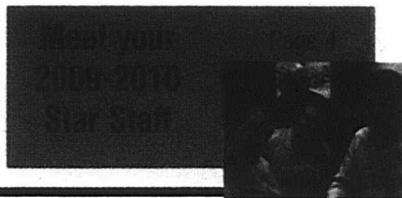


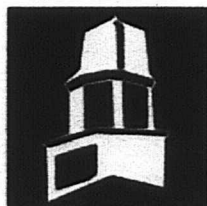


**Houghton  
Welcomes 5  
New Faculty**  
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**Houghton Opens  
Sustainability  
Center**  
Page 5

**100  
YEARS**



# THE HOUGHTON STAR

Volume 106, Issue 1

September 11, 2009

## Student Life Cracks Down on Chapel

by Monica Sandreczki

Last week, the student body received a letter explaining the importance of chapel services to the Houghton community and detailing new implementation practices. Beginning this semester, students who fail to attend at least two-thirds of the chapel services will receive a warning letter and be put on disciplinary probation, which means that those students will not be allowed to participate in co-curricular activities.

In last year's student guide, one semester of sub-standard chapel attendance resulted in a letter of warning and a higher attendance requirement. Three semesters of deficiency would lead to an appearance before the Judicial Committee and possible expulsion. This year's guide is not as specific, simply stating that "failure to meet chapel attendance requirements will result in consequences ranging from disciplinary probation to suspension."

According to Sharra Hynes, Vice President for Student Life, this was a change in implementation and not



Students must scan in for chapel to meet the attendance requirement

an official policy, and as such did not require review by a judgment-passing body.

On Tuesday, Hynes, John Brittain,

Dean of the Chapel, and Brian Webb, from the Office of Student Programs, addressed the changes in

*Chapel continued on page 2*

## Budget Woes Cause Freshman Fallout But Retention Remains High

by Deanna Hoffman

"Has the national economic downturn affected the enrollment numbers for this Fall '09 semester?" If there ever was a time, now would be it. Within the first few weeks of any new year, allowance must be given for a flux of enrolled students. Because of this flux, na-

tional enrollment numbers are not available yet for complete trend studies. Regardless, much of the pattern is already visible.

Despite any external economic turmoil, Houghton College did not see a drastic drop in enrollment this fall, which, according to the preliminary numbers, is at 1185 full-time students. In fact, this fall marks the

highest retention rate the school has seen in over five years. This means that the highest percentage of first year students has returned for a second term. Enrollment for first year students this year is 290, which does not compare favorably to last year's number of 327, excluding transfer students.

Depending on the incoming class, with each new year comes the possibility for a new female/male ratio. This year has brought a 70%-30% split between the two. Because of returning students choosing to stay up in the dorms (last year's room-draw ranks among the highest), Gillette and

*Enrollment continued on page 3*



Freshmen laugh together, enjoying newly found mailboxes

## CLEW Brings Joy to Campus

by Joella Eppehimer

"You may leave here scratching your head," Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW) speaker, Dr. Joy Moore, told her audience as she began her first talk of the week, and she certainly gave the Houghton College community much to think about throughout her six messages. Sharing many stories with the student body, emphasizing that one has to walk through the middle of a story to get to the end, students may be interested in hearing a portion of Moore's own story that has led her to the place she is now.

Raised in a church that taught her that Christianity is not simply a label, but a way to live life, she recalled reading Isaiah 6 when she was thirteen years old and being confronted with the question, "Whom shall I send?" Her response, like the author's, was "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). She encourages students to trust in God, taking life one day at a time, as He is "an 11:59 kind of guy," never showing up early, but always on time.

While Moore addressed many subjects over the four days, she said that her goal was to encourage students to view the Bible as more than just a tool for devotions; it is God's autobiography. Stressing that He is "a good God, and a great God," her passion is for students to know and understand Him more intimately.

Some may not be aware that CLEW had its origins in a revival movement at the Houghton Wesleyan Church in the '60s. Later deciding to focus this vision towards college students, the purpose of CLEW today, according to Dean of the Chapel Dr. John Brittain, is to renew the spiritual energy of students after returning from a summer that may have left them with burdens, or to maintain the effects of a rejuvenating summer. Giving students a chance to re-focus at the beginning of the semester, CLEW is the kick-off to each fall semester at Houghton.

Students have different opinions about the effectiveness of this aim.

*CLEW continued on page 2*

# THE WORLD IS THERE

## Obama Delivers Major Health Care Address

President Barack Obama delivered a speech which addressed the contentious debate over health care reform to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday night. Obama continued to push for a "not-for-profit public option," but insisted that he and legislators should remain open to other ideas that accomplish the goal of insuring all Americans. In his previous address before a joint session of Congress on his 36<sup>th</sup> day in office, Obama a wave of optimism and public support, but the health care debate has strengthened Republican opposition and provided many political challenges for the Obama administration. Claiming that the partisan divides have only "hardened the disdain many Americans have toward their government," the President called for a renewed sense of compromise and cooperation. "I will not waste time with those who have made the calculation that it's better politics to kill this plan than improve it," said Obama. "I will not stand by while the special interests use the same old tactics to keep things exactly the way they are."

## Marijuana Cartels

Federal Authorities have reported that an increasing number of drug traffickers have been growing marijuana plants on U.S. Public lands. So far, illegal plots have been found in at least 15 states. Last week, the National Park Service cleared away plants at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, where they found 10,000 plants last year

valued at \$8.5 million.

## Mayor Brown Accused of Tampering in Police Business

Buffalo Mayor, Byron Brown, is facing allegations from members of the Buffalo Police Department for meddling with a police investigation, allowing for a suspected criminal to avoid normal police protocol, and avoid a pending arrest. The suspect, Leonard Stokes, owned a now-defunct restaurant in the city, for which Brown had provided initial funding by routing economic development resources to Stokes, against the advice of the other city officials involved in the bureau. Currently, the FBI is set to begin investigations into the Brown situation, as well as preparing a review of the lending activity of the mayor's office. Mayor Brown has reacted to the publicity with hostility and anger, and has denied all of the charges placed against him.

## Yankee's Batter Breaks Long-Time Record

Derek Jeter, of the New York Yankee's, made baseball history on Tuesday night by breaking the record for most hits by one player in Yankee stadium. The record had previously been set by baseball legend Lou Gehrig almost 72 years ago, and the new one will never be broken, as the historical ball park is being retired in only a few days. Jeter's record-breaking slam is proving helpful for the Yankees as they are at the forefront of the standings of the American League.

## Chapel continued from page 1

implementation in a question and answer session open to the student body.

"I've worked here for two years and no one has been asked to leave campus because of chapel," said Hynes. "I will not shy away from what it means to be on disciplinary probation."

Students with a record of deficient chapel attendance will receive a clean slate, but Hynes will be meeting with those students to explain the consequences of another semester of failing to attend 2/3 of chapels.

Brittain said that chapel attendance has been a perennial issue on campus. Members of the community were sometimes under the impression that Houghton's requirements were the most severe, but he knew that was not the case. He and Webb decided to conduct a study in which they interviewed spiritual life officials of many of Houghton's dashboard schools like Asbury Seminary and Messiah College. Brittain and Webb

learned that Houghton requires the least number of chapels, offers the most cuts, and holds the shortest services.

At the question and answer session, Hynes said that the change is about sending the right message.

According to her, students who are not attending chapel "are unable to be a part of the community."

If a student does not meet chapel requirements for two consecutive semesters, Hynes said that this is a sign that the student

is not ready to be a member of the Houghton community; the student is choosing to leave the institution, just as he or she might choose to leave by drinking or smoking.

However, Hynes said that they recognize that there are extenuating circumstances and if a student comes to them and explains their situation, they will try to be reasonable.

"We will always err on the side of working with students," said Hynes.

**"I've worked here for two years and no one has been asked to leave campus because of chapel."**

## CLEW continued from page 1

Stephanie Forsythe, sophomore, felt that Moore connected well with her, and that the services fulfilled the purpose of refreshment in her spiritual life. Other students feel that CLEW is essentially no different than other chapels, with the exception of additional services. "CLEW is a good time," said one of these students, "but I don't feel like it drastically affects the rest of my semester." Another student suggested adding something to CLEW, such as a worship event or large theme addressed throughout the week, to make it more of a "fresh experience."

Overall, the reaction to Moore was positive throughout the campus, her messages often punctuated by laughter or applause from the audience.

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# Houghton Welcomes New Faculty

by Lauren Kososki

Between the end of the 2009 spring semester to the beginning of this fall semester, Houghton has undergone some significant renovation. The credit system has been rearranged, the new freshman class has reduced the gap between the number of males and females, and Houghton has hired five new professors.

In addition to the hundreds of new freshman faces, there are also five new members of the faculty: Ryan Thompson (Art/Communications), Eli Knapp (Intercultural Studies), Alyn Kay (Education), and Rebekah Yates and Jill Jordan (Mathematics).

Before pulling out a magnifying glass to discover Houghton on a map, they were scattered in places such as Illinois, Colorado, Montana, and even the Middle



Eli Knapp, Intercultural Studies

East. In the last year, Thompson acquired a master's degree, Knapp and Kay experienced an extensive teacher's training in Qatar. From there, the next step in each of their

lives coincided, and they arrived at Houghton as our new professors.

These professors were drawn to the community of Houghton, the sense of familiarity even in a new place, the opportunity to work with a unique and, according to Knapp, the possibly "bizarre" body of students.

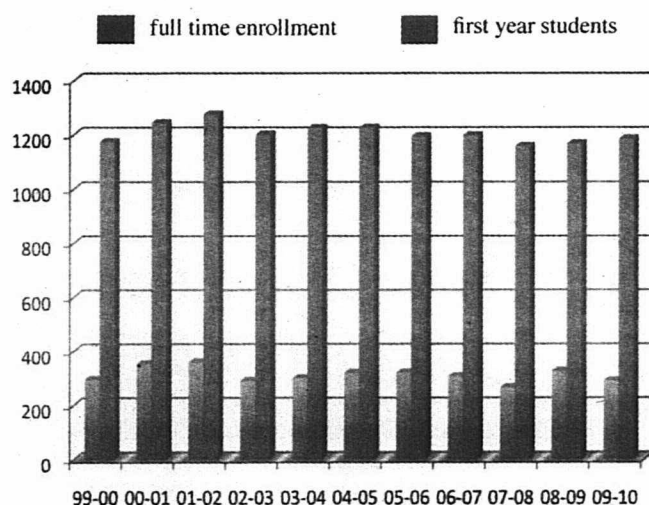
The prospect of this new year and this fresh stage of their lives, brings much excitement and hope. Thompson, who said that teaching is the most outrageous thing he's done, is due for several years of a non-stop adrenaline rush. For Yates, who spent a year at Houghton as a Christian College Consortium Exchange student, coming to Houghton as a faculty member offers a different outlook on the campus. With this new perspective comes the joy of being able to get to know the students. The excitement to discover the intricate workings of students' minds was frighteningly unanimous. Students, beware.

However, it may be worth your while to accept this challenge and even return the favor. Houghton has been fortunate enough to acquire five new faculty members who are not only thoroughly competent, but also unique, intriguing, and humorous. Should you seek to make a preemptive peace offering, Thompson fancies Thai take out, Kay pines for fresh Michigan blueberries, Yates craves "chocolate--very dark chocolate," and Knapp would never turn down "student made banana bread with chocolate chips."

Make it a priority to prove these new faculty members right. The warmth of the community is what pulled them to this small campus, so take initiative, offer a welcome greeting, and ensure that it is this same sentiment which keeps them here for as long as they may teach with us.



Alyn Kay, Education



First Year Student and Full Time Enrollment 1999-2009

*Enrollment continued from page 1* Lambein are both almost at full capacity. In some cases, rooms not usually utilized as dorm rooms had to be opened in order to supply more space.

Ethnic diversity has remained basically constant and is comparable with similar four-year Christian liberal arts colleges across the nation. The hope for an increased presence of internationals and minorities has been voiced of late and may be the next page the Houghton enrollment story.

Overall, the numbers are encouraging. Times are tight and cash is short, but provisions are made. The retention rate nods to those who appreciate the Christian liberal arts education Houghton has provided—those who in spite of the numbers dig in their heels and see it through another year.

## Officials Seek Claims

Anyone having claims against or debts owed to the estate of  
**Cadet Daniel Miller**  
may contact  
Captain Adam Wehrle  
at 716-375-2566.

## The unChristian Side of Houghton: A Student Reacts

Part one of a three part series in which Houghton Community members review this year's Houghton Reads selection. Next week: Sonja Mindrebo

by Erika Bremer

The value of an intriguing title like *unChristian* is only proven by the book's ability to deliver the provoking message the front cover promises. My overall impression of David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons' book is one of general empathy and curiosity, which may be a good indication that *unChristian* lives up to expectations.

Since reading the book, I have often found myself considering Kinnaman's assertions when coming into conversation with my fellow Christians. Are we—my friends, my family, my church, myself—guilty of any of the unchristian faults presented in the book? The six top misconceptions about Christianity discussed in the text are blunders which, I am sure, anyone could be guilty of. Kinnaman's manner of addressing these issues is, for the most part, sensitive and authentic. He is undertaking no small task, and by approaching it from a very matter-of-fact angle (the statistics and the intense amounts of research undergone that initially inspired this book, are significant) he forces his readers to engage with the issues.

that outside perceptions of Christians are based upon personal experiences and relationship is perhaps the greatest power behind what the book presents. This struck me as critical when considering that the majority of Americans have already "had a go" at Christianity and ultimately turned it down because of unchristian experiences. Though I have had no personal incidents that are as drastically negative as many of those described in the text, I was constantly reminded of certain

Kinnaman's insistence scenarios I have observed among some

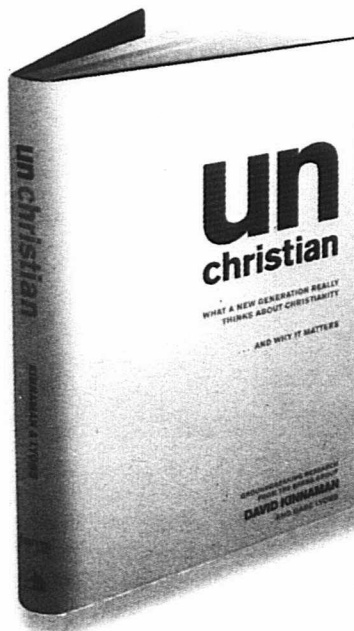
of my unbelieving friends. We have all heard stories of great hypocrisy and judgment that make us cringe. "Be vigilant," Kinnaman warns his readers in chapter seven, "that your words and actions don't feed the perception of unchristian faith" (163).

It is probably fairly easy to read through the book and dismiss its claims as the overreactions of some paranoid enthusiasts. As I read, I found myself automatically

assuming "I'm not that kind of Christian." That isn't necessarily a false statement, but if we're completely honest with ourselves and one another, I think Kinnaman

brings many valid points to the table. There are Christians who act in a very unchristian manner. We all know this. We have heard of them, known them, or perhaps even been them ourselves at some time. Because of this, I think this book would be a useful read for any Christian who has ever been embarrassed by the way we are perceived in society; by those notorious Christians caught red-handed being hypocritical or judgmental or antihomosexual; by aggressive Christian groups that promote a harsher version of our faith that is less than Christ-like.

As a community of believers living in close proximity, *unChristian* is useful read for us. It will remind us that our actions, our relationships, and our lifestyles should mirror Christ's, not some lofty ideal of religious sophistication. Kinnaman's warning against an "us versus them" mentality might help us avoid any sort of exclusive attitudes that are tempted to take root in our "Houghton bubble." As Kinnaman asserts, we must present to outsiders—and to one another—a Christianity that illumines a Jesus representing "truth plus grace" (37).



## Staff Inflections: Meet the Editors

At the helm of this year's Star staff is Editor-in-Chief Joel VanderWeele, a senior Math and Philosophy major with vaguely political aspirations. VanderWeele served as Associate Editor last year and hopes that this year's staff can live up to the high standards the Houghton community has come to expect from the Star. When he's not toiling away in the Star office, Joel enjoys bike maintenance, reading the latest literature on sustainable urbanism, and watching the Chicago Cubs blow yet another promising season.

If you don't know this year's Associate Editor and Senior Web Editor, Micah Warf, it might seem as though he acts strangely at times. But those who are near and dear to him know that he's not acting. Even Micah himself isn't sure why he is trying to balance a double major in philosophy and guitar performance, a membership in the College Choir, and a position at the Houghton Star, but he's happy. If he finds a spare moment in the next month or two, he may create sculptures, toy with computers (in the precious little time we have before they start to toy with us), discuss aesthetic theory, and participate in historical reenactments of SNL skits, both vintage and contemporary.

Returning for another year of brilliant journalism, Amy Buckingham brings us a fresh look at the goings-on of Houghton's Sports and Culture.

Armed with a summer of editorial and design work, Amy agrees with Cousin Dave: "We believe you use the hell out of the medium, you give investigative journalists space, you give photojournalists space, you give graphic artists and cartoonists space... so that the physical forms of the written word need to offer a clear and different experience." When she's not holed up in the Star office, Amy can be found cleaning her records, stacking her books and brewing strong coffee.

Heading up this year's Commentary section of the Star is senior History major Mitchell Edwards. Despite being in East Africa for the past two spring semesters, Mitch is excited to jump back into the refreshingly familiar waters of the Houghton community. As Commentary Editor, Mitch is specifically excited about facilitating and contributing to a forum that encourages open dialogue about on- and off-campus issues. When he's not reviewing letters to the editor, you can either find Mitch sunning himself on the rock slabs overlooking a local swimming hole or admiring a well-thrown Frisbee on the quad.

Becoming the next Bob Woodward is Campus News Editor, Monica Sandreczki, Kansan. She is always out on the beat of a hot lead to give the campus the breaking news. You may see her in short films about loved Houghtonians or suiting up for her next Quidditch match. She enjoys long walks on the beach, romantic candlelit dinners, and ceaseless conversations about commitment.



## Guest Executive Dinner with

Dr. Will Kuchta  
Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 pm

Lennox Dining Room  
**OPEN TO ALL**

RSVP to Molly.Spear@houghton.edu by 9/16



# Houghton Concert Season Kicks Off with Chamber Trio

by Micah Warf

The recital hall of the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College, host to many of the campus's finest musical presentations, was inaugurated into the new semester this past Wednesday evening with a wonderful program of chamber music by the Chamber Music Society of Olean. The concert was one of several in a series known as the Chamber Music Concert

Series, which has been a recurring event for the past 8 years. Started by Rintaro and Ritsuko Wada in 2001, the series has presented over thirty-five concerts in Western New York and Northern Pennsylvania. Mr. Wada, an esteemed cellist, serves as an adjunct faculty member of the Greatbatch School, and Mrs. Wada,

an acclaimed pianist, is a professor at Jamestown Community College in Olean.

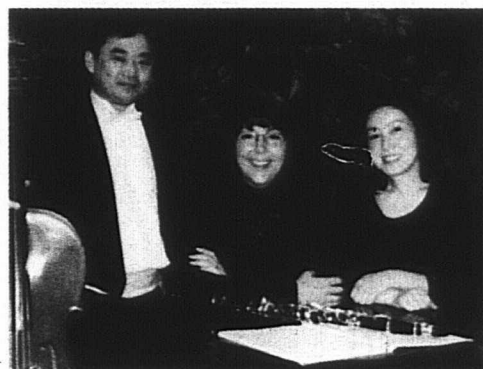
While the Wadas have previously performed as a duo, Dr. Marcy Bacon, a clarinet teacher at Hochstein School of Music and Nazareth College of Rochester, joined them for this particular concert series. The combination of cello, piano, and clarinet is not often used in concerts, and to be presented with a program that not only includes

but features pieces that use these instruments together is a rare treat. The stability of the piano provides an excellent contrast for the bright, adventurous tone of the clarinet, and the mellowness of the cello is able to carry out a surprisingly effective dialogue with the clarinet, complimenting in places, and

jarringly insightful in others.

The evening's repertoire was a very enjoyable blend of clarinet, cello, and piano performance, in duo and trio arrangements. Some of the highlights were the Beethoven trio, "Gasswenhauser", which opened the concert, and allowed the musicians to demonstrate their impressive control, articulation, and unity, and the "Duo Concertant for Clarinet and Piano" by Darius Milhaud, which dazzled the audience with its complex melodies, and displayed the virtuosity of Dr. Bacon.

The concert was well attended, and both students and community members were pleased with the quality of the program. Elisabeth Wenger, senior at Houghton College, said of Brahms' "Trio in A Minor",



The Clarinet Trio includes the Wadas and Bacon.

"this piece was the high point musically for me. Despite the length, they sustained the emotion of the piece very well."

The goal of the Chamber Music Concert Series, according to the Wadas, is to "ignite the classical music scenes in the Southern Tier of New York", and this performance proved to all of those in attendance that this is a task for which they are more than qualified.

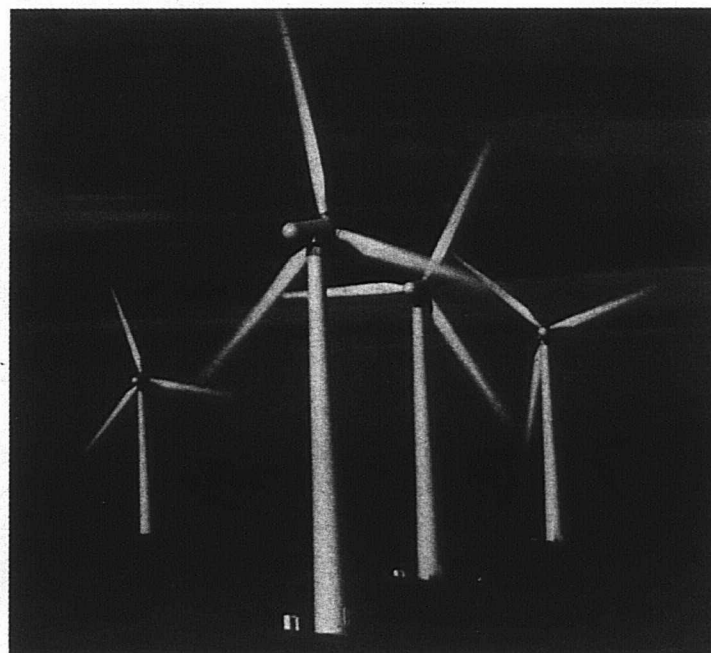
# Former Citgo Offers Patrons Renewable Goods

by Christopher Clark

The minimart is closed! This may have come as something of a shock to many students. But why was the minimart closed? The Houghton minimart was college-owned and losing an average of \$60,000 every year and had been doing so for years. To put it in perspective, that's about the same as tuition for two students for a year.

But now that the minimart is gone what will happen to the property? What was formerly the Houghton minimart is being converted into the Houghton Community Resource Center (CRiCK for short).

The Community Resource Center will have several purposes. According to Ginny Routhe, the Sustainability Coordinator, about half the space will be devoted to a food co-op for local farmers and natural food. There will also be a lending library with literature and pamphlets regarding things such as local economy, environmental stewardship and sustainability, and social equity and justice. The remaining space will be given to the office of the Sustainability Coordinator and a classroom for classes, workshops, and screenings of documentaries on everything from reducing energy



use in the home to fair trade and social justice.

The CRiCK will also function as a disposal center for toxic items such as batteries, paint, and certain lightbulbs. There is also the exciting possibility of a student clothing swap working out of the CRiCK.

The CRiCK will provide new opportunities for student involvement as well. The center will create positions for both volunteers and employees. There will also be a chance for business students to help local farmers and

businesses for credit, similar to working for credit in the Student Investment Center.

Those who relied on the minimart for food and necessities will be glad to know that the CRiCK will still be offering milk among other necessities in the food co-op. The CRiCK would especially like to partner with students living in the flats and townhouses as they are nearest and most in need of what the CRiCK offers.

When asked their opinions, students gave a variety of

responses. Gordon Brown, a Sophomore, said, "I withhold judgment, though I'm less than optimistic about the changes benefiting the college...[and] I feel our resources could be better used on our academic education."

Emily, a graduate with the Houghton class of 2009, said, "If the college was losing money on it and has turned that into further educational opportunities for students, I think that's the best thing that the administration could have done... although...

I miss the convenience of the minimart."

Stephen Hill, a Freshman said, "Because of the closing of the minimart I had to walk to Fillmore to get dog food... I would be much more ecstatic if they started selling dog food."

Joe Covey, a Senior said, "I think it's a good opportunity for growth and learning about the environment and also for students to get a feel for how this [type of] idea will work"

Be sure to be on the lookout for the grand opening of the Community Resource Center, currently planned for Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the Community Resource Center please contact Ginny Routhe or Phyllis Gaerte.

# It's the Thought That Counts: Valuing True Commitment

A Houghton senior calls on the administrative staff to hold themselves accountable to the common goals of the college

by Clara Sanders

The week before classes started, I helped my boyfriend move to Yale Divinity School. Although slightly intimidated by the prestige of the university, as I began to dialogue with other first-year grad students I was comforted to recognize how our Houghton education prepares us to speak deeply about life and God with every new person we meet. Unfortunately, however, I had to reconcile that recognition with the knowledge that Houghton had just cut the brand-new grad theology program as well as one religion/philosophy faculty member.

Although the administration is commendably making plans to let students know about this decision and others in the wider vision for organizational sustainability, this cut, as well as the reallocation of an additional two faculty in the Religion/Philosophy department next year, is probably a surprise to many students. It was quite a surprise to many of the faculty as well. In the December 2008 Budget Report distributed to the faculty, no mention was made of cutting the theology M.A. program, which is currently in its second year.

Houghton is and will probably always be a primarily undergraduate institution. The music graduate program was started partly

because no one could say no to a \$15 million endowment. But I want to challenge the resistance which past and current administrations have had towards implementing graduate programs that might have a greater impact on our western New York area than on our immediate college. The theology M.A. program, which could have become financially self-

sustaining in only three more years, continues to live out the legacy of James S. Luckey, a man who worked tirelessly to certify Houghton for B.A. degree status (a B.A. degree being comparable to a M.A. or even Ph.D. in that day). The Wesleyan church doesn't even require a B.A. for ordination, so opportunities for higher education are essential for ministers who are challenged by the ever-increasing necessity for knowledge and resources in Christian ministry.

Why was the graduate program supported during its extensive planning and first year, only to be blindsided without having been given a chance? What message does this send to churches, particularly

the ones with pastors who were trying to get a graduate degree from a now closed-down program? Is this a financial necessity, or a fear? I hope that Houghton can be a college that takes the vision of James S. Luckey seriously, especially through commitments to faculty, students, and the mission of God's church.

I realized then that oftentimes our school seems so intent on getting itself into the precious Forbes and Newsweek Top-Tens that it forgets to take care of the faculty and students...

The cut of the grad program may have been mostly due to financial reasons, and I affirm that we all have to make some sacrifices in the current budget crunch. But even the idea of "reallocating" faculty (out of the classroom into some other college job, so that Houghton is still paying them) reflects more of an ideology shift than a budgetary necessity.

I understand that no decision like this is made lightly, and I know that this decision was made considering the well-being of the college, not just of one department. However, this is one more action that makes me doubt Houghton's commitment to the liberal arts, especially the Christian liberal arts.

Although in the new slimmed-down integrated core, students no longer have to take an Advanced Bible course, the Religion/Philosophy department still offers three required IS classes—more than any other department. (This doesn't really make sense of the elimination of three teaching positions in this department—we'll see what this does for teacher/student ratios.)

The other day a housemate pointed out to me how the majority of the linked stories on the Houghton homepage detailed some official recognition the college had recently received. I realized then that oftentimes our school seems so intent on getting itself into the precious Forbes and Newsweek Top-Tens that it forgets to take care of the faculty and students that have already been attracted to Houghton and who teach and learn here because they believe in its Christ-centered mission of higher education. Our "reallocation" has better places to start than in a department vital to liberal arts learning and central to the original and continuing mission of this school.

Clara is a senior Intercultural Studies and Piano Performance major

## What's your take on the new approach to chapel attendance?

This was a question we posed to a random group of Houghton students. Here is a sampling of what they had to say:

"I think that because it's not a policy change, just an enforcement of what it always has been, it's a good thing."  
—Colleen White, Junior

"I think one positive outcome will be that chapels will now look fuller, and students will now look like they care about chapels. Also, by next semester, there will be a greater presence of upper classmen involved in dormitory life, and the leadership positions of student organizations will be freshened up once a semester."  
—Katherine Thompson, Senior

"I think it's a little draconian. What they're saying is, 'Hey, you messed up and we will punish you. That's your warning.' Well, that's not Biblical."  
—Matthew McCann, Junior

"It's important for people to attend chapel. I'll go to chapel because I like chapel. People who don't want to go to chapel will not be improved by being forced to go."  
—Becca Booth, Freshman

"I don't really have any strong feelings about it."  
—Kaylin Bull, Junior

"I feel that the concept behind it is good, but it's disappointing that in a place like Houghton they feel like they need to enforce this so strongly. Which is really a reflection on the students, not the administration."  
—Dan Austin, Freshman



**Disgusted? Delighted? Just confused?**  
We want you to be part of the conversation.

Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Tuesday at 7 p.m. to [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu)

The Houghton Star is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion. Ideas expressed in these pages reflect solely the opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum.



From the Editor's Desk...

# A Gift, Not a Party: 100 Years of the Houghton Star

This year's Editor-in-Chief reflects on the legacy of the Houghton Star and how to properly thank those responsible for it.

by Joel VanderWeele

There's something awkward and arbitrary about the celebration of anniversaries.

By concentrating the appreciation of an event in one single day -- or year, as the case may be -- anniversary celebrations provide an easy excuse to forget about the event that is being celebrated once the anniversary is over (recite it to yourself: "every day is Mother's Day"). We give dates significance because Hallmark tells us to do so. This year, we give the number 100 significance because it's easy to count, not because it's inherently more important than 99 or 101.

Because of this, I am inclined to treat the 100th anniversary of The Houghton Star more like a gift, and less like a party. We have been given one hundred years of student journalism and it seems appropriate that we would express our gratitude in some way. My hope is that by reframing this centennial anniversary as a gift, we will avoid the pitfalls of pride and self-indulgence.

So, the question remains: What must we do for our "debt of gratitude" to be paid off?

I have a hunch that the most meaningful way to thank someone for a

gift is to make good use of it. When I receive a stylish new shirt from a sibling on Christmas Eve, wearing it once a week for the entire year means more than the "thankyou-somuch" that fills the room with Christmas cheer. And anyway, what would we possibly say or give

to the hundreds of students who are responsible for maintaining the Star for so long?

If my hunch is correct, the editors of Stars past would like for us to continue the legacy and improve upon what has already been done; this is a more meaningful expression of gratitude than sending them eloquent praises on embossed Houghton letterhead.

With that in mind, we will strive to continue the legacy handed down to us. In a time of uncertainty, we will seek the truth with probing news stories. In a time of sensitivity, we will challenge assumptions with provocative commentary. In a time of restraint, we will make a bold investment in the future with

our new website (to be released later this year).

Before falling too far into the pit of self-indulgence, I will turn the spotlight away from what this year's staff is trying to do.

To show appreciation for the gift we have been given, we have

invited previous editors of the Star to contribute editorials that will be featured in these pages throughout the year. By including their work in the present editions of the Star, we hope to acknowledge the gift they have given us while looking to the future.

This editorial would be incomplete if I didn't address our readers in the Houghton Community. In February 1909, Stanley Wright wrote the following for Volume 1, Issue 1 of The Houghton Star:

"We ask for the co-operation of all of the old students, the co-operation of every one interested in our educational work. May we not ask that every one become a permanent sub-

The most meaningful way to thank someone for a gift is to make good use of it. With that in mind, we will strive to continue the legacy handed down to us.

scriber? The editing and managing of a paper is entirely new work to the present staff and we are meeting many questions which we hardly know how to settle. We shall, no doubt, make many mistakes before everything runs smoothly, so we will very gladly receive any suggestions that our subscribers wish to give. Again let us ask your co-operation, for without it we cannot accomplish our purpose, but with it success will surely crown our efforts."

Many things have changed in the last century, but this is not one of them. The success of The Houghton Star depends on its readers. Without lively dialogue, student newspapers are destined for failure.

So we request your cooperation, knowing that without it we will fail. Write letters to the editor. Let us know when we've overstepped our bounds. Encourage us to continue digging when we haven't stepped far enough.

*Joel is a senior Math and Philosophy major and is the Editor-in-Chief.*

## THE HOUGHTON STAR STAR STAFF HAS PICTURES TAKEN



The many members of the 1918 Houghton Star staff have their pictures taken. It's front page news!

## Rothenbuhler Treasure Hunt



Initially you may not know.  
Nothing can be as of yet.  
To some, this may be enough.

## 2009- 2010 STAR Staff

**Joel VanderWeele**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Micah Warf**  
Associate Editor

**Amy Buckingham**  
Sports and Culture Editor

**Monica Sandreczki**  
News Editor

**Mitch Edwards**  
Commentary Editor

**Sandy Stark**  
Business Manager

**Prof. Ben Lipscomb**  
Advisor

**Laura Jackson**  
**Renee Roberts**  
**Stewart LaPan**  
**Emily Rhinehart**  
**Colleen White**  
**Erika Bremer**  
**Joella Eppchimer**  
**Elisa Shearer**  
**Lauren Kososki**  
Re-write Staff

**Kristen Palmer**  
Re-write Manager

**Wesley Dean**  
Staff Photographer



## Penelope

I never liked my name, jumping and stumbling  
Over its clumsy syllables that stick and hang  
Stupidly in the mouths of these drunk men.

Yet it is the one sound I still long to hear.  
The cadences of one voice I cannot imagine  
I will ever hear again, a voice like the silver sea.

Oh, he never said my name roughly, never  
Tripped over its clumping feet—  
He was smooth-tongued and musical.

When he called to me in the bright, painful morning,  
Before he went to plow our son for me,  
He whispered like silk, "Don't worry, Penelope."

And I didn't, for that voice never lied to me before.  
Oh I was mistaken, and so was he, taken  
To a war as stupid as these clods in the dooryard.

And from it he will not return, though I weave for him  
Each night a tapestry map, leading the way back  
with a thread  
Like Ariadne—the girl with tumbling water in her  
name.

Unlike my snorting, snuffling pig-grunt. So  
it goes. I weave my husband a new path each day.  
There are only so many—someday it must be the  
right one.

He will follow it home when he wearies of trying  
too hard  
To make other women happy. I'm the only one,  
Thick like my name, that he can make happy  
without even trying.

## ELISABETH WENGER

## Note from the poet:

Ever since the tender age of somewhere around eight, I have wanted to be a writer. My ideas of what I want to write have changed—John Donne and Sylvia Plath are mostly to blame for that—but most of all I want to write things that are both true and beautiful. It is a dangerous combination, and pretty pretentious, but I keep attempting it anyway, because I believe it is the responsibility of art to be both beautiful and true, in a broken and breaking world.

## Ubiquitous

In the bright corn dawn,  
the farmer walks out slowly  
to the old shed, red paint thinly  
clinging to the sides like strange  
lichen,  
and pulls on his shiny rubber boots,  
crackling new.

He clumps over to the tractor,  
wobbly on its wheels from long  
service,  
but before he climbs up to the cab  
he reaches down, scrapes off the  
price-sticker  
from a boot, \$3.25 for the pair.

The black gumminess  
stays under his fingernails all day—  
persistent and sticky, no sandpaper  
dirt to rub it out from under  
until he washes his hands for  
dinner.

## Things That Happened Yesterday

I  
In the morning mist,  
The whistle of a man pleased  
to see the sun come out.

II  
Purple leaves fall,  
Heavier now with bristled edges  
after last night's frost.

III  
Unbelievable  
slanting light brushes thickly  
small points of grass.

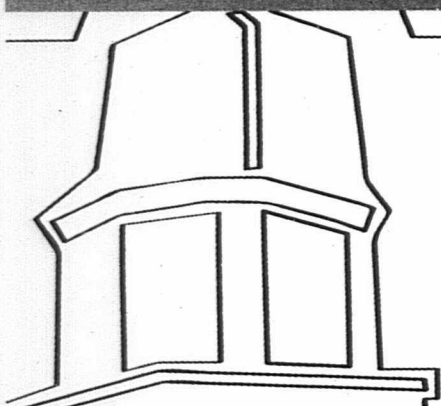
IV  
The taps of hurried feet  
turn bright red yew jewels to  
smears of sidewalk paint.

V  
At first so separate—  
Then rice rises through water  
Now one steaming bowl.

VI  
After all, one must  
stop, sudsy hands, to admire  
the window-framed sunset.

## Notes on Butterflies

Like an x-ray, a butterfly  
spreads its intricately patterned wings  
in the sun, showing  
that one day, the monarch  
Emperor will be out in the world  
and push on the dusty air, and  
on the intricate patterns of his  
butterfly, a small, round, round  
ground under the butterfly's feet, and  
and if he does not push, the same vast  
and comforting nothingness,  
an ache between the many fingers  
of the infinite, a light that speaks in words  
has no mouth.



artist  
WEEK

With the Writing Fest just around the corner, the STAR chose to showcase one of Houghton's literary artists by printing her poetry. The Writing Fest will take place the 16th through the 18th of September. This event invites all students and community members to be a part of readings, panels and interaction with authors and poets. More information and writer's biographies can be found at: <http://www.houghton.edu/news/articles/20090901.asp>

Bring your finished  
sudokus puzzles to  
the STAR office clearly  
marked with FULL NAME.

THIS SUDOKU IS  
**EASY**

**sudoku**  
CHALLENGE

**FIRST:** TWO Kutless Tickets for their  
upcoming Houghton Concert

**SECOND & THIRD:** ONE copy of  
Kutless' latest album, TO KNOW  
THAT YOU'RE ALIVE.

THIS SUDOKU IS  
**HARD**

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