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## Seniors Present Research At Penn- York Conference

MICAH CRONIN

Three Houghton College seniors presented independent research at the annual Penn-York conference last Saturday, accompanied by professor of English and writing, Laurie Dashnau.

The group travelled to St. Bonaventure University to participate with other undergraduate researchers from New York and Pennsylvania colleges. Grace MacKay presented research in psychology, Sophia Ross presented her study of American poet Elizabeth Bishop, and Wesley Payette gave a poster presentation

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## Revisions to Covenant Proposed



The Student Government Association will vote on the proposed revisions regarding same-sex relationships between students within the next three weeks, according to Student Body President Joanna Friesen.

ANTHONY BURDO

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

the covenant according to Vice President of Student Life, Robert Pool.

The section in question currently reads: "We believe that Scripture clearly prohibits certain acts, including drinking alcohol to excess, stealing, speaking or writing profanely or slanderously, acting dishonestly, cheating, engaging in occult practice,

and engaging in sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage (including premarital sex, adultery and homosexual behavior)."

According to Philip Maenza '17, President of the LGBTQ student group, this is not a new issue. "We've been trying for years- since my freshman year, I'm a senior now- to get it changed,

to have it clarified," he explained. He described the LGBTQ community's attempts to add the issue onto the agenda for change (revisions). "I got involved with petitions and professors and different people and former alumni to word it and got into a really nice place. Unfortun-

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## Dean Jordan Lectures On LGBTQ Issues



LUKE LAUER

Dean Jordan delivered a lecture titled "Why Can't We Be Friends?: Same-Sex Attraction and the Christian College on Tuesday. Two more lectures are slated for next semester.

ANNA SCHILKE

Dean of the chapel, Michael Jordan, delivered the first of three lectures in a series on same sex attraction in Christian higher education. The lecture took place

on Tuesday evening in the Chamberlain Center and was titled, "Why Can't We Be Friends?: Same-sex Attraction and the Christian College."

"Every few years as students turn over there's a difference in the way students think" said Jordan when

asked why he decided to give the talks. "What is considered "progressive" has drastically changed since I was a student twenty years ago, but even since Jill and I moved back to Houghton, I've seen viewpoints shift. It's important for us to be talking about this - not only our decisions

but how we're thinking about making them."

Houghton is sponsored by the Wesleyan Church, which has declared, as per their website, "We do not, cannot, and will not endorse homosexual activity as a lifestyle." The site goes on to say that the denomination has arrived

at this conclusion from an "overwhelming preponderance of biblical evidence." Jordan, who has stated in chapel that he agrees with the official Wesleyan position, affirmed the importance of the Bible in the decision

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# WORLD // Arab And U.S. Forces Surge Against ISIS



MICAH CRONIN

The Syrian Defense Forces (SDF), Turkish militias, Kurdish forces, and U.S. personnel have begun

an offensive against the ISIS stronghold in Raqqa, Syria. SDF told CNN it established a joint operations center last Saturday, and launched the "Euphrates Rage" mission on Sunday.

Raqqa is the "de facto" capital of ISIS territory, according to CNN. Its population of 200,000 is held down by roughly 5,000 militants. The city has been under ISIS control since the summer of 2014, according to CNN. According to SDF leaders, the retaking of Raqqa may take up to two months as forces seek to isolate ISIS positions in the city.

The U.S. will support operations with air cover and military advisors according to NPR. Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

General Joseph Dunford told CNN that the US and Turkey are drafting a long term plan for "seizing, holding, and governing" Raqqa provided the Euphrates Rage operation is successful.

The commencement of the Euphrates Rage came just days after Iraqi forces' surge against the ISIS stronghold in Mosul. The offensive to recapture Mosul is the result of several months of united Iraqi, Kurdish, and U.S. effort, according to NPR. Coalition spokesman Colonel John L. Dorrian said to CNN, "In the meantime we will continue shaping operations like airstrikes against Da'esh leaders, command and control and resources. This is the first step in a campaign that will be conducted deliber-

ately."

"Doing operations simultaneously with the campaign to liberate Mosul will complicate command and control for the enemy, giving them more problems to solve than their flagging command and control can manage," he added. As with Raqqa, Mosul has been under ISIS control since summer 2014, according to Al Jazeera, which also reported dozens of decapitated bodies found by Iraqi forces.

If control of Raqqa is successfully wrested from ISIS, there may be conflict between the Kurdish and Turkmen militias. According to Reuters and NPR, Turkey is concerned about Kurdish influence spreading into northern Syria as a result of the

planned takeover. The Kurds and Turks have long-standing tensions, despite joining forces against a common enemy.

Mark Lowen of BBC stated "The Kurdish participation is problematic," because "Kurdish fighters are accused of expelling Arabs from areas they've taken in the north and Raqqa has an overwhelming Arab majority."

NPR reported that the coalition stated the Arab troops involved in the operation will be key in the aftermath of the offensive, as they are "indigenous to the area and will help establish regional support for SDF operations."★

*Micah is a senior theology major.*

## TALKS from page 1

making process. "You need to be considering what theological tools you should be using to make what is essentially a theological decision" he said. "And as gospel people, this is an issue you have to think through."

Some students seem to agree. "I think it's good he's not avoiding the subject" said Emilia Gildemies-

ter '18. Katherine Stevick '19 stated, "A lot of people would prefer not to talk about it. It's important for us to be discussing these issues and listening to each other's viewpoints."

Jordan originally stated in a chapel announcement his intention to deliver three lectures. One was to be aimed towards students with a progressive viewpoint on same sex attraction, one aimed towards students who were undecided on the issue and

one aimed towards those who maintain a traditional stance. The email announcement also stated that the latter two talks – aimed at those undecided and progressive have been postponed.

According to Jordan, this decision was a result of a meeting between himself and representatives of the LG-BTQ community. "A group of students who are affirming of LGBTQ relationships requested to speak with me about my proposed talks" he

stated. "After hearing what they had to say, I decided to put off two of talks. I want to try and honor their requests, and I want to give time for that process to happen." Jordan said he reached an agreement with the group about the content of the first talk before he gave it on Tuesday.

Jordan said he had slightly modified the content of his first talk so that it can stand alone, but it is still covers most of the same information he originally planned for

his conservative segment. He currently plans to give the second two talks later in the semester or early next year depending on when he can come to an agreement with the group of students.

"I was looking forward to all three of Dean Jordan's talks; I think there is something for everyone to get out of all three of them no matter your viewpoint" said Casey Greene '18. Stevick agreed and added, "It's always good to listen to each other."★

## WORD ON THE STREET



"It feels like we're being stripped away of the rights we've been given, especially in the whole abortion issue. It's such a hard, difficult issue...I feel that it's an issue that no one really wants to discuss."

-Anna Clune '19



"The fact that everyone thought that their candidate was right and the other candidate was absolutely wrong."

-Sam Gerardi '18



"The Americans think they have only two options. If they bother you so much, why not just stop talking about them and think about other options?"

-John Khalaf '17



"I think evangelicals have had a hard time with this election on how to interpret two candidates they don't really like."

-Michael Carpenter '17

The biggest issue that I've noticed has been immigration and what we do about refugees- at least at Houghton, that's been a really big issue. I don't know if either candidate has done a really good job of doing anything about that.

-Joe Miner, '18



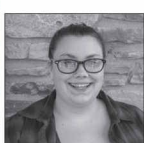
"Who to vote for, does that count? I didn't want to vote for anyone."

-Sara Kopa '17



"Some of the main issues are the rights of people which could potentially change depending on who is President; we just got all these rights for people to be equal and they could be stripped away from us."

-Nicole Wakelee '20



"For me I think the base issues have been immigration and refugee policies, as well as the treatment of other races and ethnicities."

-Bethany Rudolph '17





# COVENANT from page 1

nately they [the Student Life Council] just weren't on the same page as we were."

According to Pool, change to the community covenant would begin with convincing the Student Government Association (SGA) that the matter is a real issue which affects students and requires redress. The SGA would then discuss and decide whether or not to pass the issue along

to the Student Life Council. Pool explained that as Chair of the Council he works to create "the agenda and make sure that whatever advice or feedback I'm getting from the Student Life Council is appropriately woven into the policies we create or revise, and in this case it's the community covenant." He recalled there was a petition for revisions circulating, but that it was lost before it could be of true use. "But we realized this was an issue," Pool

reflected. "So we began discussing how to clarify the wording."

Maenza said he and other members of the LGBTQ community, however, are concerned as to what that new wording may be. He said he was displeased that the revisions could further restrict student relationships and is concerned that they will have a negative effect on students. "They can't quantify feelings," explained Maenza, "so the covenant

can't say you can't have gay feelings for each other but they are saying there can't be a relationship. That just opens one up to a lot more gossip and backbiting."

Micah Cronin '17, a member of the LGBTQ student group, also expressed concern about the new wording. "I think Houghton should consider whether restricting certain dating relationships is in line with federal Title IX regulations," he said. "If not, that could open the college

up to costly lawsuits."

Pool did not make clear what the new wording in the covenant could be, only that it would make the rules on the issue of LGBTQ behavior more clear. Pool explained the proposed changes have not yet been put to an official vote. Voting could not take place until February at the earliest, although likely later. However, he did express hope that the change will be in effect for the next fall semester.★



# PENN YORK from page 1

on marine biology. Professors "highly encourage" students to participate in the conference, said Dashnau. "Houghton has regularly participated in this conference since 2005.... [Houghton's and Dashnau's participation] grew out of my passion for mentoring," she said.

At this "less formal" interdisciplinary conference, Dashnau said presenters often receive feedback on their research from professors, which can be "especially helpful" for students whose research is still in progress. The five minute question and answer period after presentations "often continue into the hallway and lunch hour," she said.

Payette's poster presentation was titled, "The effects of ocean acidification on copepod physiological ecology." In layman's terms, the biology major said, "It's just a small part of the marine food chain I was studying." Payette said his research yielded findings "that tie in directly to climate change."

"Copepods, which are an important part of the marine

food chain, they prey on a lot of phytoplankton. When they are exposed to higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, they tend to eat less." This could have major effects on marine ecosystems, he said. "If we can understand how plankton and their predators behave, we can predict how plankton will affect the ecosystem." Payette's research came about through a marine biology internship he participated in last summer, "a one time thing", he said. "I'm going to try to go into biomedical research or disease ecology" in graduate school after taking a gap year, he said.

Psychology and writing major Grace MacKay presented on "The Effects of Life Orientation and Message Framing on Decision Making".

"I haven't done the study yet," she said. The project is part of her honors thesis, and she plans to conduct experiments through the next several months. She will also present her research "several times in the spring". She said psychology professor Paul Young encouraged her "to get some experience" delivering the topic to audiences at the Penn-York Conference.

MacKay said people "respond to the way a situation is described to us," depending on whether a situation is described in terms of risk or reward. Life orientation, or optimism and pessimism, and message framing, "the wording of a situation" influences how individuals make decisions, she said.



COURTESY OF LAURIE DASHNAU

Three seniors presented research in various disciplines at the Penn-York Conference. From left to right: Grace MacKay in psychology; Sophia Ross in English literature; and Wesley Payette in Marine Biology.

"A pessimist tends to be more negative in general, a negative message framing tends to reinforce their natural inclination to think in terms of losses," MacKay said.

This research can be applied to help people make decisions "by understanding how people work" and calculate risk, MacKay noted. "This can be applied to health, investments, things like that," she said.

English major Sophia Ross presented on the contemporary poet Elizabeth Bishop. Titled "Remembering Mother and Motherland: The Experience of Loss in Elizabeth Bishop's Nova Scotia Prose and Poetry,"

Ross's work explored Bishop's experience as a Canadian American. Though Bishop was born and raised in Canada before moving to New England. Ross said "She really is considered an American Poet. She won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, she was the US Poet Laureate. But if you read her letters, she says she is half Canadian and half American. In a letter to her biographer, she said she considered herself three quarters Canadian and one quarter New Englander."

Ross said much of the research done on Bishop revolves around her [Bishop's] years in Brazil, her relationship with Robert Lowell, and

that Bishop was a lesbian. "I wanted to see how Nova Scotia played into her work and write something that really brought that forward...these [other subjects] are interesting and definitely matter, but there's not a lot done about Nova Scotia and how that affected her work," Ross said.

"It was good," MacKay said. "It was a good experience—there was a broad range of research. It was cool to interact with other students in the same boat." While Payette and Ross have closed the book on their topics for the time being, MacKay is still in the midst of her work, now gathering "as many [experiment participants] as [she] can get".★



# Gillette Hall Gives Thanks

*Annual Hall-Wide Event Offers Food and Fellowship to Gillette Hall Residents and Alumni*

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

Houghton College's Gillette Hall has been through several transformations over the years. It began as East Hall, with only one third of its current structure, before undergoing additions to the building, a name change, and numerous small changes. Yet the largest dorm on Houghton's campus has held on to two traditions, which Gillette Resident Director (RD) Laura Cunningham calls "the pillars of Gillette." These are Gillette Thanksgiving and the Gillette banquet, which in Cunningham's words, are "the two Gillette institutions you don't mess with." The month of November brings another Gillette Thanksgiving, a decades-long tradition, set to take place on November 19.

Gillette Thanksgiving, set in the spacious main lounge of the dorm, brings a Thanksgiving feast to 150 of Gillette's residents through the combined efforts of the RD and Assistant Resident Director (ARD), Resident Assistants (RAs), and Sodexo. Traditionally, other guests have been invited as well, ARD Rebecca Firstbrook '18 explained. "We get to invite Gillette alumni to it. We invite the other RDs

and some faculty members who were Gillette or East Hall residents." She noted college president, Shirley Mullen, and First Gentleman, Paul Mills, were also invited to the event, although they are unable to attend this year.

This year will be Firstbrook's third year attending Gillette Thanksgiving, having attended as a resident her first year and as an RA her second year. As ARD, she will work with Cunningham to organize the logistics of the event, including contacting Sodexo for food and ingredients, while Gillette's team of RAs will prepare the dishes to serve the residents.

"It's an opportunity for RAs to make food that their moms would have made," Cunningham said. She noted that many RAs provide recipes from home for their dishes, which is "a good conversation starter." She herself experienced making cranberry sauce for the first time the first year she served as RD. "I actually liked it," she said, explaining that since they had the canned jellied sauce at home, she had never liked it before. Cunningham has made it for Gillette Thanksgiving every year since.

Firstbrook appreciates Gillette Thanksgiving as a time of togetherness both in the preparation and the meal itself. "Each of us needs the other to make it happen," she said of the team that prepares the event. Having experienced the



SOPHIA ROSS

Every year, Gillette hosts "Gillette Thanksgiving" for 150 of its residents, Gillette alumni, and other members of Residence Life. The event is one of two Gillette institutions that take place annually.

event from the student, RA, and ARD perspectives, she noted the value for students, who "can receive," and for RAs, "who can serve them." The attendees are also able to contribute in their own ways, since they provide their own place settings. "It's fun," Cunningham said. "People bring their own mugs, and you find out what everyone's favorite mug is."

Rene Stempert, Lead Custodian of Gillette Hall, and a long-time presence at Houghton, noted the abiding presence of Gillette's Thanksgiving tradition. "It was already a tradi-

tion when I came twenty years ago," she said, and noted it has continued "because it involves food and fun and friends." She echoed Cunningham, who described the event as a celebration with the "Gillette family," and stated, "they're family times."

This event is especially valuable for students who are unable to go home for Thanksgiving Day. Houghton alumnus Carol Zimmerman '62 remembered having only the day of Thanksgiving off, which made traveling home difficult. When you couldn't go home "you went home with friends,"

she said. The introduction of a feast for East Hall residents brought a family-like Thanksgiving meal for those who could not be with their families, and the tradition endures. Cunningham noted it as one of the "few times a good majority of Gillette residents are together."

"A lot of students don't think much of it when they go," Firstbrook acknowledged. However, she hinted at the importance of the event, which has lasted through several decades, and added, "it's a nice benchmark to look back on."★

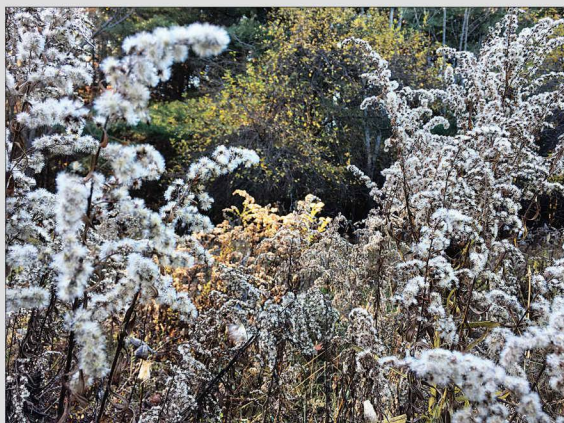


Photo  
of the  
Week

Lexine Wilkas '19



# United in Worship and Christ

## Houghton Hosts Roberts Wesleyan for Night of Worship

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

Students from Roberts Wesleyan College came to campus to worship, united with Houghton students. The event, which took place in the recital hall on November 8 at 8 p.m. was run by the Student Government Association, and was intended as a way to unify the two colleges in their Christian worship. The night consisted of worship songs, prayer, and refreshments, all in the pursuit of unity between the two student bodies.

Melissa MacLean '17, Executive Officer of Spiritual Life, began this event last year. She said, "It all started as a dream of mine freshman year to bring the two opposing schools under one roof as worshippers of the same God." At the

time, she said, "...I didn't have the resources to make it happen, so I left it as a dream and prayer for God to fulfill one day." That dream, according to MacLean, was able to become a reality two years later when she "was elected into the position of Chaplain."

Last year, the event included worship and prayer together, led by teams of students from both colleges. Ian DeHaas '17 has been involved in the worship portion of the night both years. He said, "There's something unique about a night of worship. Even more than the obligation of Sunday morning, the people who come out to worship together are really invested because they chose to be there. We sing together, we pray together and we remember who we are."

This year's event had the same format as last year's: two colleges coming together to worship. Emily Barry '17, another Houghton student involved in the leadership of UNITED, said, "The goal of the event is for us to come together as one body of Christ



Last Friday's event included both worship and prayer led by teams of students from both colleges.

in a clear and tangible way, by worshipping and praying alongside one another. It was a beautiful and powerful testimony to see students coming together like that."

That Friday, the leaders of UNITED were happy to see the recital hall filled again for a second year as Houghton welcomed a group of Roberts students to campus. DeHaas stated, "Once again, it was good to see the recital hall

filled. We had time to pray for one another and time to connect afterward with some of the folks from Roberts. All around, it was a blessing and encouragement to see the two student bodies come together as Christ's body."

Now that the second year of UNITED at Houghton has taken place, the organizers are looking to the future of the event. Melissa MacLean said, "I hope to make it an annual

event for the two schools, as we otherwise don't have much contact other than sports."

Despite the rivalry between Houghton and Roberts Wesleyan, events like the UNITED Night of Worship continue to remind students that both of these Christian colleges exist for the same reason, to bring glory to God. ★

## LEADING AND LEARNING: ROTC Program Trains Houghton Students for Military Careers

RACHEL BELLEROSE

military degree." Groff went on to discuss the important skills students develop, such as leadership training and self-discipline, while simultaneously building their resumes and looking forward to the possibility of a scholarship. Speaking of the physical portion of the program, she also commented, "I'm learning the limits I can push myself to."

There is no need to be a contracted military member; the classes are open to students of any discipline and there is no long-term commitment, although a military career is one possible outcome. For those continuing on with the military, they will graduate college and enter either the reserves or active duty as a second lieutenant.

Cadet Victoria Krisher '19, a contracted cadet who is interested in becoming an Army dentist, said her interest in ROTC began with her family history of military service. She said of her family heritage, "They always told me how their experiences [in the military] have shaped their lives, and a lot of their experi-

When planning course loads each semester, not many of us anticipate learning land navigation or combat skills as possible syllabus expectations. However, for the Houghton students participating in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), that's exactly the type of schedule they can expect.

ROTC is a program designed for people interested in attaining a four year degree and serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Cadet Elizabeth Groff '19 said of her choice to participate in ROTC, "I thought it was really cool that while you're learning your [academic], you can also earn your



Houghton students can choose to participate in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps as part of the Seneca Battalion, which is hosted by St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY. Cadets travel to Bonaventure once a week for the lab component of their coursework.

ences were sort of instilled in how I was raised." She continued, "I didn't want a normal job. I wanted to make a difference, make an impact."

According to Houghton's website, Houghton is part of the Seneca Battalion, which is hosted by St. Bonaventure University. Cadets travel to Bonaventure once a week for the lab component of their coursework, in which they do everything from battle drills to eight-mile rucks. Both Krisher and Groff described labs as an

extremely valuable and portion of the program. Krisher stated that "in labs, we get to apply everything that we've learned."

For anyone interested in joining ROTC, Groff assured that it is not too late and encourages students to talk to any of the cadets or to ROTC faculty advisor and psychology professor, John Van Wicklin. She said, "There's really no applying [to ROTC]. I think what a lot of people don't realize is that it's an

actual class... just tell your advisor you'd like to add it to your schedule." It is possible to begin taking courses as late as junior year, so the timeframe for adding ROTC courses is quite broad. Groff also emphasized that there is no pressure to continue on with a ROTC or a military career if it is not a good fit for the individual. Personal growth and the development of leadership skills, however, are lifelong benefits of participating in ROTC. ★



# Remember, Remember, the 11th of November



NATE MOORE

MATT YOUNG

Today is Veterans Day 2016. This is the holiday on which we honor all those who served, or are serving, in the United States Armed Forces. Earlier this week we had a Presidential Election. Many of us exercised our right to vote for our leaders and representatives in the government. For most citizens, however, their contribution to the maintenance of society goes no further than casting a vote

every few years. Not so for a veteran. President Reagan said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem." This sentiment gets at the heart of the civilian/soldier divide. Because the Marines (and all veterans) pledged themselves to a cause greater than the individual, they will never worry whether their contribution to society mattered. Every veteran, in the Oath of Enlistment, said these words: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies... and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me..." Veterans are those who were willing to give their lives in the service of our nation as a whole, to sacrifice their personal dreams for the sake of a bigger one, to value the good of the community over that of the individual. They are the most selfless among us, and while they do not seek or ask for honor, they deserve it.

But November 11 was not always celebrated as Veterans Day. Previously it was known as Remembrance/Armistice Day (as it still is in most

countries outside the U.S.). This was the day on which the Great War came to an end. It was supposed to be the end of "the war to end all wars." Unfortunately, the Great War was not the end of all wars; on the contrary, a second world war shortly followed the first, bringing with it to earth a part of hell never seen before or after. We have seen genocides on almost every corner of the globe, conflict in the Middle East, and the rise of global

declining, deaths from major diseases are at an all-time low, and back to this piece's topic, deaths from war are now at a historic low point. Of course war has not been eradicated, but it seems as if the sacrifices of previous generations have paid off, at least for now.

Armistice/Veterans Day provides the opportunity to reflect on the past and, hopefully, to apply what we can learn from reflection towards building a brighter

**"Veterans, above all people, are the ones who must face the demon called 'war' on a daily basis."**

terrorism. War has by no means gone away.

But, as President Obama said earlier this year, "We're fortunate to be living in the most peaceful era in human history," a fact attested to by historians and sociologists. Even though the world has been, and in some regards still is, a brutal and nasty place, things generally are getting better. Globally, we are living longer than ever, extreme poverty is

tomorrow. Veterans deserve our recognition and respect because they were willing to sacrifice a part of their lives and autonomy in service to the greater good. But as General Schwarzkopf said, "Any soldier worth his salt should be anti-war." Veterans, above all people, are the ones who must face the demon called "war" on a daily basis. They know what it will cost them and their loved ones. They have

seen what war is, and found it wanting. It is not something to be sought after, desired, or romanticized; it is hell, and nothing more.

Hopefully we will find ourselves in a future where there are few to be honored as veterans because there is little need for soldiers. To quote Einstein, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." We live in a world in which one nuclear (or other technological) mishap could seal the fate of our species. The first two world wars were devastating, and altered the course of history in incalculable ways; but I tremble at the thought of a third. For if there is one, it will surely be the last. So let us not forget the sacrifices made by our veterans; use this day to honor those deserving of honor. But if we wish to see a brighter tomorrow, we must labor together to beat our swords into plowshares, our spears into pruning hooks, and to learn war no more.★

*Matt is a U.S. Army veteran and junior philosophy major.*

# Indigenous Rights and the DAPL



NATE MOORE

CLAIRE BROWER

In the brief 240 years of its existence, the United States of America has made remarkable progress toward righting many of the wrongs it has done. However, some of the most egregious and oldest among them still exist in various forms to this day. Fittingly, as I began my research for this piece "Barbed Wire" by Kendrick Lamar came on. The song talks about the struggles minorities face in overcoming obstacles to their success placed on them from birth. It was poignant

to learn about the plight of the Standing Rock Sioux and other tribes protesting the route of the Dakota Access Pipeline to lines such as "even if you overcame doubt and your living ain't bad/ Know it's some barbed wire that's always in your path." The barbed wire, in this case, is a lack of concern for indigenous rights displayed by private corporations, state and federal governments.

I won't give a lengthy introduction to the situation at Standing Rock Reservation. However, there are a few things that are important to clear up.

While the current route of the Dakota Access Pipeline does not actually run through the reservation or take land from it, it does cross under the Missouri River, the main water supply for the tribe. The protests center on the possible contamination of the river if the pipe were to leak. Energy Transfer, the company behind the pipeline, has repeatedly stated that fears

**"As Christians we are called by Jesus to love and care for our fellow humans, especially those of us who are hurting and oppressed."**

of a leak are "unfounded" and that pipelines are safe. Two things prove these statements false. First is the history of crude oil pipelines. Since July 2014, when the Dakota pipeline project was publicly announced, there have been at least fourteen major crude oil pipeline leaks, spewing out over four hundred thousand gallons of crude oil. Five of these leaks were from Sunoco pipelines, a close partner of Energy Transfer. Further falsifying the statements given are the company's own actions. The pipeline was originally slated to run nearer to Bismarck, North

Dakota, but was rerouted from this course largely due to concern over the close proximity to the city's municipal water supply sources.

The issue at hand is not a question of whether or not pipelines can leak and harm local peoples and ecosystems; they can and have. It is a question of whether or not we as a country are willing to let private companies knowingly gamble with the health and rights of indigenous peoples. And so far, we haven't said no. If America does not want to echo some of the worst chapters of its brief history, its citizens and government need to take a strong stand for indigenous rights, and we need to do so now.

The "WWJD" wristbands gathering dust in our sock drawers add another layer to this question of duty. One answer to that question can be seen in the 500 clergy from all over the country who recently joined tribe members to form a

Niobrara Circle of Life on the site of the most recent and most violent clash. Together they sang hymns and prayed for the protesters, policemen, pipeline workers, and government officials involved in the conflict. As Christians we are called by Jesus to love and care for our fellow humans, especially those of us who are hurting and oppressed. In America, as in many countries around the world, indigenous peoples have historically been among the most oppressed members of society, and many still suffer daily from what lingers of this unfortunate reality. Our duty is to show love, empathy and respect for the rights of First Nation peoples. Even if you can't make it to a vigil, aren't sure you're up to organizing a local protest, and don't have the time to hitchhike to Standing Rock Reservation you can still take the most powerful action of all: pray for those standing on either side of the barbed wire. Pray for the protection of indigenous rights.★

*Claire is a junior international development major with minors in Middle Eastern and Biology.*

# Queer Love Isn't A Tragedy



NATE MOORE

MICAH CRONIN

Last semester I was invited to participate in a faculty, staff, and student focus group regarding how Houghton can best serve "same-sex attracted" students committed to celibacy. I was asked to be a part of the discussion as a representative of LGBTQ identified students who are open to same sex relationships. Other participants hoped I could provide insight into

ways Houghton College, as a traditional institution, could support these students as well. However, it soon became apparent to me that, the way things stand now, Houghton College is unable to fulfill this ideal.

Most of us wish our sexual ethics weren't so divisive; why do the actions of adults in their own bedrooms have to affect our friendships, our politics, our faith?

Some of us may also feel disturbed by this whole matter. Why are the LGBTQ students so upset? It's not like they're being stoned. They're just being asked to live by a "traditional" standard. How could that possibly be insulting or hurtful?

I won't pretend this isn't complicated. But I will say that if one holds a traditionalist perspective and also desires to "reach out" to LGBTQ people, perhaps try putting a camel through the eye of a needle first.

Most traditionalists (in this case, someone who thinks sexual expression ought to be limited to heterosexual marriage) do not actively advocate the physical or mental

abuse of LGBTQ people. They don't have to. The idea that being LGBTQ is a tragedy, a result of the fall, an embarrassment, an abomination, is enough. This poor theology has created a roadmap of self harm scars. It has divided families, broken up churches, and justified the removal of gifted and sincere leaders from campus ministries.

You cannot love your

Community Covenant which would make handholding between two men or two women suspect and grounds for a meeting in the Student Life office.

Our community tells straight couples that their sexual desires are (or can be) beautiful, holy, worthy of public celebration. Yet it tells queer couples that one of their most human

that any Christian community is subject to the entire Body of Christ. When fellow Christians critique the actions of other Christians, particularly regarding issues of justice and love, the proper response is not "you're welcome to leave," but rather, "Please, join us at the table. Teach us how to love you."

I know this sets up an ultimatum: values or people? I'm inclined to choose people, but I understand what's at stake for traditionalists: their interpretation of Scripture, their churches, their whole worldview. All difficult things to question. But this community cannot last much longer sitting on the bubble, attempting to please both "sides" of this issue. There are real, vulnerable people caught in the crossfire. Christ is standing at the door, knocking; it's time for Houghton College to open the door to LGBTQ voices.★

*Micah is a senior theology major.*

## "You cannot love your brothers and sisters in Christ while also viewing them as a tragedy."

brothers and sisters in Christ while also viewing them as a tragedy. You certainly cannot build relationships with them.

An example: the Counseling Center recently hosted the 9th annual relationship retreat. Only opposite sex couples attended this year, as with every other year. The retreat, as always, was heavily advertised through various media, including The Star. Meanwhile, Houghton College is considering adding clarifying language to the

qualities, the longing to become one flesh with their beloved, is to be dealt with swiftly behind closed doors. On the one hand, affirmation and love, and on the other, shame and suspicion.

Sometimes, when I speak about this publicly, I am told that LGBTQ/ progressive students don't have to attend Houghton. They can just leave; after all, this is a "voluntary community." Let me remind those who are ready to post such a sentiment on YikYak

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.

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

In January of 2015 I came back to Houghton after many long years away. I was, at first, shocked and disheartened at the size of the LGBTQ+ community here. But then something happened, I got to know some of them. A few became friends. I did some research and started reading my Bible. I found out that these people are some of the nicest, most loving people you could ever hope to meet. I realized that what I had been taught about homosexuality was wrong. I also realized that we, as Christians, have done these folks a disservice in making pariahs of them. I

couldn't help but think about how disappointed Jesus would be if he saw how we treated them. Are we not commanded to treat everyone with love, compassion, dignity, and respect?

Monday night I participated in the SGA meeting discussing changes to the Community Covenant. I was dismayed to see that the proposed language for change was even more exclusionary than before and blatantly discriminatory. I grew more and more concerned as the meeting went on. I could see tempers flaring on both sides. The person mediating the discussion did an admirable job of keeping things from getting out of hand but the underlying tension is what bothers me. While there were

many fair questions asked on both sides of the issue I felt that the LGBTQ community was not being given a fair hearing. To be fair, there were some questions the LGBTQ community brought up that could have been viewed as accusatory and threatening.

Folks, this is not the way to do it. I came here because I needed a place where I could find peace after far too much time involved in the chaos of war. Instead, what I found was a town torn apart by discrimination and hatred. Good people beaten down and run out simply because they are different.

In a world full of chaos and hate, Houghton College should be a shining beacon of love and mutual respect. Instead we are falling into the same pit of

wretchedness as the rest of the world. Jesus Christ commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. He said "as you have done to the least of these, my brothers, so you have done to me" (Matthew 25:40). He showed true compassion and love to the people the Pharisees saw as beneath them. Should we not do the same? Should we not show Christ-like love and compassion to everyone, no matter how different they seem to us?

So I offer a challenge. Madam President, board of trustees, faculty and staff, fellow students: I challenge you to show the love of Christ to our LGBTQ+ community. Change the Community Covenant to be more inclusive of all walks of life. You

don't have to agree or even like it. What you do have to do is show the love and compassion we are commanded to show.

To the LGBTQ+ community I also offer a challenge. Be patient with us. This process will not happen overnight and it will not be easy. Work within the system for positive change. My brother once offered me a bit of advice that I now offer to all of you: "Take the high road. It is difficult to get there and hard to stay there, but the air is a lot clearer and you cannot beat the view!" Handle this with the grace, patience, and love you have all shown me as I grew and learned.

Blessings,  
Chris Cilento '19

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | FACEBOOK.COM/THEHOUGHTONSTAR | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

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# Artist of the Week

## Seoyoung Je

//sophomore studio art major with a minor in psychology



NATE MOORE

### Titles & Media

*clockwise descending*

Vermont, 1967, *oil paint*

Chale Island in Snowy NY,

*colored pencil*

October Hair, *pastel*

Argus, *oil paint*

Son ombre bleu, *ink*

Knots in my stem, *ink & tea*



“Awake. Love. Think. Be walking trees.  
Be talking beasts. Be divine waters.”  
- C.S Lewis

