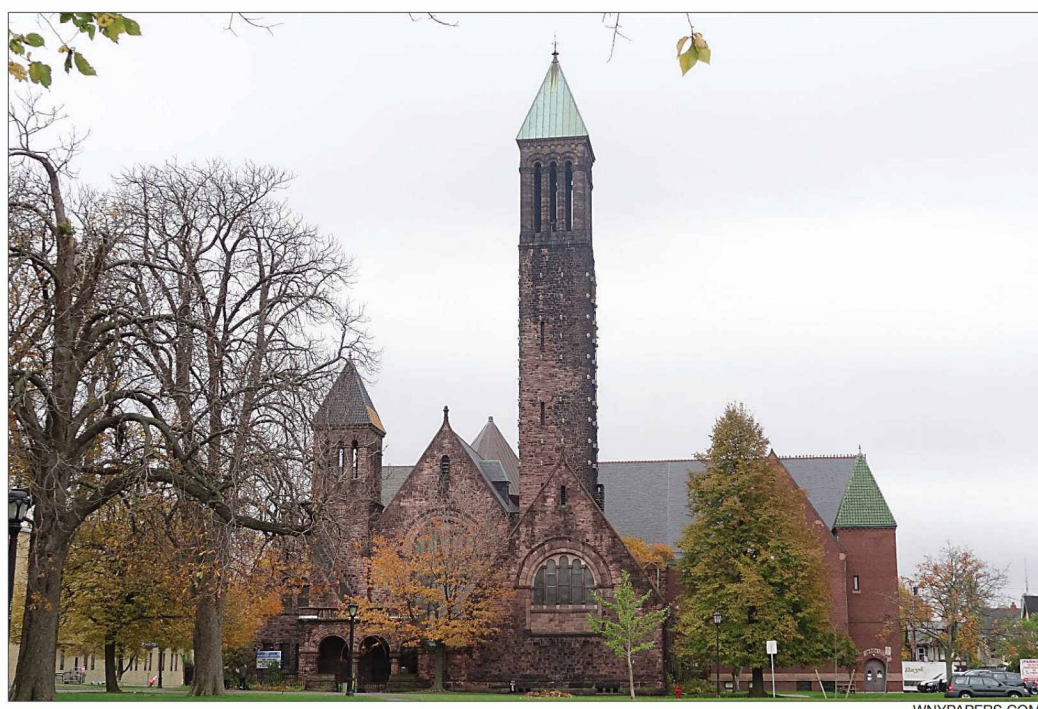
Houghton previously ran their own Australian studies program which is currently on hold. Not wanting to limit students' options, the Off-Campus Studies Committee recommended the approval of the Australia Studies Program through the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). Students from Houghton have yet to participate in this program.

The Uganda Studies Program (USP), again through the CCCU, was also considered. Originally, Houghton did not approve this program because it competed with the Tanzania program. Both the Tanzania and GO-Ed Africa options have become very popular, so Houghton is approving USP to include even more off-campus choices for students.

Recent alumna Amanda Monday Buckley ('14) had nothing but positive things

See **STUDIES** page 3

Houghton in Buffalo Proves Successful



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First Presbyterian Church at One Symphony Circle in Buffalo, New York is new location of Houghton College Buffalo, an extension campus that offers courses to achieve an Associate of Art degree.

KASEY CANNISTER

Houghton College Buffalo offers refugee students

a chance to learn in an environment tailored to each student's individual needs.

Through the program,

students are able to study in their own neighborhoods, in a learning community that offers individual attention,

small class sizes, and a curriculum tailored to develop English language and other skills needed for the workplace.

The program just began its second fall semester, and enrollment numbers are growing.

In August, New York State approved the program as an official extension center of Houghton College. The extension site serves a diverse and growing international community, which includes many immigrant and refugee families.

"While other Christian colleges serve refugee and immigrant students in their urban programs," commented academic dean, Linda Mills Woolsey, "I do not know of any other program that has worked so intentionally with refugee communities and churches to design a program tailored to the needs

See **BUFFALO** page 2

International // Egyptian Government Resigns



ANTHONY BURDO

MELISSA MACLEAN

On Saturday, September 12, members of Egypt's government resigned as a result of state corruption probe. President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, former general and political activist, accepted these resignations on the condition of continued service until reappointment. El-Sissi tasked Petroleum Minister, Sherif Ismail, with

forming a new cabinet within the next week, according to Huffington Post.

Among the those who resigned were Prime Minister, Ibrahim Mehleb, and his cabinet. Just prior to his resignation, Mehleb provided a detailed report on the performance of the government. However, according to two presidential officials, el-Sissi found this report to be rather "unsatisfying."

Additionally, last Monday Agriculture Minister, Salah el-Din Helal, was arrested over corruption allegations. It was said Helal allegedly accepted bribes in order to help businessmen acquire state territory. These bribes amounted to around one million in U.S. currency. Middle East News Agency (MENA) commented, "He was arrested as part of an investigation into a major case of corruption in his ministry." Helal was also a part of Mehleb's appointed cabinet.

According to CNN news, Mehleb failed to pressure

his ministers into following through on memorandums of "understanding that el-Sissi signed during a much publicized economic summit in March." However, when asked about these allegations in a Tunisian press conference, Mehleb walked out of the room.

In an interview with Houghton's Egyptian-native, John Khalaf, a personal testament was shared on the current crisis in his country's government.

When asked about his opinion on the current political situation, Khalaf shared both positive and negative effects of the change. Though under terrible circumstances, he stated how "there is hope for change now that we started to fight against people who break the law." Khalaf's statement was explicitly directed at the arrest of Helal last week. Khalaf believed the act of arrest was a sign of justice reclaiming its place within political authority. In the past, Khalaf explained,

leaders got away with pandering and corruption. However, this recent arrest has changed everything.

Khalaf further explained how his view was not the only interpretation across the Egyptian state. As a Cairo native, Khalaf shared about the dissension between the current government and Muslim Brotherhood—a radical sect of Muslims founded in Egypt in 1928.

The tension rose out of a political regime two years prior when general el-Sissi overthrew the Islamic president, Mohammed Morsi. El-Sissi was seen as a freedom figure to some, however, others, including the Muslim Brotherhood, saw it otherwise and responded with heightened discord and violence. Since then, multiple riots have occurred, including burnings of over a hundred of churches.

As a Christian, Khalaf recalls planning an escape from the back of his church in case of an attack. However, when

asked his view on the future of Christians in Egypt, Khalaf replied on a positive note, "We forgive anyone who does this." Khalaf also explained how Christians have started to support the government in the past year, which has fostered more political ties. He explained that because of that, they can "now build churches" once again. Cairo received its first land grant to rebuild a church after the destruction this past summer.

Parliamentary elections for a new cabinet will be held in October and continue throughout the month of November. Results will be announced shortly thereafter.★

Melissa is a junior communication and international development major.

BUFFALO from page 1

ers, since Buffalo, New York is not the only urban center with a growing immigrant, refugee community," said Mills-Woolsey. "It is clear that the work we are doing here meets one of the world's deep needs in a way that embodies the Wesleyan commitment to the useful work of the Holy Spirit."

The educational opportunity this program provides is meeting the needs of many new Americans on Buffalo's West Side. "Houghton is providing basic educational opportunities for these people in a hands-on way that enhances their chances of success," commented Cameron Airhart, Dean of Houghton College Buffalo.

According to Mills-Woolsey, when Houghton began this program, some of

Houghton College Buffalo's regional neighbors needed to be convinced the school would be offering something unique and would not just be stealing their students.

Mills-Woolsey recognized President Mullen, Dr. Airhart, and friends of Houghton College as they worked hard within the program. Their hard work has helped leaders of other colleges see Houghton College Buffalo's Christian grounding, focus on English language learners, and unique learning community.

Moreover, "Houghton College Buffalo benefits Houghton by fulfilling the college's core mission to make high-quality Christian liberal arts education accessible to students from diverse backgrounds and to prepare

them for leadership in their communities, churches, and workplaces," commented Mills Woolsey.

According to Mills Woolsey, the program is financially self-sustaining and returns revenue to the general budget in a way that benefits the main campus. Airhart confirmed, the location is currently enrolling 33 students; and as the student body expands, class sizes retain their small structure.

As this unique program expands, it is seeing success with students traditionally viewed as at-risk or high-risk.

According to Airhart, Houghton College's 81% graduation rate among associate's-degree-seeking students far surpasses the national average of 3 percent.

"We focus on economically and culturally disadvantaged students and we are committed to a high-quality, focused education delivered within the means of our funding sources, which do not include student debt," said Airhart.

As explained by Mills Woolsey, many young people in these communities are working to learn English, often as a third or fourth language, and some are seeking to regain academic ground after war or geographic displacement disrupted their education.

"By helping these students achieve their educational goals and preparing them for employment, the program also benefits their Buffalo communities," commented Mills-Woolsey.★

WOOLSEY from page 1

her also as "absolutely fair minded," an important quality in an office where you must "support equally all parts of the college."

Although Mullen and Mills Woolsey herself noted her years of office have occurred during a "a time of great turbulence in American higher education," Mullen asserts "in general she has helped to move our academic program forward." Mills Woolsey has brought about the new fields of music industry, data science, and the beginnings of an engineering program, as well as "creating

the academic master plan for Houghton's future development and curriculum." Mullen says additionally "she strengthened our connection with the Lilly network of historically faith based colleges as well as such groups as the AAC&U."

After eight years in office, the average being five as Dean, Woolsey noted she is ready to go back to teaching. She expressed "very mixed feelings about leaving the Dean's office," but explained also she was "pretty burned out" by last spring. "I thought I'd only be a Dean for a short

time. I didn't pace myself." She is stepping down from the position after prayer about timing, in hopes of finishing her career with her "first love," teaching. "After all these years, that's what I'm really excited about," she says. She hopes as well to finish a book manuscript of her poetry, which she has not had time to devote to while serving as Dean.

Mills Woolsey will end her term as Dean by summer 2016. While a new Dean has yet to be found, Mullen says "We're in the process of looking for a new Dean at

this point" and when a decision is made, "we'll certainly let the student body know." "Dean Woolsey has decided that this is the right time to leave, so we need to make it the right time for the institution." She looks on Dr. Mills Woolsey's term as Dean as "a testimony to her love of faculty and students," which Woolsey herself expressed. "Even though I love teaching I saw the calling as a chance to serve Houghton students and faculty," she said, noting the dedication of Houghton faculty and the "energy and intensity" of the students. ★

right here among us."

Mullen says now, "Dr. Mills Woolsey has been exactly the right person to be in the position at this time." Her husband, Dr. Stephen Woolsey, noted her strengths in the position. "She loves to problem solve and help people find resources." He described

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the OE for a number of years. Dean discussed the OE has completely new leadership and professors so he considers it to be the "OE 2.0."

Senior Holly Chaisson spent the fall 2015 semester at the OE. When asked about her experience in the program she said, "My experience at the OE was extremely positive....this opportunity allowed me to structure my studies around my niche interests and was an exercise in academic independence and creativity." She said the experience "reinvigorated" her academically and reaffirmed her vocational aspirations. According to Chaisson, "The OE is a radically different type of college experience, one that offers students a slower and deliberately paced way of life, one invested in both deep thought and in community."

Senior Allyson Murphy also went with Chaisson to the OE. She said, "I was given an opportunity to think in a capacity not as readily available at Houghton. College life is stressful. . . Multiple commitments bog down the average dedicated college student. The OE simply asks that students intention-

ally read, discuss, and reflect in communal openness. . . I still daily think about the work I was able to do at the OE." About the cultural experiences she was able to engage in, she shared, "My group went backpacking in the Trinity Alps of Northern California for a week, the Or-

egon Coast, and San Francisco. Each of those trips were incredible." Despite having incredible experiences, Buckley, Chaisson, and Murphy each had to creatively fund their experiences with grants, loans, and small scholarships since their programs had not yet been approved by Houghton and they could not take their financial aid with them. As the Director of Off-Campus studies, Dean recommends students interested in creating their own off-campus experiences should discuss options with their advisors.★



COURTESY OF HOLLY CHAISSON

Seniors, Allyson Murphy and Holly Chaisson, were part of the Oregon Extension that took place in the fall of 2014.

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development, and program assessment."

"There was a need to have everything centralized," said Collins-Blair. She noted the adult education and summer online initiatives had previously been handled by separate administrators. Collins-Blair plans to expand into the pre-college network to reach juniors and seniors in high school who may be looking to earn college credit. She also hopes to hold faculty training sessions about teaching courses online, and eventually offer entire Bachelor's

degrees online.

Both Mills Woolsey and Collins-Blair mentioned within the next few years, the Distance Learning Department also plans to offer classes online throughout the school year instead of just during the summer. This would allow students studying on the main campus to supplement their regular semester with online coursework.

"It would be like an independent study, but with more guidance in a way... I'd be interested in some-

thing like that," commented junior, Christina Moyer. Sophomore, Clarice Thibault said, "It could bring in more people because someone might want to take just an online course and then they may want to come visit and see what the campus is like." Senior, Luke Rosamilia, said while it would be good for the college, he wonders whether doing online coursework as well as regular on-campus studies would be the best thing for students and faculty involved.

When asked what she

looks forward to most about her new role, Collins-Blair said she is excited "to see the programs grow and expand," and hopes to show both students and faculty how exciting online learning can be.

"Our hope," said Mills Woolsey, "is that her vision and passion will inspire Houghton faculty as they explore distance education possibilities and that she will initiate a renewal of Houghton's distance education programs by shepherding new program development and faculty development."★

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Summer Stories: Houghton's Ministry Team

MARY CRONIN

Houghton College is often a meeting place for Christian/Wesleyan organizations and events. This past week there was a pastors' conference with over 180 clergy and spouses in attendance; over the summer months hundreds of students and adults flock to Houghton's campus for sports and youth camps, family camp, conferences and retreats. Perhaps less known, however, is the college's own efforts to minister to others outside of the campus.

For the past several years, Houghton has selected, funded, and sent out two teams of students to work as counselors at Christian summer camps. Headed by Director of Church Relations Steve Dunmire and Office Manager for Ministry Resources Betsy Sanford, this year's teams included Naomi Prentice ('18), Brittany Hark ('16), Marshall Brady ('17), Dan Thompson ('16), Kadesha Glasgow ('16), Kirsten Brady ('18), Ryan O'Vell ('16), and Greg Wagner ('16).

These students were split into two teams, led by Marshall Brady and Brittany Hark.

Students apply for a position on the summer ministry team at the end of the spring semester. If hired, they work for roughly eight weeks at various summer camps from the first week of June through early August.

Prentice, a sophomore and member of the women's vol-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KADESHA GLASGOW

Houghton College's Summer 2015 Ministry Team from left to right: Kadesha Glasgow, Naomi Prentice, Greg Wagner, Dan Thompson, Ryan O'Vell, Marshall Brady, Kirsten Brady, and Brittany Hark

leyball team, said that her decision to apply was influenced by her own experiences at summer camp. The camp she attended as a child, Chambers Wesleyan Camp, "always had ministry teams" who she saw as "role models" and "bonded" with. "I always wanted to do that", she said. A veteran member of the team, senior Dan Thompson, encouraged her to apply, Prentice added.

Kirsten Brady, also a sophomore, says she applied because she, "love[s] getting to know people's stories. Her brother and teammate Marshall Brady said that for him, "It felt natural

that [joining the ministry team] was the next step" after going to camps his whole life.

When asked if being a representative of Houghton helped, hindered, or had no effect on their ministry, Marshall Brady noted that in his case, it "was a tremendous help in our ministry. Houghton is widely known for its great people and strong community. Because of the college's outstanding reputation, many doors were left open for our ministry." Hark said that this aspect of the summer ministry team has developed during her time on the team. She said that during her first year with the team, "it was

undetermined what the main purpose of [the summer ministry team] was going to be... [we hadn't] struck a balance between representing Houghton and doing ministry." Now, she added, the sole purpose is ministry. "If we do a good job ministering, we do a good job representing [Houghton]," she said.

Each team member faced unique challenges and triumphs throughout the summer. Prentice felt that she was given new insight into how much faith-potential teenagers have. "The teens I worked with broke stereotypes," she said, adding that "they taught me to seek growth

in my own faith."

Marshall Brady said that for him, the most difficult part of traveling to the different camps this summer were the "hellos" and "goodbyes" but "The key... was to think about the impact we had, leaving them with the feeling that someone cared enough about their lives to help them make a difference."

Going deeper into tough issues with the older campers proved to be a challenge for Hark. She said that some of her campers confided to her about their experiences with depression, suicide, and abuse. The difficult part for her was being with the campers for only a week, she reflected that in that time "you're not able to promise to be a solution for them." Her and both teams' response to interactions like these was to try to work with camp directors to connect struggling kids with local churches, and so they are not "left in the dust" after camp is over.

Despite challenges, many of the team members stated that they felt that God had stretched them and helped them grow as people. Kirsten Brady certainly concurs, saying, "[Participating in] the ministry team was honestly one of the powerful and amazing experiences and encounters I have ever had with God. If you want to be tested, pushed, and gain a new sense of peace and direction while serving then this is the place to go."

★

Business Department Welcomes Two New Members

HOPE MCKEEVER

The business department welcomed new faculty members, Pil Joon Kim and Naomi Christensen, this fall. Kim will serve as the Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Christensen as Instructor of Accounting. Christensen was a member of the 2008 Houghton class. She graduated as a Business and Accounting major and was involved in track and field. Many of the current business professors also taught her when she was a student at Houghton. As a student, Christensen enjoyed how "down to earth" her professors were and how they made studying business practical and applicable to daily life. She hopes to implement some of these same principles as she gives her students hands on learning that will prepare them

for experiences in the field of accounting.

Before returning to Houghton as a faculty member, Christensen worked at a certified public accountant firm for three years. Later, she applied her work experience to a job with The Seed Company, a Wycliffe Bible Translators affiliated program. She worked out of Texas assisting in translation projects by creating budgets, business plans, and assessing partners overseas. As a field business analyst, she has traveled with The Seed Company to Nigeria, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. Christensen mentioned the importance of learning to speak the language of business and to present it with integrity. She hopes that this semester will provide her with opportunities to explore what it looks like to integrate ethics and accounting. This fall, Christensen is teaching Financial Accounting and Auditing.

Kim agrees, "It is important to execute ethical norms

when performing financial transactions." Moreover, Kim believes that finance should be a field that Christians study in order to encourage the financial system to serve its intended purpose. Kim mentioned that the focus on financial studies should be "learning ways to mitigate unfair financial damages caused by conventional financial systems, rather than solely to gain wealth." As an advocate for justice in the financial world, Kim reinforces Houghton's goal to develop Christian leaders in many different fields of study. Before coming to Houghton this year, Kim taught at a large public university and a smaller private university. He expressed that he is looking forward to working at Houghton because a smaller scale school encourages individual attention for each student. Before teaching, Kim was a student at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois. During his masters and doctoral programs, Kim studied and re-



The Investment Center in Chamberlain.

RISEDISPLAY.COM

searched many different subjects including corporate finance, fixed income, investment, and asset pricing, to name a few. Currently, he hopes to expand his research in financial markets. This includes topics such as security, bond, foreign currency, derivatives, and financial interest. Kim stated, "It is my duty as a financial professional to teach students

to stay within the system and directly engage in the management of wealth which God has entrusted to them in a way that is honoring to him." This fall, Kim is teaching Business Communication, Entrepreneurship, Financial Management, and Security Analysis & Portfolio Management. ★

Spotlight: International Athletes

LAURA JOHNSON

Houghton College has a rich heritage of placing emphasis on diversity. The athletic program is no exception, celebrating and encouraging the participation of international students on sports teams. Head Coach of the men's soccer team, Matthew Webb, has seen over 16 different countries represented throughout his years of coaching including Scotland, Japan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Trinidad, and Chile.

Webb said, "The international guys bring a different cultural heritage with them. It is always enjoyable to learn from them and see how their backgrounds shape who they are and influence the rest of the team. They often bring a different style of play and add diversity to how we play the game." American athletes have the opportunity to learn from and play with students from different cultures, while at the same time these international students have the chance to travel to New York, play a sport they love competitively, and make lifelong friends.

Houghton soccer player, Jose Flores of Chile, said that, although the U.S. is culturally different from his home, he has been able to adapt quickly. Along with giving thanks to God, he credits this smooth transition to the warm reception of his teammates. Sydney Pow, a sophomore Canadian student participating in women's lacrosse and volleyball, also emphasized the importance of her teammates' acceptance and encouragement in her positive experience of sports at Houghton. Basketball and tennis player, Jordan Scott, also Canadian, appreciates the reinforcement of hard work and teamwork, stating, "Houghton College athletes have been crucial in shaping me into the man I am today and the man I hope to become tomorrow."

Being an international athlete has some challenges as well. One such challenge is a mountain of paperwork. Jason Mucher, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and Communications, heads up the technical side of the program. Mucher works with students one on one to get to know their playing history, as well as to make sure they are a good fit for Houghton, and Houghton them.

For Jacob Dunnett, a Canadian soccer player, the main challenge of playing for Houghton is that he is far from his family. Before college, his family came to all his games, but the distance has lessened their involvement. Other athletes' families have overcome this by watching live stream of games online, but that technology is not available for every sport.

Grace Lee, a sophomore field hockey player from South Korea, expressed her feeling that "as an international student, people don't fully understand who and where I really come from. People here have similar experiences so they understand and relate, but coming from a different place makes it hard to expect them to understand everything."

International students' stories vary, but are similar in certain aspects. Some students attended Houghton's summer sport camps before college, while others weren't even planning on going to college until they were approached by a Houghton coach. One thing is true for all of these athletes: they love what they do, and constantly strive for excellence.★



PHOTO COURTESY OF JORDAN SCOTT

Jordan Scott, junior men's Basketball and Tennis (Canada) "Being in America playing NCAA basketball was my dream as a kid. I feel a great sense of pride in representing my country every time I step on the court. Being Canadian is a huge part of who I am as a person, and Houghton welcomes and allows me to express this with the opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletes."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW BUSSEY

Andrew Bussey, freshman men's soccer player from England/Kenya, said one of his favorite aspects of being a Highlander is "the opportunity to be a part of a team of lads that desire to grow as footballers each day while also actively pursuing Christ. It's fantastic to realise that each time we step on the field we are striving to win, but more importantly to represent Christ."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE LEE

Grace Lee, sophomore women's field hockey (South Korea) said that her favorite aspect of participating in Houghton Athletics is "my teammates and the relationship I build with them- both in and out of practice. They've been such a great encouragement to me and I know that they've always got my back."

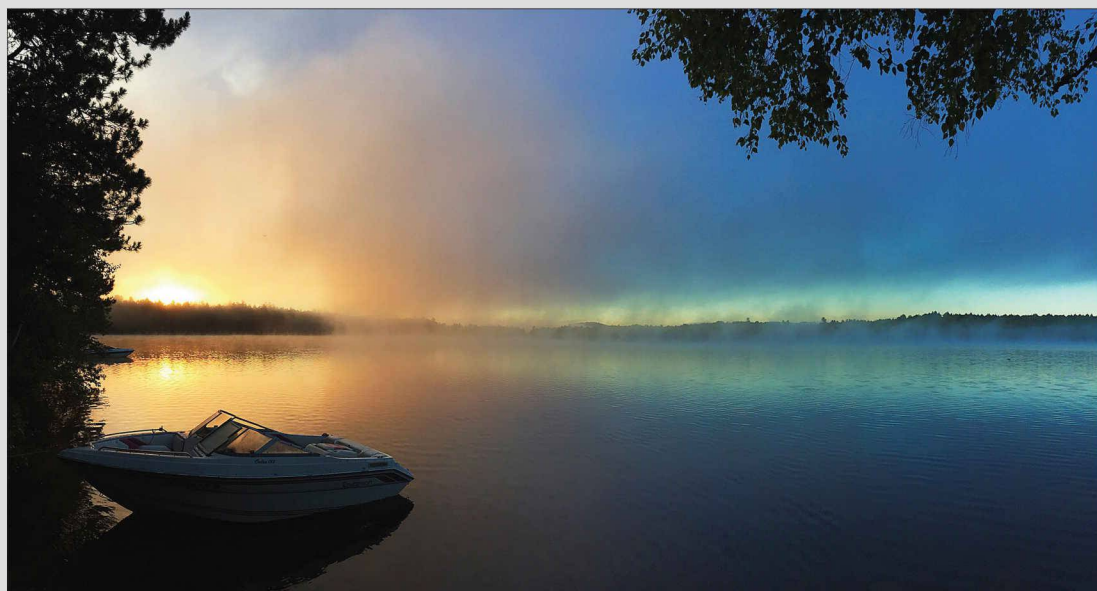


PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB DUNNETT

Jacob Dunnett, member of the men's soccer team (Canada) said, "My favorite aspect of participating in sports at Houghton is that soccer has brought me into a great environment during an important time in my life. It has allows me to grow not only in the sport, but also in my faith because of the good influences I get to be around."

Photo
of the
Week

WINNER //
Leland Roberts '19



The Undercurrents of Justice: Can We be Moved?



ANTHONY BURDO

LIANA WOOL

Justice is a charged word. I find myself now more than ever bombarded with calls to justice; in class, in chapel, and, subtly, in the news. The images of lost faces and bloodied bodies haunt the small recesses of my psyche as I see article after article on the refugee crisis that is currently occurring in much of Europe.

I used to find it easy to simply put down the paper (or more accurately, close the browser) and continue on with daily life; theorizing about ethics and justice in class, talking about the need for prayer and good works in chapel, and even postulating solutions to many of the

world's crises. These are all helpful and challenging activities with which to stimulate the mind and I recommend them.

Upon reflection, this question wells up from the small, quiet places of my soul: What are you going to do about it? In all reality, we, as a Christian body are called to bring justice to the poor and needy, are we not? What a hefty statement. Before one can begin reacting to a situation of crisis with "justice", should they not have a strong, clear conviction of what justice really means?

Now, obviously there are innumerable perceptions of justice (hence the perpetual international war and conflict), but what do we really believe justice is, as a Christian body? Do we claim, like the Crusaders, that in the name of Jesus we will conquer other nations, imposing our belief system as a rule of law? Do we define justice as proportional

"Recognizing and affirming the humanity of those suffering in all situations is the entire motive behind the need for justice."

reaction based off of human ability to work with or without merit? Or do we simply throw our hands up in the name of pacifism because politics are "too messy" or "too worldly" to trifle with?

Please do not misunderstand, I have no answer to this question myself, but I would posit perhaps a deeper question that has led to a drop of clarity in this ocean of confusion. Why do we, as the human race, feel so strongly that justice needs to be exacted? Is it simply to seek revenge and make someone else feel the same pain they have inflicted upon us? Or is it to fulfill

the biological human need for recognition? The latter question, more than any others I have thought through, strikes a chord with my discomfiting in discussing and contemplating justice in a world full of pain. Recognizing and affirming the humanity of those suffering in all situations is the entire motive behind the need for justice.

This seems like an easy and obvious reaction to suffering and pain, as we think of C.L.E.W. speaker Dr. Richard Mouw's call to be full of care in our thoughts and actions, but is it really as simple as that? It can be, but I would argue that in many situations, especially looking at the news of suffering refugees, we can become desensitized to the loss and pain that exists in the everyday lives of these people.

Having worked closely with refugees this summer in Athens, Greece, I can testify that their lives, their journeys, are anything but easy. One of the students I had the pleasure of befriending told me his story of losing his family to

the Taliban in Afghanistan, brutally shooting his entire family in front of him at age 8. These are the types of stories we hear in the news, but detach ourselves from because they simply sound like stories, not someone's most painful, vulnerable, and intimate memories. These people, these sharers in our humanity, are suffering and lost. We cannot sit idly by, twiddling our thumbs, wholly focused on anything but our voiceless fellow humans.

This does not have to mean going across the world to serve those who are in need, but what it certainly should mean is having a sensitivity to the crying out of the voiceless, and wrestling through the difficulty of navigating politics to work within a broken system. We cannot passively observe the depravity of humanity without looking at our actions, thoughts, and opinions carefully and intentionally to bring the love of Christ to all. Che Guevara says it so pointedly, "Above all, always be capable of feeling deeply any injustice committed against anyone anywhere in the world."★

Liana is a senior intercultural studies major with a human ecology minor.

"Before one can begin reacting to a situation of crisis with "justice", should they not have a strong, clear conviction of what justice really means?"

Syrian Need, European Reticence, & American Bad Faith



ANTHONY BURDO

DAVID GORDON

News outlets are currently flooded with information regarding the Syrian refugees. Millions face war in Syria, hatred and racism in Turkey, abject poverty in Lebanon and Jordan, and often without the means to relocate.

Even as I write, Western states such as Austria, Germany, and Hungary are bringing troops and police to tighten border control against the growing waves of migrants. Everywhere the influx of refugees goes, it seems they are received with animosity, or at best

with cold regard. Consider the stun grenades in Macedonia, riot shields and beatings at Hungary's Serbian border, or the EU's plan, approved earlier this week, to seize and divert ships smuggling migrants across the Aegean Sea. Despite such obstacles, between eight hundred thousand and one million refugees are expected in Germany by the end of 2015.

It should not surprise us that the human heart is always and everywhere prone to sins, such as bigotry. (Yes, even a Westerner's heart.) From regions such as the Balkans or Middle East we might be accustomed to reports of rampant nationalism and violence. But is it harder to hear of Europeans treating the migrants as threats to their economy, or perhaps even to racial or religious comfort?

Sadly, this crisis reflects no better on America than on

"Giving our brother a fish is not the same as teaching."

Turkey or Hungary. In fact, the Turks, Hungarians, and others have done far more for the Syrians than we. Roughly two million refugees have fled to Turkey, while the U.S. has admitted some fifteen hundred. On Sunday 13 September, Austria permitted fourteen thousand to enter from Hungary. Smaller, less capable nations are willing to allow some refugees in at their border. Our border has been effectively shut. The Turks are in no way fond of them, but our government promised earlier this year to accept close to half those the UN is looking to resettle. Nations not so willing at first have now reflected Matthew 21:29, and done what is right,

while we have reflected the disobedience in 21:30.

Why has our government, one of the world's most capable and well-funded, balked at the idea of accepting even 10,000 refugees next year, while Germany has accepted 450,000 so far this year? The main reasons given are fear of ISIS operatives posing as refugees, and a desire to care for the most pressing needs, such as food and medical aid.

Yet, is this reasonable? We must note that the U.S. has sent over \$4 billion to the response efforts, according to the National Security Council cited in the BBC. But giving our brother a fish is not the same as teaching. Money is not lasting security in the face of civil war and terrorism; somewhere, refugees need new homes altogether. Granted, food, water, and shelter for the immediate future requires funding. But to do no more amounts to little, similar to the foolish faith described in James 2:15-17. According to the International Business Times, applications to the U.S. Refugee Admissions

Program normally take up to two years; but this year the program has in large part been indefinitely suspended. Given the exigency of the Syrian situation, this effectively says "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat your fill", while we do nothing for their fear, hunger, and danger.

The U.S. is accepting a meagre handful of fewer than two thousand souls. Our former promise to take sixty-five thousand this year, out of one hundred thirty thousand the U.N. wishes to relocate, is reduced to ten thousand in 2016. How must this impact our credibility, that we conveniently adjust our help for other nations? President Obama promised we would be the leading nation in allaying the crisis. Yet that hard-won monicker belongs to Germany, and Britain and France, too, have promised more than double our offer. Worse than any ramifications in our relations with Europe, however, is the faithlessness we have shown to the refugees themselves. I pray that we will turn and serve the destitute, that through us the nations might be blessed. ★

David is a humanities major with a theology minor.

"Nations not so willing at first have now reflected Matthew 21:29, and done what is right, while we have reflected the disobedience in 21:30."

Modern Day Martyr? *A Perspective on Religious Freedom*



ANTHONY BURDO

PHILIP MAENZA

On the 26th of June history was made. The United States Supreme Court decided that same-sex couples would be allowed to get married regardless of the state in which they live. The Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the land. The decision of course was faced with disagreement from people who do not feel as though same-sex couples should be allowed to wed. Kim Davis, a county clerk in Rowan County Kentucky, was one such person. I believe, of course, that people have the right to disagree, especially if a changed law now conflicts with an individual's job. Yet, I believe it is up to the

“Being prosecuted for not following governmental laws does not make Davis a martyr for her religious beliefs.”

conflicted individual to find a path that follows both one's faith and the law.

As a county clerk Davis was legally required to issue marriage licenses to anyone who lived in her jurisdiction, but due to Davis' "Oneness Pentecostal" beliefs, she felt as though she could not morally issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Davis decided to no longer issue marriage licenses to anyone who came to her office, including heterosexual sexual couples as well. When this story began to be picked up by the media, many people, including Davis, claimed freedom of religion as the reason she was no longer doing her job of issuing marriage

licenses to those individuals who the Constitution legally permitted to be wed.

Freedom of religion is the right to choose a religion or deny religion without interference from the government. This means that you can choose to practice your religion without fear of being jailed or persecuted. You are free to practice your religion, whatever that religion might be, so long as it does not violate the law that has been put in place by the constitution of the United States of America. Davis went on for weeks denying both heterosexual and homosexual couples marriage licenses which eventually led to several legal battles that went

all the way to the Supreme Court. U.S. Supreme Court Judge Bunning ordered Davis to issue marriage licenses or she would be in contempt of court. On September Davis was arrested by U.S. Marshalls and was taken to Carter County Detention Center for not upholding the oath she had taken, one that stated she would obey the U.S. Constitution and do her job accordingly. Although I feel as though the arrest of Davis was a little excessive, she was in fact in violation of her job and the law put forth by the government.

Davis' arrest occurred because her religious beliefs caused her to violate Constitutional laws put in place. However, Davis was not sent to jail because of her religious beliefs. Davis was arrested and jailed due to violating the United States Constitution, which is the law of the land. Many, including Davis herself, have claimed her stance to be that of martyr, however being prosecuted for not following governmental laws does not make Davis a martyr for her religious

beliefs. If she was truly affected by her convictions, she had the opportunity to step down from this job in order to follow her religious beliefs.

On a personal level, as a member of the LGBT community, I firmly believe that Kim Davis had every right to feel that she should not administer marriage licenses to the homosexual community. After all, many Christians hold firm to the belief that homosexuality is wrong and this fact will not be altered anytime soon. Though I believe Davis' religious beliefs were tolerable, I cannot tolerate the fact that she stayed in her legal position knowing full well that she was disobeying the laws this nation has chosen to cling to. If Davis resigned for her religious beliefs, that would make her story more desirable than the hurtful mess that she caused against the homosexual community by deliberately breaking the law.

Overall what Kim Davis did was illegal and does not in any way make her a martyr for her faith. In fact, if anything she violated God's greatest commandment: love one another.★

Philip is a junior communication major.

“It is up to the conflicted individual to find a path that follows both one's faith and the law.”



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.

A correction to last week's opinion piece, *A Ring of Fire: Living in the Midst*, should be noted. The article stated "5.6 million acres [of forest] burned in the past ten years- combined." However, the yearly average, not total, of burned forest acreage has been 5.6 million over the past decade.

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Jill Magara

//junior art major



“An artist is a person who produces things that people don't need to have.”

-Andy Warhol

Titles & Media

left to right descending

- Combination 3, *Digital Media*
- Hatarl, *Digital Photography*
- Combination 1, *Digital Media*
- Combination 4, *Digital Media*
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