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State Rep Visits Campus After Four Years With New Message

ELIJAH TANGENBERG

Representative Tom Reed's recent appearance on campus can be said to be the happy culmination of a long-anticipated event. Reed, Allegany County's agent in the House of Representatives in Washington DC, is known for his frequent appearances at town hall meetings and his visits to colleges in his constituency. While this is not the first time Reed has been on campus in his 8-year term as representative, it has been about 4 years since the last time he visited campus. His infrequent visits to Houghton are probably what brought a larger-than-usual crowd to this year's Constitution Day festivities and it was certainly the topic of the discussion that made the people stay. A discussion and interview was led by Professor Emeritus Ronald Oakerson and Associate Professor of History Christian Esh, with Professor of Political Science Peter Meilaender acting as MC. The subject of the meeting was not, as perhaps many were expecting, a campaign stop for Reed as he prepares to defend his seat in the



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New York State Representative Tom Reed

upcoming midterm elections. Rather, Reed used this time to share his involvement in the Problem Solvers, of which he is the Republican co-chair. The Problems Solvers caucus is a bipartisan organization that claims forty eight members, twenty four Republican and twenty four democrats. The goal of the caucus is what it says on the box; members act cooperatively to cross party lines and come to joint compromises on current issues that otherwise get deadlocked in partisanship.

During the discussion, Reed was very clear that he was not becoming a Democrat or an independent. Instead, he described himself and the fellow caucus members as "proud Republicans and Democrats", and that the goal of the caucus was to create mutual understanding. They often do this through argument exercises, such as making the other side argue the other's perspective, so they can get better ideas and create reasonable compromises. The caucus, as Reed explained, came out of current

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Student Support Network Trains New Members

DEVEN BLOWERS

In an effort to raise awareness of mental health needs on campus, the Counseling Center designed the Student Support Network (SSN) as an outreach program focused on students. SSN is a group of students who are "aware of ways they can be present and helpful to students on campus who might not want to go right to the counseling center," says Emily Allen, a member of last year's SSN cohort. The program director, Bill Burrichter, states that "SSN is a way to actionably impact students who may be struggling."

Students may not have heard of SSN before, but according to Martin Dibble, a member of last year's group of SSN students, its goal is not to be an outgoing entity like SGA or residence life. Emily reflects this sentiment, "I didn't know it existed until I was asked to join." She wants students to know about SSN, but appreciates that others

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CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY LAUNCHED

JOHANNA FLOREZ

Houghton's Center for Sustainability, led by Sustainability Coordinator Brian Webb, is working on transforming the college into an institution that visibly prioritizes creation care as part of Christian living.

Houghton has been committed to a variety of creation care initiatives since 2009 and Webb took the position of Sustainability Coordinator in 2012. The Center for Sustainability started working just this year with student interns to organize sustainability projects under Webb's guidance. Webb's vision involves setting an example as a Christian institution that includes caring for the earth as a major expression of its faith. "The vision for the Sustainability Center goes much bigger than Houghton," he states, "We want Houghton to be known as the place in Christian higher education for creation care and sustainability work." As he was becoming

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Enrollment Numbers Still Below Average



The class of 2020 gathers for a group photo

COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

SERGIO MATA

Houghton has experienced nearly a 15% drop in student enrollment for the main campus in the last two years. According to Director of Admissions Ryan Spear, the enrollment for the incoming class is similar to last year,

with 258 new students this fall compared to 261 in the fall of 2017. However, from 2014-2016 the incoming class was typically about 300 students or above.

Spear also shared that there has been a decline of

transfer students to Houghton, which he estimates as close to 30 fewer than previous years. Most transfer students came from nearby community colleges like Jamestown Community College and Monroe Community College, which are

also experiencing enrollment challenges.

According to data provided by Interim VP of Student Life Dr. Bill Burrichter, 91% of Houghton students who are eligible to return the following semester do so. The most difficult transition is from freshman to sophomore year, in which 81.5% of students choose to stay at the school.

The enrollment challenges that Houghton is facing are not distinctive. Many other private colleges and universities, especially christian institutions reported similar complications. Ryan Spear and President Mullen both agreed that one of the biggest challenges affecting the decrease of enrollment is the changing demographic in the Northeast: where most traditional Houghton students are coming from is changing rapidly.

Houghton is working hard to implement new initiatives to compete with the changing demand. In the

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International // McDonald's Feels the Heat



KAYLA SIMMONS

The #MeToo movement has dominated the media for the past year, as women across America have been calling attention to incidents of sexual harassment and assault in the workforce that commonly go overlooked. While the movement began in Hollywood in response to the allegations against Harvey Weinstein, it has since been used by women in all areas of society.

The most recent development in the #MeToo movement happened last Tuesday, September 18th, when McDonald's employees walked out of their jobs in protest of the inadequate measures against sexual harassment. According to Associated Press, "Organizers said the

strike would target multiple restaurants — but not every local McDonald's — in each of the 10 cities: Chicago; Durham, North Carolina; Kansas City, Missouri; Los Angeles; Miami; Milwaukee; New Orleans; Orlando, Florida; San Francisco and St. Louis." This strike would reportedly be the first in protest of sexual harassment to take place in multiple states.

In a statement to Associated Press made before the strike, McDonald's claims "We have policies, procedures and training in place that are specifically designed to prevent sexual harassment at our company and company-owned restaurants, and we firmly believe that our franchisees share this commitment." However, multiple women have come forward and stated that the incidents they reported were quickly dismissed, or that they were discouraged from reporting in the first place.

The Washington Post detailed that "The workers who led Tuesday's strike are demanding that the company hold mandatory training for managers and employees and create a secure system for responding to sexual harassment complaints. They also want the company to form a committee where workers and representatives of wom-

en's rights groups can play a role in addressing sexual harassment."

In a press statement from McDonald's, reported by The Atlantic, the fast food chain responded to the strike with: "Today, in addition to our existing initiatives, we are engaging third-party experts known for their expertise in the areas of prevention and response, including RAINN and Seyfarth Shaw at Work, to evolve our policies, procedures, and training. We will continue—as we always have—to look at ways to do even more to ensure that McDonald's values are reflected in every restaurant, every day."

So far much of the #MeToo movement has focused on high-profile women and celebrities. But the McDonald's strike reveals that sexual harassment affects all levels of the workforce, and often is invisible at lower levels. The Washington Post notes that "researchers have found that workers in low-wage service jobs, whose stories don't get as much attention, are particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment. A 2016 survey by the public-opinion polling firm Hart Research Associates found that 40 percent of women in the fast-food industry had experienced unwanted sexual ha-

arrassment at work. Of those women, 42 percent said they felt as if they needed to accept the harassment because they couldn't afford to lose their jobs." The Atlantic makes a similar comment, "Many low-wage food-service employees are uniquely vulnerable to harassment on the job because of the precariousness of their economic conditions. The specter of poverty complicates—and often precludes—decisions like the one to risk one's income to protest harassment." The first women to join the #MeToo movement had the financial security to speak out with less risk to their livelihoods, and now the movement has expanded to include women of lower socioeconomic status.

As The Atlantic observes, "for many employers and individuals, any possible impulse to listen to women's concerns is overshadowed by either fear of consequences or unwillingness to be responsible for a solution. For companies like McDonald's, treating workers' concerns with a measure of gravity requires bureaucratic shifts to the company's corporate infrastructure." This strike is a manifestation of the response to big corporations like McDonald's - whose employees are largely minimum wage -

not exhibiting enough care to their employees.

But the invisibility of these issues is not limited to the companies themselves. "For McDonald's employees and other fast-food workers, the overall lack of empathy from the public stems from the same source of marginalization that enables cultures of workplace harassment," The Atlantic remarks, and goes on to point out that "Reports of misconduct in more visible, highly paid industries have thus far eclipsed the national concern over the hostile working conditions that many food-service employees contend with."

In so many ways, the #MeToo movement has been about awareness of the darker corners of society, and calling attention to the widespread nature of sexual harassment that previously could be reduced to an abnormality. For the last year discussion has revolved around this issue, and the latest news proves that sexual harassment affects society from top to bottom, and all victims deserve acknowledgement and action.

Kayla is a junior majoring in English and History

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fall of 2019, the college will add two additional majors: criminal justice and electrical engineering, which are two majors that prospective students are always inquiring about according to Spear. Despite the tuition-free excelsior scholarship instituted by New York State last fall, which has negatively impacted enrollment for many private institutions, this year's incoming class had additional 10 New York residents than typically. Houghton is also gaining a presence in New York through its sites in Buffalo and Utica.

The Office of Admissions is looking towards implementing an ambassador program where alumni can engage with future students in their local communities. In recent years, alumni from South California, Colorado, and Florida have attended various college fairs in their respective areas to promote Houghton and build connections with prospective students.

An event that continues to grow every year is accepted student weekend. This past spring, 139 students attended the event, and 110 of those (nearly 80%) decided to Houghton this fall.

Last fall, the college rolled out The Houghton Promise as a pledge to future and current students with five distinctives about Houghton: its affordability, academic quality, authentic spiritual formation, ac-

celeration, and accountability. Spear noted that of the incoming class, 95% of the students reported being aware of the Houghton Promise and 45% indicated that it influenced their decision to pursue Houghton.

According to President Mullen, Houghton is still grounded in its mission to provide students from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds with high-quality education and affordability regardless of these challenges.

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partisan issues, especially the rise in power of the Speaker's role in governing the party position. For the unfamiliar, the Speaker in the House of Representatives is the leader of the house and decides what enters the floor for debate. While the speaker is technically elected by the majority of house members, it has become the party majority leadership position, and a position for partisan combat.

Reed then told the audience another interesting role of the Problem Solvers caucus. Since the incumbent speaker, Republican Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, is not running for re-election this year, the spot is open for election after the midterms. When the midterms are over, the new majority party leadership will gather in DC to vote for their party pick. The twenty four Problem Solvers caucus members in the party, Reed

told the audience, will probably not be there. They will instead be with the Problem Solvers, as they will vote as a 48 member block during the formal election on their pick for a speaker who agrees with their proposed house conduct rule reforms, be they Republican or Democrat. Given that the number of representatives is 435, they have the ability to sway the election to a minority or less popular majority speaker, which would break a long tradition of majority-majority party speakers.

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can be assisted without knowing that those helping them are specifically trained for this purpose. This might lend itself to "elitism," as Martin believes. Students in this case may use their participation in SSN as badge of honor. Thus, being chosen for the SSN might become competitive and harm its original purpose, the wellbeing of the students on campus. To both Allen and Dibble, this creates a more authentic experience.

Both students also com-

mented how SSN is a way to help "destigmatize counseling," in the Houghton community. In other words, the Student Support Network can help students arrive at a decision of whether or not to schedule a session in the counseling center. They can converse with students who are unsure of the counseling process and even accompany students to the counseling office to seek further information or schedule a consultation.

The Student Support Network's page on the Houghton website states, "our goal is for SSN members to eventually comprise a supportive network of students trained and committed to improving the quality of life for all members of the Houghton community." In this way SSN is peer focused. Students who might be wary of confiding in their RA's or residence life can turn to the SSN for a pre-counseling center conversation without a generational misunderstanding that a visit to the counseling center might prompt.

As of Bill Burrichter's taking over the program, he notes that Houghton has "added an

additional session so as to more fully cover topics of importance to students". In training, students cover different topics such as depression, self-harm, substance abuse, anxiety, and sexuality. On Monday the 24th, the new batch of SSN students officially started training. "Eighteen students who were invited to participate will start their training on the Houghton College ropes course, which is a new addition to the program training" according to Bill Burrichter. Training consists of once a week sessions.

As for how students in SSN will use their training, "it is all up to us to decide how much we use the things we learned," Martin Dibble explains. For Dibble, experience is crucial in deciding how SSN members will actually act on what they have learned. Nevertheless, SSN members welcome conversation and the opportunity to converse with others about mental health. To Emily Allen, the student support network is a "step forward" and the "campus needs to do more programming promoting the mental health of the community."

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aware of how environmental issues impact people, he came to see creation care as a natural component of a Christian worldview: “I . . . started looking in scripture to find all kinds of passages throughout scripture: ‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it,’ the creation account where God calls everything good— long before he ever makes humans he calls all this other stuff good— and then he puts humans in charge of stewarding what’s there. . . . Not only is it important that we take care of the environment for the environment’s sake, but also for people’s sake too, because we depend on the environment.”

Shaphan Hestick (‘19) is one of four student interns hired by the Center for Sustainability for the 2018-2019 school year. “We’re coming at it with this approach: that there’s a lot that can be done on sustainability... Brian has a vision for the college, and he allowed us some room to speak into that vision, and now we’re all executing it together.” He-

stick works in a dual role as Houghton College’s Sustainable Energy Coordinator and as a fellow for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, facilitating collaboration between the two organizations.

Honus Wagner (‘20), the Sustainable Food Coordinator, echoes the perspective that creation care is part of the Biblical mandate to “love your neighbor.” “I think if we think of it in terms of how we treat our environment affects people, that can bring it into focus,” he says. “There’s an ethical aspect to how we treat our environment that isn’t just because the environment has intrinsic worth... Emission of greenhouse gases and climate change, that affects real people.” Wagner compares creation care to the values of Christian asceticism, “in which we temper our gluttonous demand for resources and we dial that back and try to live more simply in a way that’s very evangelical.”

In living out this ethic, the people within the Center for Sustainability take a multifaceted approach. Webb works

with all different departments across campus to discuss how they can creatively incorporate sustainable practices into their day-to-day functioning. He also does behind-the-scenes work including overseeing and reporting on Houghton’s energy usage and carbon footprint. The student interns find “projects that seem intriguing”, according to Hestick, and typically run them together as a team. Projects may be long term and directly sustainability-oriented, like a campus garden which Wagner was hired to help plant and which will eventually provide produce for the dining hall, or they may be one-day events geared primarily towards getting students into nature. Such events include the recent Trail Mixer and the “Harvestival” in October, which will be run by Jesse Rucquoi (‘21), the Assistant Coordinator. The Harvestival will include pumpkin carving, hot cider, nature art, and local goods for sale, as well as live music. For further information or performing opportunities, Jesse can be contacted at jessica.rucquoi21@houghton.edu.

Jesse expresses eagerness

to see how the Center for Sustainability helps develop an effective culture of creation care at Houghton. “I am personally hoping to see more engagement and excitement from the student body when it comes to caring for this earth that we have been so graciously given,” she says. “Houghton College has the incredible ability to use their abilities, interests, and faith to glorify God; I hope that during this school year we will use these gifts to love on our lands and local environment.”

Students who desire to regularly be involved in creation care work can join the Eco Reps program, which sends volunteers to work on Center for Sustainability projects. “We are always looking for support” is the message Hestick wants to emphasize. Students can get more information by emailing Sergio Mata (‘19), the Student Engagement Coordinator, at sergio.mata19@houghton.edu.

The staff hopes that once they have a permanent physical location on campus, the Center’s work and impact can become even more visible and recognized aspect of Houghton

College’s identity. “Especially as younger generations are becoming increasingly concerned with this area,” says Webb, “I think it’s more and more important for institutions like Houghton to show leadership in terms of environmental stewardship.”

Hestick expresses high hopes for creation care becoming a priority for Christians around the world. “There’s so much that the church could do just because it is an organization that is full of people that have common ethic— it’s so hard to find that these days— and people that regularly and routinely will enter into conversation with other people with a similar value structure and system,” he says. “It’s such an easy grounds for transformation.” What could that transformation within the church look like? As Webb puts it, “We want to normalize it within the context of, yes, we care about the environment, because we’re Christians, that’s why. Because that’s what we’re supposed to do.”

Java 101 Makes Changes

PAIGE COLLINS

Java 101 has received a number of changes. Metz Management is redesigning Houghton’s coffee shop to encompass a wider audience, and working to please the current one.

According to Marshall Green, Assistant Manager for Metz Culinary Management, there has been a number of changes in Houghton’s Java 101, including additional soft seating, new décor, a chalk wall, and the art show which rotates monthly. Marshall Green also shared that in Java 101 management will be “adding new programs such as Open Mic (starting Wednesdays in Oct.) and Club Night (starting Tuesdays in Oct.)” Along with a new design and new programs, the coffee itself should be a change as Green states “I think we have also done a better job training our staff of student baristas and now have a higher quality and more consistent product being delivered to our customers.” Marshall Green states that “Our main goal is to make Java a more comfortable environment where the students and community feel it is a space to call their own.”

With these new changes Genesis Allan states that “we are treating it more like a professional coffee house. The setup is more strategically planned for customers to come in and actually feel like sitting down and feel like they can be taken care of in our coffee shop.” Genesis Allen, a Houghton College senior, has been a barista in Java 101 since the beginning of her freshman year and has trained over half of the current Java baristas. She explains that “It always felt like people never came and sat, people came in and got their coffee and then they left... but now people are coming in here actually spending their time in here and hav-

ing discussion in here”

Houghton Students may have noticed the new artwork adorning the walls in Java. This is a monthly rotation of local artists in which they are given an opportunity to show their work. Genesis Allen states that it will be primarily artists from the surrounding community featured. She explains this is because “we’re really trying to make a draw for people on the outside to come in here [to Houghton]” Although Marshall Green does confirm that “One month a semester/ year, we plan to highlight a select few Houghton Art Students to do a collective show.” However, Green clarifies that “we do not really see ourselves as a gallery, more of a space of visual engagement for artists to exhibit.”

Students were involved in the Java changes process to some degree, according to Allen and Green some of the new ideas belonged to students, including the chalk wall and the the art show. Allen states “... We try really hard to meet the requests of people who come in.” “We got rid of the noisy refrigerator... That was actually a student collective, there was a petition that went around” The new look was worked on by Marshall Green, the collective Metz management and Kristen Sanasith, former Houghton College employee in CASA and Student Life.

Marshall Green remarks that there has been largely positive feedback from students regarding the changes made in Java 101 “... for the most part everyone has really liked the changes and ideas like the chalk wall and Pay It Forward board has been a great success... but with everything, you cannot please everyone.” Green declares that “We (Metz) really care about improving the dining experience whether it is in the dining hall, Big Al’s or Java 101” “there is no idea we will not consider. If you have a

great idea then please let us/me know. Also, engage with us in social media so you can see what changes we are doing and know of the great programming we have happening. You can follow us on Instagram @MetzHoughton or Like us on Facebook at /Houghton Dining”

Genesis Allan confirms that the Metz management continues to listen to student feedback “Marshall and Michelle [Java Manager] do listen to the comments. We’ve been getting comments about how annoying the radio station[is]” because of this Allen explains that new playlists are in the works so that “we can have a better music selection” Green explains that “Many people say, ‘They liked it when the baristas could play their own playlists’... but the problem is that often there were inappropriate songs, so we cannot allow that anymore. We are in the process of building our own playlists and should have a better variety of music sooner than later.”

Along with trying to work with and listen to the students here at Houghton College, Metz management is also working to make Java 101 a coffee shop for the local community, outside of Houghton. Genesis Allen explains that “We’re trying to make this a place that the [local] community wants to come into, ...we’re trying to make it feel like the [local] community can come in and be a part of our [Houghton] community and I think that will open up a lot of really good opportunities for [Houghton] students to get connected”

Genesis Allen believes that the new Java changes are an improvement and that the goal to make Java more appealing to the general public is successful so far. She explains that “I see that the UPS guy is coming in here more often, all four years that I’ve worked here we’ve never had one of the UPS guys come in



here and get coffee. Now there’s moms and families coming from Fillmore, and there are business members and older folks who come down here and meet their friends that are from Belfast and they’re not even affiliated with church groups, they’re coming

to have a friendly environment to enjoy coffee in. I think that’s one of the greatest ways we can be a ministry to the [local] community is being a place that’s accepting and comfortable for people who don’t get exposed a church community all the time.”

Houghton Alum Returns as Language Professor

KAYLA SIMMONS

Walter Hopkins graduated from Houghton in 2004, and this semester he returns as Assistant Professor of Modern Languages. His wife, Dr. Laura Hopkins, has also joined Houghton as Assistant Professor of Education.

Prof. Hopkins is currently teaching French and Spanish classes. He began learning French in 7th grade, and started Spanish his senior year of high school at the encouragement of his French teacher. Prof. Hopkins was the first Houghton student to study abroad in Spain in Seville through Trinity Christian College, and also spend a summer studying in France at Dijon. He went on to get his Masters at Middlebury College in Vermont, where he was able to study in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Prof. Hopkins credits most of his professional development as a language teacher to working at Michigan State, specifically with

his colleague Bill VanPatten. “A lot of what’s shaped what I do in the classroom and what happens in the day to day interactions with my students has been shaped by my work at Michigan State and with him,” he stated. Prof. Hopkins and Prof. VanPatten produce a language teaching podcast, in which they give tips for teaching languages in the classroom and answer questions from teachers who can call in.

His favorite book in French is *Le Petit Prince*, in Spanish is the play *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, and in English is *The Giver*. He enjoys historical fiction, particularly in film, citing *La Vita e Bella*, an Italian movie about the Holocaust.

In terms of teaching style, Prof. Hopkins prefers a “proficiency oriented” approach. “My style is probably very different than what most people have experienced before,” he said. Rather than focusing on knowledge, such as grammar rules and memorizing conjugations, Prof.

Hopkins tries to encourage “the ability to use language for the purpose of communication...the expression and interpretation of meaning in a given context.” His classes focus on interaction, and giving his students the resources and practice to understand the language. “He does a really good job of teaching according to student’s capabilities, and then stretching them a bit further” said Junior Becca Loomis, Prof. Hopkins’ intern.

“I think learning languages opens up worlds for people that you wouldn’t have opened otherwise,” Prof. Hopkins said. Language acquisition is not as widespread in America as in other areas of the world such as Europe, and “it’s a shame that it’s not.” Prof. Hopkins adds that “we tend to be a pretty ethnocentric nation...but the reality is that the U.S. doesn’t have an official language and we never have.”

Prof. Hopkins notes that proficiency in a second language is a practical skill particularly in the



CURTESY OF HOUGHTON

Prof. Walter Hopkins has returned to Houghton as Assistant Professor of Modern Languages

workforce, but also emphasizes the cross-cultural aspects. “It helps to appreciate other cultures, it helps us to appreciate differences, it helps us to understand things in different ways,” he said, “it gives us an opportunity to interact with people in their heart language and to demonstrate to them that they were important enough for us to even make an effort to learn their language.” Prof. Hopkins also expanded on why this is particularly important at a Christian college; “Language is a part of our identity, and a part of who we are, and if we’re really going to reach others for Christ, then we need to speak their language.”★

Lewis Wins Four Hundred

QUINN HULL

Head women’s soccer coach, David Lewis, reached a milestone that few other coaches have achieved in college soccer. On September 15, 2018, Lewis coached his team to a 6-0 win over Medaille college to earn his 400th career victory.

Lewis began coaching as an assistant for the men’s soccer team at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, as a way to earn money during his time at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. “I really had no aspirations to be a coach growing up, but it was something I could do because of my playing background, so it seemed like a natural job fit. It was more for economic reasons initially” said Lewis. When Lewis graduated from seminary school, he began to pursue his calling to serve in the ministry; supplementing his lower income with coaching jobs at the local high schools in Reading, Massachusetts. Eventually, Lewis took a position as a senior pastor in Franklinville, NY. When he arrived, the local high school had neither a men’s nor a women’s soccer program. Lewis continued his coaching career as a hobby once again as he pioneered the women’s soccer team at the local high school. He

continued to coach there until 1991 when he took the position of Head Women’s Soccer Coach at Houghton College.

Lewis inherited a program at Houghton that had most recently posted a record of 2-14-1. He wasted no time refocusing his own coaching philosophy as he prepared for the upcoming season. “When I came to Houghton...My philosophy switched from trying to win right away to ‘let’s make sure they’re playing quality soccer...make sure they’re playing the game correctly’” he said. With that approach, the Highlanders have

had great success. In route to 400 career victories, Coach Lewis has guided his team to 12 appearances in the NAIA National tournament advancing as far as the Elite Eight.

Among his many accomplishments, one win stands out among the rest for Lewis. “It has to be the national championship game in 2015” he said. The Highlanders found themselves trailing 1-0 with 1.7 seconds to go when a free kick was given; setting up the Highlanders with the final shot of regulation. Just as time expired in the final game of their season, the

ball crossed the goal line, sending the game into overtime. The Highlanders would go on to win the NCCAA National Championship Game in penalty kicks. “I already had my post-game speech rehearsed because it looked like we were done... there was no explanation other than the fact that God intervened there.” Said Lewis.

Though Lewis has found success coaching his teams to victory on the field, his focus lies elsewhere. He sees his job as more than just teaching his players about soccer, he sees it as a way to impact people’s

lives as a whole, and as a way to live out his calling to the pastoral ministry. “Some people have asked me why I left the pastoral ministry to come here...they use the phrase ‘you’re leaving the ministry’. I really don’t believe that. It’s just that my congregation has changed a bit. They now wear soccer shoes, and a soccer uniform” said Lewis on his role in leading the team spiritually. “It’s a part of everything we do.” Said sophomore midfielder, Stephanie Beattie. “He always talks about how the field acts as an altar, and we are on the field worshipping God through every pass, shot, and dribble. Every win and loss.” She continued.

Wins and losses have always come second to Lewis. He looks at the field and does not only see people as players, he sees his players as people, and coaches them as such. His primary goal is not always to win the game, but rather to play quality soccer in a way that honors the Lord. “I understand [the milestone of 400 wins] because few people have gone there, but what I really see is what is represented. I see people’s lives; I see players throughout the years who have come through Houghton. I see their parents, I see their brothers and sisters and that’s really what’s most important are the lives that are represented in all of those games.”★



Coach Lewis and the women's soccer team won his 400th career win on September 15th

Houghton’s Hidden History

CHRISTOPHER CILENTO



Imagine, if you will, it is a beautiful and sunny Sunday morning. The air is clear and warm; a light breeze blowing in off the ocean. Everything is perfect and you haven’t a care in the world.

However, your reverie is soon interrupted by a loud droning, and without warning, the world explodes around you. Fire and smoke are everywhere as debris rains down. People scream in panic as the explosions continue without stopping. For two hours death rains from above as the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.

Thus, did the United States of America enter World War II. Within days, military recruitment centers were inundated with draftees and volunteers

from all walks of life. From doctors to farmers, fathers to sons, and professors to students; hundreds of thousands of men left their homes to fight for their country. Many would never return home.

The tiny hamlet of Houghton, in western New York State, was home to a small but heroic portion of those men. You pass by them every day never knowing they are there. Indeed, what was once one of the most hallowed places on the campus of Houghton College now lies seemingly forgotten and ignored: a memorial to those faculty, staff, and students who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Ten names grace a small but solemn stone tablet placed at the bottom of our campus flag pole. Erected in 1956 this memorial, stained and dirty with the grime of 62 years, reminds us that heroes once walked the hallowed halls of this institution. Men who gave their lives to protect that which we hold most dear and to bring that freedom to the oppressed.

The next time you happen to walk by the Campus Center or past the Chamberlain building, take a quick detour across the grass to the flagpole. On the south side, kneel down and read the names. Take a moment to pay homage and respect to those men who sacrificed everything. Then take another moment to reflect on how you can make the world a better place. ★

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.

Spiritual Reflections

MORGAN SMITH

We at Houghton are sometimes tempted to think that we should keep our politics and our religion separate: our Christian faith doesn’t necessarily commit us to any one political position or agenda; all (mainstream) political persuasions should be regarded with neutrality in “spiritual” contexts; religious discourse should be kept apolitical; and so on. After all, Christians sustain profound disagreements about political matters, and absolute truth-claims by any one side often seem unhelpfully contentious. So, the reasoning goes, we ought to ignore these disputes in certain contexts for the sake of preserving unity in our faith community. We should avoid controversy in favor of common ground. This sentiment, I think, is wrong. Certainly there are topics we can and should discuss as a community – in chapel, standalone events, and informal contexts – that don’t have any immediate political implications. But the Christian faith is ineliminably concerned with people as they live in the world, and concerns about people as they live in the world are, or wind up being, political concerns. Our enacted Christian faith must therefore be political. In particular, I think, we must pursue social/political/cultural forms as Christians that render justice for marginalized people, and we must speak up as Christians when we think others in our faith community speak or act in ways contrary to justice for marginalized people, with a vigor equal to the importance of the issue at hand. That is to say, we should as Christians – in both secular and non-secular contexts – regularly make definite assertions, have sharp disagreements, and engage in spirited arguments about politics.

There are two objections we might wish to make. First, what about loving others as ourselves? Aren’t definite assertions, sharp disagreements, and spirited arguments about politics so divisive as to be incompatible with ongoing loving relationships – something that should be our top priority as Christians? Second, doesn’t engaging with an unworthy idea (whatever that may be) give it a kind of legitimacy we may not always wish to accord? Aren’t some political positions best ignored into oblivion?

Neither of these objections necessarily holds true. For, with regard to the first objection, to love someone is (at least) to be for their good,

and part of what it means to be for someone’s good is to recognize them as fully human and God-beloved. And I think that arguing with someone, far from being an act of hostility, can and should imply recognizing them as fully human and God- beloved: we give them a seat at the table, on a level with everyone else, and we go to the trouble of listening to their ideas, offering objections, and listening again. As for the second objection, I think we as Christians have a responsibility to engage with and learn from one another on a continuing basis, even when we find one another’s ideas unworthy. But we have an equal responsibility to challenge ideas that block the recognition of marginalized people as fully human and God-beloved. Taken together, these two responsibilities yield a picture of life on which we prioritize personal ties forged through vigorous disputation-in-community over always being, or appearing to be, right. On this unabashedly idealistic picture, we grow both closer and better through vigorous argument.

I’m going to conclude each of these column entries with a poem. This week, I’ll leave you-all with “Possible Answers to Prayer,” by Scott Cairns. It’s a Lenten poem – a pointed invitation to self-reflection – and as we all struggle with the messy task of navigating a polarized and brokenworld, we could use a bit of Lent in our lives:

“Your petitions—though they continue to bearjust the one signature—have been duly recorded.Your anxieties—despite their constant, relatively narrow scope and inadvertent entertainment value—nonetheless serve to bring your person vividly to mind. Your repentance—all but obscured beneath a burgeoning, yellow fog of frankly more conspicuous resentment—is sufficient. Your intermittent concern for the sick, the suffering, the needy poor is sometimes recognizable to me, if not to them. Your angers, your zeal, your lip smackingly righteous indignation toward the many whose habits and sympathies offend you—these must burn away before you’ll apprehend how near I am, with what fervor I adore precisely these, the several who rouse your passions.”★

Photo of the Week:

“I told you not to eat it Noah...” -Zach Roberts



Courtesy of Instagram



SKYLAR HILLMAN

Ben Sasse, a conservative senator from Nebraska, has defended the traditional view of the supreme court during the Brett Kavanaugh hearings: the court is to be independent of the legislative process, free from political baggage, and the justices appointed should not be chosen solely by the current political persuasion of Congress. In defending the independence of the highest court, Sasse stated, “our solution is NOT to find judges who will be policymakers.” Sasse is correct in affirming this conventional role of the Supreme Court and Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination hearings are no different. Our Founding Fathers would disapprove of the Democratic Party’s unabashed determination to prevent Kavanaugh from being the ninth supreme court justice. In a word: un-American.

According to Stanford politics, the rising polarization in America has changed the way we judge, no pun intended, a nominee of the Supreme Court. Americans, and more specifically, our men and women in Congress, put their policy ambitions in the lap of the court. We determine the “qualifications” of the nominee based on their political ideology, hoping that they will pass policies that we want. This is contrary to what our founders desired. They desired an independent judiciary that would determine the constitutionality of laws that Congress legislate. The role of the Supreme Court is not to super-legislate or craft policy, but rather to evaluate whether or not a bill that is passed by Congress is constitutional, meaning that it doesn’t impinge on the natural rights of Americans. The responsibility of approving or rebuking policy proposals (bills) belongs entirely to Congress.

As Sasse argues, Kavanaugh’s policy opinions should but put in a box titled

“irrelevant.” John Adams’ thinking resonates with this: “A question arises whether all the powers of government, legislative, executive, and judicial, shall be left in this body? I think a people cannot be long free, nor ever happy, whose government is in one Assembly.” By choosing to consider Kavanaugh’s policy opinions Congress has done just that: put the government in one Assembly, the Supreme Court.

Even worse, Democrats’ attempts to thwart Kavanaugh’s nomination have shifted into the arena of dirty politics. Recently, liberal Californian Senator Diane Feinstein said that she has proof Kavanaugh tried to rape a young woman while in High School. Immoral sexual acts are unwelcomed and inhumane, but Feinstein’s allegations appear to be implausible. Feinstein refuses to release more evidence as she continues to argue for the postponement of Kavanaugh’s nomination. What makes the accuser’s case implausible is that she waited nearly four decades to mention the sexual misconduct. Why weren’t these allegations brought forth sooner? Why are they being discussed now right before the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh? Furthermore, why did the Democrats withhold this information from the Republicans until now? Feinstein admitted that she possessed this information in July.

Another objection swarming throughout the media is whether or not Kavanaugh will fight to eradicate *Woe v. Wade* or uphold legal precedent. Granted, Kavanaugh tends to the originalist interpretation

of the Constitution and opposes abortion, but he has readily claimed he would follow court precedent. In answering questions from Senators Cory Brooke and Diane Feinstein, Kavanaugh swore to abide by legal precedent.

Additionally, there’s no doubt that Brett Kavanaugh is qualified for the Supreme Court. According to The Hill, “his experience and qualifications are very evident.” Kavanaugh has a twelve-year experience in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, writing over 300 legal opinions. He is a graduate of the reputable Yale Law School, worked as an associate counsel to the White House, and served as a law clerk to Justice Anthony Kennedy.

President Donald Trump’s nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Judicial Branch should proceed without the political baggage. Mr. Kavanaugh is unquestionably qualified for the Supreme Court. Congress should approve of his nomination. Giving back the congressmen their responsibilities is part of Kavanaugh’s agenda, and that is what our Founding Fathers would want. Whether you are left-leaning or right-leaning is insignificant to the process of Kavanaugh’s appointment to the highest court of the land. Turning to the Supreme Court for politics is an abuse of the system. As Sasse proclaimed, “we need to bring back School House Rock.” ★

Skylar is a junior majoring in Political Science.



ANNA SCHILKE

As a political moderate, I’ve become used to paradoxes. After the election, for example, I received a phone call from both of my grandmothers in the space of an hour. The first is a conservative from Florida. “Thank the Lord,” she told me. “He has delivered us a President.” The other is a socialist from Canada. “We must pray,” she said to me fifteen minutes later, “and remember that trials come to test our faith.” Although I sympathized with one and disagreed with the other, I tried to listen to both with respect - not only because they are my beloved grandmothers, but because I do not belong to a party. I must open myself to hearing the opinions of both, even when those opinions are in direct contradiction with one another.

As one might imagine, with that mindset it has been a long two years. The election was swiftly followed by battles about immigration, the climate accords, Supreme Court nomination No.1, trade agreements, allegations of collusion, more firings than I can count, and cries of potential impeachment. By the time Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination became headline news, I was numb to the controversy. I’ve simply seen it too many times to be impressed. Republicans think he’s the best thing since sliced bread. Democrats are crying foul play. Everybody argues, nobody listens. Worse, the arguments aren’t new. At their core, the debates surrounding Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment aren’t about Brett Kavanaugh. They are about two issues only tangentially related to him: the role of the Senate in Supreme Court Nominations, and the bounds of what is and is not considered rape or sexual harassment.

I’ll start with the first, since it’s simpler, although not necessarily easier to solve. What is the role of the Senate in Supreme Court Nominations? More specifically, on what grounds should they be allowed to reject a candidate? The constitution – unfortunately – is of little help on the issue. “... And [the President] shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of

the Senate...Judges of the Supreme Court” it reads (Article II, Section 2, Clause 2). Advice and Consent are not terribly illuminative words. They could mean anything from an informal brunch to a separate examination process. To interpret the wording, we must depend on legal precedent; how has the Senate handled this issue in the past? Again, that’s a more complicated question than it might originally appear. Until 1925, there wasn’t much of a confirmation process. The Senate did vote, and occasionally rejected people, but unless there was a remarkably compelling reason, the President’s choices were passed. After 1925 the process got a bit lengthier and more stringent. After 1980, it started to take its current shape: an enormously long hearing that runs upwards of 20 hours.

With the increased examination, reasons a Senate might reject a candidate have also begun to shift. Former debates centered around issues of ethics and competence; today we have added questions of political affiliation and how the candidate’s positions might affect the balance of the Court. Still, despite a growing list of factors to weigh, outright rejections to the Court are rare. Should Kavanaugh be rejected, he will be the 9th judge in US history, out of over a hundred appointments. This – for me – raises an important question. I agree that concerns of ethics and competence ought to be part of the Senate’s examination. But given the history, do I believe that party affiliations or balancing those affiliations within the broader court should also be ground for a rejection? I will return to this question in a moment.

The other crucial issue at stake in this appointment is that of rape and sexual harassment. As a culture, we’re in the middle of an ongoing conversation about these two terms. What do they mean? What constitutes them? When and where does an incident move from one to the other? What is the acceptable time limit to claim reparations? What do we accept as proof of their occurrence? How do we keep them from happening? This is a thorny issue, and one on which I frankly feel uncomfortable commenting. I don’t know what happened to



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Brett Kavanaugh

those women at those parties; the events took place before I was born. Yet – per the terms I outlined above – if Kavanaugh is guilty of sexual harassment or rape, he should be rejected from the court on ethical grounds and likely arrested. Despite my reticence, this is an issue on which I need to have an opinion; until Western society gets clearer on the morality of these terms, we’re going to keep running into this situation.

So, then, what do I think the appointment? In terms of competency, Brett Kavanaugh qualifies; from all accounts he is a distinguished and effective judge. I also – as a person without party affiliations – do not believe that party politics should influence Supreme Court nominations. If the rape and sexual harassment claims did not exist, there would be no reason to bar his appointment. But the rape and harassment claims do exist, and I take them seriously. Any such charge needs to be investigated, regardless of how many years ago it took place or how convenient it may seem. Given the choice between mistakenly rejecting Kavanaugh from the Court or mistakenly silencing a victim’s voice, I would rather find another judge than ignore a woman’s pain. I’m not saying Kavanaugh should be dropped from consideration without a fair investigation. But I will not feel comfortable with his appointment until he is cleared of ethical doubt.★

Anna is a senior majoring in Writing.



Please Note:

Articles Featured in This Section Were Written Before the Hearings Held

Thursday, September 27, 2018

SERGIO MATA

Over the summer Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Anthony Kennedy, announced he would be retiring at the end of July, giving President Trump his second appointment to the Supreme Court. Shortly after Justice Kennedy’s announcement President Trump announced he would be nominating Brett Kavanaugh.

As a progressive Christian and person of color, when I heard that President Trump was going to nominate Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court I was alarmed because he has a concerning judicial record. If appointed to the court he would cause a conservative majority, threatening women’s rights, immigrants, LGBTQ rights, environment regulations, Native Americans, and other vulnerable populations. Decades of progress could be rolled back. Kavanaugh is 53 years old and could service on the court for decades to come, affecting years of future decions. His resume makes it clear that his ideology does not support the rights of many vulnerable populations.

For example, since 2006 Kavanaugh has served as a judge in US Court of Appeals for the DC circuit and last year he wrote an opinion that

demonstrates women rights are at danger if he is confirmed to the court. A 17-year-old immigrant women who was under federal custody for crossing the border sued the federal government because they denied her access to an abortion. Kavanaugh forced the immigrant women to continue carrying her pregnancy because it was not an “undue burden.”

Additionally, in comparison to the number of white evangelical leaders, evangelical leaders of color have not

launched their support for Kavanaugh because they see the dangers that a conservative court can have to the Hispanic and Black Christian community. Professor from the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota), Thomas Berg said in a article over summer “A lot of Black and Hispanic brothers and sisters will not appreciate the things that the conservative court is likely to do. These justices are more likely to restrict affirmative action. They’re more likely to reject claims of voting rights... White evangelicals haven’t seen those as part of their agenda.”

This is the second time President Trump has had the opportunity to appoint justice to the Supreme Court. He has the chances to change the narrative of the court with his two appointments by diversifying the court, which is dominated by white male appointments. In the history of the court, only six out of the 113 judge’s have been women or people of color. President Trump has not taken those chances. Furthermore, the process of the appointing a supreme court justice is becoming more partisan each time it is enacted; justices are confirmed by party lines instead of unanimous consent. President Trump’s last nominee, Neil Gorsuch, was confirmed by the Senate 54-45 votes, when three Democrats joined all the Republicans. If Kavanaugh is confirmed it will be though party lines, and the vote will again be close.



Also, two weeks ago a professor from California, Christine Blasey Ford has accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault, an event that took place during a high school party in the nineteen-eighties. She is willing to testify before Senate Judiciary Committee. In light of the accusation, President Trump and the Senate leadership should pull back Kavanaugh’s nomination and conduct an investigation. He does not deserve the honor of serving in the Supreme Court with this kind of behavior. Instead, many Republican Senators and the President have rushed to come out and defend Kavanaugh. In the age of the #MeToo movement, we should not be doubting this type of accusations; they should be taken seriously.

In short we should not be appointing justices to the highest court of the land who present a threat to women rights, immigrants, Native American and other vulnerable populations.★

Sergio is a senior majoring in interdisciplinary studies.

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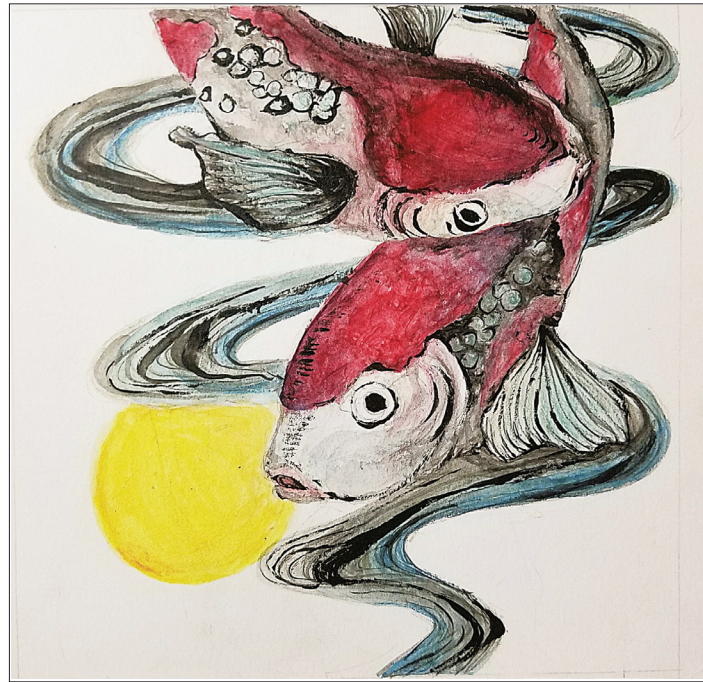
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Szeting Ma

// senior art and business administration major



Koi: Watercolor, color pencil, black ink

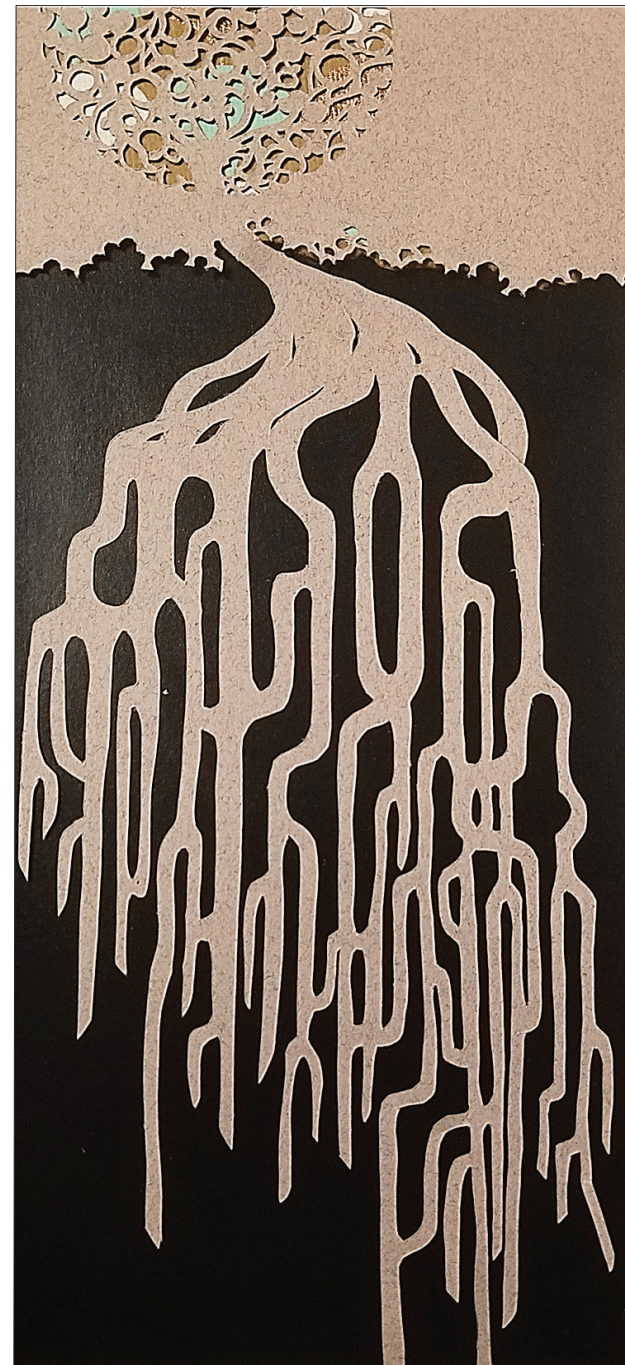


Wave: Paper and paint

"My art journey began with tracing an amine character. After that, I would draw people and sketch out imaginary stories nonstop. In my high school years, I started to consider composition and giving meaning to my artwork. During this time, I was exposed to many mediums like markers, ink, chalk, watercolor, and experimented on mixed media art. Continuing my education at Houghton has further expanded my views and skills in creating art, introducing me to new possibilities such as abstraction, paper cutting, pastels, and photoshop. My inspiration comes from a variety of sources, including nature, cultural influence, social concerns, as well as my personal memories and experiences. I have always enjoyed the aesthetic components in Chinese paintings and Japanese printmaking, which have some influence in my works. In the future I want to explore oil painting and Chinese ink painting, learn more about art history, and continue my practice on art composition. As of right now, I am unsure how art would play into my career path, but I am certain that it will always be an essential part of my life."



Totoro in Real Life: Photoshop



The Deeper the Roots, The Greater the Fruits: paper

"You desire to make art - beautiful or meaningful or emotive art - is integral to your sense of who you are."

-David Bayles