

MOSAIC CENTER HIRES NEW STAFF

ABIGAIL REETH

“Stay when it gets uncomfortable. Stay in a space where you will be questioned and pushed but not condemned. You will be respected and protected but your views will be challenged.” Rather than a warning to the faint of heart, Rev. Julian Cook offers these words as both a challenge and an invitation to the Houghton community: “Come to the Mosaic Center if you’re willing to take the risk of dreaming and creating.”

Since opening in the spring of 2018, the Mosaic Center’s purpose, as stated on the sign outside its door in the Campus Center basement, has been “to be a centrally located, dynamic space that hosts conversations, programming, and educational activities that promote cultural diversity, equity, and inclusion,” in order to help “participants to discover a deeper identity in Christ.”

Leading in the pursuit of this goal are Dr. Anna Pettway and Rev. Julian Cook who serve as the Mosaic Center’s Advisors for Inclusive Excellence. Pettway describes this role as “focusing on efforts that make campus more inclusive,



so that includes providing both formal and informal mentoring to traditionally underrepresented students, raising awareness, and providing leadership,” as well as “reviewing and recommending policies and processes that are equitable, assisting student organizations focused on promoting diversity and social justice, and then advising the president’s cabinet on matters related to diversity and inclusion.”

With these high expectations for the Advisors for Inclusive Excellence, Houghton has enlisted Pettway and Cook who are each uniquely prepared

for their work as Mosaic Center staff. As a clinical psychologist, Pettway focused her research on race-based trauma and experiences, and as the wife of a black man and the mother of a biracial child, she has seen “the ways in which there are really two different experiences of the United States, . . . and I’ve tried to put myself in a posture . . . to intentionally listen to and believe and be approximate to people who have had experiences related to their race which I will never be able to fully experience or understand.”

As a 2013 Houghton graduate, Cook believes his

“beautiful,” “challenging,” and “at times painful” experiences on campus as a black student have equipped him to work with the Mosaic Center. Moreover, as the former assistant director at Boston University’s Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground, Cook has experience facilitating conversations among different types of people and helping students to see themselves as comprehensive individuals rather than dividing their identities into set categories. Cook hopes to bring this model of conversation and comprehensive identity into the Mosaic Center.

Along with Pettway and Cook, Marris Ackon ‘20 has joined the Mosaic Center staff as the Student Advisor for Inclusive Excellence. Ackon explains that her primary role is to “help advice committees on campus and make sure that people feel welcomed and as though their values and interests are represented in the Mosaic Center. I also represent international students and students of color [who can] come and talk to me about anything they’re concerned about.” Additionally, Ackon hopes that the Center will be “a place where students can feel at home [and] feel like they have a voice.”

Pettway echoes Ackon’s vision for the future of the Mosaic Center, desiring the space “to be a home away from home” for students who feel marginalized in other places on campus. Although the Center was created particularly for minority students, Pettway explains that students who identify with dominant or majority groups “are warmly welcomed into the Mosaic Center, but that they should think of themselves as ‘guests’ in someone else’s house and behave in the same

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TRACK TEAM LOOKS TO BREAK RECORDS

DAVID KRALT

Track season begins again at Houghton College, and with it comes more opportunities for the team to excel. About 70 students take part in track at Houghton, over double the number compared to 5 years ago. The team houses a number of very talented members that routinely place high in their respective competitions and break school records. These students include Isaac Worrall who runs 200 meters, Edena Sanchez running 400 and 800 meters, Tyler Deuschle running 5000 meters and Dan Burdo running 800 meters. Another student, Gwen Stokes will be trying to break her own record in 400 intermediate hurdles.

“This track season will be great after last year. The performances and growth that has developed from last season to this season is very promising.” said Tyler Deuschle, “The team has grown substantially with the incoming freshman.”

Patrick Hager, the head coach of the track team also expressed excitement at what this year will hold for the track team; “I’d say the most chal-



lenging part is making sure the technical athletes are all on the same page with what they should be doing any given day. They often bounce around to different workouts, and so that’s

like working with a puzzle. But I wouldn’t have it any other way. I have a great staff, and the culture of the team is really thriving. The other day, a few days after XC ended and before T&F

began, I witnessed a large portion of our team doing workouts on their own in preparation for the season. It made me smile a bit to know we’ve created an atmosphere where they believe in

PRISM

2018

ERIN MAGGIO

This year’s annual Christmas PRISM will feature over 200 performers, according to the Houghton website. Performances will include vocal and instrumental music, scripture, poetry, and artwork by both students and faculty. Group performances include the brass ensemble, Houghton Symphony Orchestra, the College Choir, the Men’s and Women’s Choirs, and a worship team.

Another feature of this year’s PRISM will be lighting that was purchased and installed just this semester. Rebekah Brennan, who is a major driving force behind the production of this year’s PRISM and director of Houghton A cappella, said that “[The] crew of faculty, staff, and students are preparing music of all genres and when combined with some incredible visually engaging technology and art, the experience, we hope, will be enjoyed by all.” PRISM is not simply an ordinary concert but one that displays a broad array of

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# International Perspectives // Vienna



DELANA THOMPSON

Vienna has been an international city for a very long time, with immigrants from all over the world finding a home and being welcomed into in this great city. This is partially because Vienna is a center of culture, arts, and intellect, as well as an economic and political center, and it always has been. Vienna also has a very large number of international organizations which attract people from all over the world. Other than that, its economic privilege, as Vienna is known for having a very high quality of life, has also attracted people looking for a better life. But the recent refugee crisis marked an important change in the eyes of the Austrian people. The flow of refugees into Europe is ongoing and has been happen-

ing for more than a decade, but according to the European Parliament, it is generally agreed upon that the “crisis” began in 2015. There are many facilities in place to care for refugees in Austria, but none were prepared for the sheer multitudes of people who came to Austria seeking asylum.

There were so many people that it was impossible to provide a shelter for them all while they were being processed, so thousands of people had to sleep outside on the grass outside the refugee camp. But no one complained because this was better than the places and situations they were fleeing from or the other camps they were at before. I have personally heard stories about refugees who even burned off their fingerprints and ran away from the horrible conditions of some other camps, seeking better treatment at the camp in Austria.

This rush of immigrants and refugees caused a change of heart in many native Austrians. They saw it almost as an invasion or a threat. When it was a small amount it was okay, but this many people? No one wanted to deal with this, it was almost as if they thought they could ignore the problem and it would go away. This is where I, and many other foreigners come into the story as volunteers offering aid to the refu-

gees. Though there are many organizations in Austria set up to offer help to refugees and immigrants, my family and I volunteered at an organization called the Oasis, a little place in Traiskirchen, a town on the outskirts of Vienna. It is an international Christian organization that is right next to the



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biggest refugee camp in Austria and has been there since 1987, as refugees and immigrants have been coming to Austria since even before then, though it was not widely known.

While I was there working alongside other international volunteers, more Austrians had began stepping up to take over our roles and start to volunteer, especially the churches. But the

general mindset of the Viennese people is still the same and it was reflected in the recent elections. In the past, Austria’s government has almost always been liberal and leaned left. However, in the most recent election, the FPÖ won the election. The FPÖ is Austria’s far-right, very conservative

economic, social, and basic needs met so they may contribute too and enrich our societies in a sustainable way at all levels, decrease the factors that cause migrants to leave their homelands in the first place, while addressing the concerns of the communities of the nations receiving migrants.

Several nations in the EU, which are against immigration, have resisted adopting this pact, Austria being one of these. Austrian Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache, head of the FPÖ party, has not clearly stated what issue the government has with the pact. However, he has said that some points in the pact are “diametrically opposed to our government program,” and that every nation should have the ability to deal with immigration with “full autonomy and sovereignty.” Since then, Austrian Chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, and Vice-Chancellor, Heinz-Christian Strache, have stated that they will not sign the migration compact at the UN conference in Morocco this December, and that they expect other nations to follow suit. ★

*Delana Thompson is a freshman at Houghton College, majoring in Art and Intercultural Studies.*

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way they might behave in a house or country that is not their home [or] homeland. That mindset should hopefully lead to a posture of humility and of listening.”

One way all of Houghton can intentionally engage with the Mosaic Center is through the Coffee and Conversational series facilitated by Cook. He notes that these evenings give “the Houghton Community the opportunity to engage in a civil, loving, and courageous dialogue about challenging issues.” On November 9th, the series kicked off with the question “Are things getting better?” The next conversation will be a Dinner and Discussion at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 16th in the dining hall.

Through events such as

the Coffee and Conversation series as well as by providing a safe space where underrepresented students can feel heard and at home, the Mosaic Center staff continues to create, in Cook’s words, “a place of respect, a place of love, but a place of truth and reconciliation and challenge.” Cook believes the Mosaic Center issues an invitation and challenge to the Houghton campus: “Get involved. We need everybody at this communion table. Let’s do community.” ★

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This year’s PRISM is titled “O Holy Night,” based on the original French poem, “Minuit Chrétiens!” or “Cantique de Noël” written by Placide Cappeau and set to music by Adolphe Adam in 1847. The song is

now a popular Christmas carol here in the United States. However, Brennan states that most people do not actually meditate on the words and their deeper meaning. Thus, the show will explore the key texts in the piece which will include *A Thrill of Hope*, *A New and Glorious Morn*, and *Chains Shall He Break*.

Through the exploration of “O Holy Night” as well as other hymns, songs, poetry, and scripture, PRISM’s purpose is the celebration of Christ’s coming to the world. Brennan emphasized, “It’s the desire of not only the Greatbatch School of Music but Houghton College and its students, faculty, and staff to praise our Lord and to draw others closer to him through our gifts and talents, and to have this platform, PRISM, to share

the gospel, and to celebrate the birth and life of Christ is both exciting and humbling.”

PRISM’s audience is comprised of students, faculty, and community members. Olivia Bullock ’20, who attended last year’s PRISM, remarked that “the talent displayed was incredible.” Students can enjoy PRISM, but it is not targeted solely to them. The performers are also traveling to Browncroft Church in Rochester this year, which they visited a few years ago. The church now has a newly remodeled worship center with top-of-the-line lighting and sound systems. Brennan says that performing in places other than Houghton allows for “the opportunity to share [the] program with new people, and to give our students an opportunity to experience performing in new

places.” There is also a specially catered dinner for PRISM guests at the performance in Houghton, which audience members can choose to attend for an additional price. These events create interest in PRISM for students, alumni, faculty, local families, and even people who may not know about Houghton. With such a broad target audience, it allows Houghton students to display their talents to more than they might otherwise be able to.

PRISM 2018 will be on Friday, November 30th at 7:30 in Rochester at the Browncroft Community Church and Saturday, December 1, at 8pm in the Houghton Chapel, preceded by the optional dinner at 6pm. For additional information and to purchase tickets, visit the Houghton College website. ★

# HOUGHTON HOSTS DRESSAGE CLINIC

DAVID KRALT

This weekend, Houghton will be hosting a Dressage Clinic at the new equestrian center. The clinic begins Friday at 4:30pm, ending Saturday at 5:00pm. Agnieszka Majewski will be teaching for the duration of the clinic. It is organized by Houghton’s Equestrian Program Director, Larissa Ries, and student interns Hannah Williamson and Abigail Fulmer. It has been in planning since the beginning of the summer after Majewski taught a three day clinic for Houghton. Afterwards, Majewski was invited to teach for another clinic at Houghton which she accepted. There will be 28 rides

total, each one a private lesson lasting 45 minutes. People from all over New York signed up to work with Majewski as she is highly skilled with horses, and a very capable teacher helping others towards more advanced riding techniques and training. From as young as 12 years to older than 50, many different people with a variety of skill levels and horse breeds will be taking part in the event. This includes ponies, all the way up to horses who compete at Federation Equestrian International levels.

Abigail Fulmer, a senior equestrian performance major, will be riding her 5 year

old Thoroughbred horse, Reverence, during the clinic. “I began working with horses as a young teenager and have always had a passion for working and training horses,” she said, “I plan on continuing after college working under an international equestrian athlete and honing my skills to be able to be a future eventing international rider myself.”

The clinic will be another opportunity for students and locals alike to learn how to handle their horses better. For students who would like to watch the event, it is \$10 to audit on Friday, and \$20 on Saturday. ★

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what we are doing, in each other, and in Houghton’s mission. I always say my goal for the team is to leave with the relationships and memories that I had when I competed at Messiah College. I think we’re seeing a lot of lifelong relationships forming, and better competition before of it.”

The Track team has had many successes recently. Many of the students have earned 1st to 3rd place awards in their respective events. Coach Hager holds high hopes for the team this year however, believing that the students are more than capable to support each other and beat their own personal records.

Some students from the team will be travelling to Bucknell

University to compete late in the season. The top runners will also be in Utica at the Empire 8 conference to score their own titles in their individual events. Non-track students can look forward to cheering on their fellow students in a variety of home events here at Houghton. The first events takes place Friday, December 7th, then again on Friday, January 18th. Houghton will also be hosting the Empire 8 Outdoor Track & Field Championships in early May.

For more information about the track team and upcoming track events, students can go to the Houghton Athletics website, as well as contact Coach Hager at Patrick.Hager@houghton.edu ★



# Houghton’s Hidden History

CHRIS CILENTO

They stand in silent memoriam, tall and strong. They mark the passing of the seasons in stately grandeur, shading students in the spring and summer, and dropping their colorful leaves in autumn. We walk among them, marveling at their magnificence and reveling in their beauty but never knowing their true significance. Never realizing that these mighty oaks mark the lives of heroes.

In 1942, the Japanese armada attacked Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into the second World War. The call went out for volunteers and the draft was enacted. Men from all walks of life suddenly found themselves thrust in to battle. More than 407,316 of these men, husbands, brothers, sons, would never return.

On March 29, 1949, Houghton College administration decided to memorialize those students, faculty, and staff who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Willard Avenue became “Memorial Row” as ten Pin Oaks were

planted, one for each man who died. Today nine of these mighty oaks are still here, even though Willard Avenue no longer runs in front of the Paine Science building (it was rerouted behind the building due to safety concerns).

The April 8, 1949 issue of the Houghton Star describes the memorial that was never finished. It reads: “Each of the ten trees will have a plaque at its base bearing the name of the man of whom it is representative. A rock, a Houghtonian symbol, will be placed at the beginning of the drive...to explain the memorial.” In lieu of this, Houghton College administrators eventually installed a plaque in front of Fancher Hall describing three different memorials in the vicinity (the three hemlock trees, the ten oak trees, and the walking path).

Richard F. Bennet, Merrill W. McKinley, Henry E Samuels, Robert M. Danner, J. Merton, McMahon, John H. Smith, Warren T. Dayton, Ralph L. Norton, Carl M. Wagner, Walter F. Ferchen.

These names should be memorialized for all to see. Sadly, the memorial plaque was taken down when Fancher Hall was moved. For decades, it lay, largely forgotten and gathering dust, in the Houghton College archives in the basement of the Willard J. Houghton Library. Now, due to the efforts of the college archivist, Laura Habecker, this memorial has been found, dusted off, and included in a county-wide memorial exhibition

This writer encourages all Houghton students, faculty, and staff to walk among these monumental trees and reflect on the courage of these men and the freedom they have helped bring to this country. Then let us come together, as a student body, to work with the college to raise funds to finish the original memorial, so they can be remembered. No hero should be forgotten. For when we forget our heroes, we lose a piece of ourselves. ★



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# Spiritual Reflections

MORGAN SMITH

My church, Sojourners Menonite Fellowship, celebrates a seven-week advent season. November 11th marks the first Sunday of Advent, and I’m delighted to begin this time of waiting and watching and wondering. Taking a long while to reflect on the brokenness of the world and the great hope of our promised Redeemer never fails to quicken and deepen my sense of God’s incomprehensible grace.

One matter that will weigh on my mind and heart this Advent is the proper place for guilt, shame, anger, and blame in the Christian life. Each of us is a fallen creature, touched by sin and death. We do many wrong things, and surely these wrongs should incur guilt and shame in ourselves, and

anger and blame from others.

Yet making mistakes and committing minor wrongs is part of learning how to be a good person living in a fallen world: it’s hard, and we have to figure it out by trial-and-error. Moreover, many of the wrongs we commit stem (at least in part) from larger systems beyond our control. We don’t get to choose who teaches us what it means to act and live well or the external pressures we face going forward. And Christians believe that we are redeemed from sin. Both our deliberate wrongdoings and our moral mis-formations are forgiven. So where does this leave guilt, shame, anger, and blame? To excise them completely would be to disregard the reality of our wrongdoing, but neither can they be the end of the story. We must find the right balance.

Here’s a proposal: our moral discourse (and the emotions that go with it) must emphasize mercy and compassion over guilt, shame, anger, and blame. This isn’t a fancy-sounding version of “let’s just all move on and be nice to each other.” Wrongdoing that seriously harms others must be recognized and denounced as such, and those who commit these wrongs must face meaningful consequences. But in less egregious cases – particularly persons (of all ages) slowly working towards a better character – we should tone down our rhetoric and the passion that lies behind it. It is not our responsibility to manage and atone for every actual and potential act of wrongdoing in ourselves and others. Rather, we are to forgive others their trespasses as often as we repent of our own, and do our

best to grow towards wholeness and holiness in fellowship with one another.

This is one of the great lessons of Advent. We are (as people at my church like to say) sojourners in the land of not-quite: surrounded by and contributing to brokenness, we are also beloved

children of God. We can’t fix our problems, or stop ourselves and others from doing wrong. But Christ has embraced the whole sorry lot, saying he’ll walk with us until we’re made new. So we hope, and try again.

I’ll leave you-all with this, by Yehudah Amichai:

In my garden I saw jasmine blossoms swept  
in an autumnal wind and clinging to a bougainvillea bush.  
Oh, what a blunder, what a waste, what a senseless loss.  
I saw a sun dip in the sea, I saw God.  
What blunder, what hope!  
I saw two birds trapped in the domed terminal in the airport,  
flying desperately above the commotion below.  
Oh, what a blunder, what a flight, what desperate love,  
what an out without an out, what a vision of hallowed wings!  
A plane circled above it all, calling:  
I’m trying, I’m trying again.  
Try, they tell him from the control tower.  
Try again, try again.★

# Houghton STAR Rerun

ROBERT H. PRESLEY

*This rerun column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College’s history This particular article is from Volume 12, Issue 4 of the STAR published on November 15th 1919.*

The day the Armistice between the Allied and Associated Powers as Party of the First Part and the German Republic as the Party of the Second Part was signed, my outfit, the 326th Field Signal Battalion, was stationed at Benoite-Vaux (pron. ben-wot-voe). Benoite-Vaux is a little village located 8 or 9 kilometers to

the southwest of Souilly, then the Headquarters of the First American Army. As I remember it, Benoite-Vaux consisted chiefly of three things, muddy roads, muddy fields, and well just plain mud. I rained most of the time we were there. Of course there were a few houses and trees and ditches, but it was mostly mud

The Seventh Corps of which the 326th Field Battalion was a part was moving from Remiremont, down near the Swiss border, to the town of the Regret (pro. re-gray), about four kilometers south of Verdun. There it was to relieve the 17th French Colonial Corps which then occupied that sector. While resting here after coming the first leg of the trip we made ourselves as comfortable as possible in some old French barracks in the woods on

a hill overlooking the valley leading from Benoite-Vaux to Souilly. Incidentally we never made the second leg of that journey. The Armistice prevented.

Unlike some branches of the service, the Signal Corps can begin to function before it arrives at its place in the line. There are always telephone and telegraph wires to be strung and telephones and switchboards to be installed and repaired, messages to be sent and received, and, not the least important of all, news to be gathered from the surrounding atmosphere, as it were. This latter, among many other things falls to the lot of the Radio company. Where we were, newspapers of any sort were imaginary, at least, as the square root of “minus one,” so it is easy to realize the importance of the work of picking up

the news by radio. The telegraph lines, of course, had too much business for news work.

For several days the official communiques transmitted by radio had indicated a rapid eastward movement of the battle lines on practically the entire Western Front so what I will tell you about was not such a shock to us as it otherwise would have been. One day shortly before November 11th one of our radio operators came running down to the officers’ quarters with an exciting bit of news he had just copied. It was the first sincere peace overture from the German High Command. We had followed with ever increasing interest the reports of the abdication of the Kaiser followed closely by his cowardly flight and that of the Crown Prince, but there was something

better than we had dared hope for quite so soon, as certain as it was to come eventually.

*This is an excerpt of Robert H. Presley’s account of his experiences during the Great War. The reader can find the remainder of this article in the Houghton star archives. Simply go to the Houghton Library webpage, click on archives, select The Houghton STAR and search for Volume 12 Issue 4 of the STAR published on November 15th 1919. ★*



# Mosaic Center Asks Tough Questions

KYLA NIES

Last Friday, November 9th, the Mosaic Center hosted its first “Coffee and Conversation,” a time in which students from many different backgrounds came together to dialogue about race and minority issues in America. “The goal [of coffee and conversation] is to provide, in a sense, a laboratory for students to engage in constructive dialogue around critical conversations and do the work our world so desperately needs” said Reverend Julian Cook, the director of the newly established Houghton Bethel Campus and Advisor for Inclusive Excellence, who meditated the discussion. The event was well attended with every chair in the Mosaic Center filled by students of “different races, cultures, socio-economics classes, and genders” observed Jolene Quiah ‘20.

Rev. Cook opened the

discussion with a video entitled “Black Guy Breaks Into A Car” in which a white male actor and a black male actor attempted to break into a car. No one confronted the white man in the 30 minutes he “attempted” to break in. When the black man pretended to break into the vehicle, he was confronted by armed police within 30 seconds. Rev. Cook then raised the question “are things getting better?” to the group. On one hand it was easy to see the ways in which America is still fraught with racial tension after watching the video, but Rev. Cook was quick to point out that on the other hand, there have been clear markers of progress such as the election of Barack Obama, the Black Lives Matter Movement, etc.. Students discussed this tension between progress and lack thereof for over an hour, listening to opinions one at a time.

Rev. Cook moderated with excellence, allowing for anyone who wanted to participate

to do so and playing devil’s advocate when the conversation became one-sided. Students responded thoughtfully, frequently, and creativity to the question of progress. No “answer” to the question of progress was agreed upon but students like Quiah commented that the conversation itself was a great way “to see where everyone is coming from, instead of just sitting in our bubble and judging each other”.

Even in moments of disagreement and tension, students remained open and respectful. “I was very proud of Houghton students for carrying out such a hard discussion with such honesty,” says Rev. Cook, “civil dialogue is possible but it is incredibly hard work and it is the only way of achieving genuine community.” In an effort to continue to build that “genuine community” the Mosaic Center will continue to host “Coffee and Conversation” once a month or bi-weekly and focus on a different question each time.

The idea is that students get used to discussing serious and sensitive issues in a formal setting so that they can begin to start the same conversations in other informal settings and across perspectives. In the words of Senior Helen Draper, who attended last Friday’s event: “I think it is important for students to attend these events no matter what perspective you come with, as long as you come with an

open heart and attentive ears. Come, be challenged, and learn something you might not have known, from your fellow human beings. I myself look forward to the next event so that I can grow more.” The Mosaic Center will be hosting another “Coffee and Conversation” on Friday, November 16th at 7pm in the Mosaic Center. All are welcome to attend, and there will be coffee, tea, and cookies.★

PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY



# Fall Sports Come to a Close

QUINN HULL

Another fall season of Houghton athletics is in the books, as cross country finished their season at the NCAA Atlantic Regional Championship in Glassboro, NJ last Saturday. It was a strong finish to a very productive season for Houghton Cross Country. Tyler Deuschle led the men’s team finishing 80th out of 307, and Emily Blodale finished first for the women placing 108th out of 305.

The season was full of accolades and accomplishments for Houghton Cross

Country. Tyler Deuschle, Matthew Gostomski, and Shelby Langlois all received 1st Team All-Conference honors, and Joel Wheeler, Gwen Stokes, and Emily Blodale all received 2nd Team All-Conference Honors. “I’m proud of the teams. All season we’ve faced tough conditions” Coach Patrick Hager said, “Collectively, these teams have raised the level of their training and it’s going to pay high dividends moving forward.”

Houghton Men’s and Women’s Soccer also have come to a close with both teams missing their conference tournaments. The men ended their season with a re-

cord of 6-12. Though they did not total the amount of wins they expected, these numbers do not reflect the team we saw on the field. “I truly believe we were a top four talent in the conference. It doesn’t always go your way, and we experienced that in a few critical moments,” said junior midfielder Ben DiCraсто.

The Empire 8 clearly recognized this to be true when they awarded All-Conference honors to five of our Highlanders. Freshman attacker Brice Bogna earned a First Team All-Conference selection, while Andrew Bussey, Ben DiCraсто, Gabe Van Wyk, and Ben Lawrence all earned Second Team honors. Zach

Shilvock went on to be named Houghton’s representative for the Men’s Sportsman of the Year team.

Despite the disappointing season, the Highlanders have their eyes set on next season. “Our potential upside is tremendous, as we will be returning 3 of our top 4 goal scorers as well a number of experienced midfielders and defenders,” said DiCraсто.

The Women’s Soccer team jumped out to a hot start this year. The team held an undefeated record of 4-0-2 through their first six games of the year, but were unable to find success in Empire 8 play. The team went 0-6-2 in conference leaving them with a 6-7-3 record overall.

Much like the men’s team, the women had more than a few positives to walk away with. Head coach, David Lewis, earned his 400th career victory after a 6-0 win over Medaille College. Senior attacker, Jessica Beattie, led the Empire 8 in average points per game with 24 points in only 16 games, she also led the conference with 8 total assists. Beattie was rewarded with a First Team All-Conference selection. Sophomore forward, Kealy DeForest, was the Empire 8’s second place finisher in total goals with 10 in only 16 games. DeForest played 5 less games than the first place finisher, and came up only one goal short.

Houghton Volleyball came just short of missing their conference tournament as well. The team ended with an overall record of 12-18. In conference however the team was 4-4, and just one match sort of qualifying for the tournament. Senior Amber Edwards was an Empire 8 Second Team All-Conference Selection. After a season in which she recorded 3.2 kills per set, which was good for second place in the conference.

Houghton Field Hockey also missed the Empire 8 Tournament with a record of 5-12. The team fought hard the whole season, but tended to find themselves on the wrong side of more than a few close finishes. Three members of the team however would be named Second Team All-Conference selections including Caitlin Jennings, Nicole Jennings, and Hannah Daniels.

Women’s Tennis finished the season with a record of 4-4 just a game behind the rival Alfred Saxons at 5-3. The team was just a head to head victory away from making it to their second straight tournament appearance but fell just short at the hands of newly appointed Alfred Head Coach, and Houghton alumnus, Jordan Crouch. The team will be back in action during the spring season.★



The Houghton Field Hockey team finished with a 5-12 record.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE



# Review // *Glory Sound Prep*

TYGER DOELL

Anyone who knows the popular music of the past year or so recognizes the name of Jon Bellion. Bellion has climbed from obscurity into fame since the release of his 2016 debut studio album, *The Human Condition*. Before the release of the album, Bellion had released mixtapes which he produced and distributed himself, including *Scattered Thoughts Vol. 1*, *Translations Through Speakers*, *The Separation*, and *The Definition*. Throughout these albums, a theme that Bellion promotes is the idea that he is a self-made man, refusing to sell-out to big corporations or record labels to promote his music. Instead, Bellion relied on more grass-roots advertising and distributing of his music until he released *The Human Condition*, afterwards going on tour with the band Twenty One Pilots which helped him skyrocket to fame.

Fast forward two years to the relatively surprising announcement and subsequent release of his newest album, *Glory Sound Prep*, which was released November 9th. While *The Human Condition* focused more on some of the enduring questions and issues in Bellion’s life, *Glory Sound Prep* is more of an homage to his humble beginnings, and a window into the way he grapples with his sudden rise to stardom.

Throughout the album, one major theme Bellion expands on is the various influences he’s had in his life. In songs like “JT” and “Cautionary Tales,” he cites his faith, thanking God in many instances for the talent he’s

been given. In other songs, like “Mah’s Joint,” he talks about his family and the profound impact they’ve had on his life. We also get a rare glimpse into Bellion’s personal life in songs like “Conversations with My Wife” and “Couples Retreat,” where he reveals that he’s married and sings about his wife.

This theme shows up musically as well. In the song “Blu,” we see homage to Bellion’s faith not only in the lyrics, but also in the hymn-like chorus. In “Mah’s Joint,” we hear more Christian influences, as well as what seems to be audio from a religious revival or sermon. But if one song captures Bellion’s multiple influences, it’s “Adult

Swim,” in which there are different “channels” that feature different guest artists, as well as Bellion’s references to the various people he’s looked up to over the years.

Another huge theme that Bellion develops throughout the album is the conflict between fame and authenticity. In *The Human Condition*, Bellion hints at his desire to be authentic with his fans, but in *Glory Sound Prep* this theme takes center stage. In “Conversations with My Wife,” he sings about his marriage, hoping that it won’t be strained by his new-found fame. In “Let’s Begin,” he sings about his de-

sire to “get better” instead of “gettin’ bigger.” Bellion attributes the desire to improve himself to authenticity and a desire to grow as an artist, rather than to a hunger for fame. In “The Internet,” he truly faces this conflict head on by decrying the use of social media, claiming that “life became dangerous the day we all became famous.” Later on in “Let’s Begin,” he claims he “stopped flexin’ on the socials,” which corresponds to his long social media absence for the past year. Bellion decides, in the end, that authenticity is better than

trying to be famous or pretending to be happy.

This desire to do what he wants with his music is also shown in Bellion’s experimentation of sound throughout the album. “Stupid Deep” has a riff in the chorus which is reminiscent of an echo, representing the song’s chorus which talks about an empty soul. “Mah’s Joint” has aforementioned religious undertones, with audio from sermons and hymns present in the song. Other songs, like “Adult Swim” and “Let’s Begin” harken back to Bellion’s earlier raps, with other mixes of pop and blues thrown in. Finally, there are songs like “Couples Retreat,” which seem to almost cut off the chorus throughout the song, or “Blu,” which has piano and keyboard parts that are harsh and soft at the same time, leaving the listener unsure of how to feel. These more experimental tracks show Bellion’s desire to mix it up with his music, and his refusal to simply give in to what his fans or the music industry want.

In the end, Bellion’s purpose behind the album is clear: we should think back to our roots, using them as a launching point to try new things and push ourselves to new heights. Rather than viewing music as a way to catapult to success, he sees it as a way to express himself and improve. This is a comforting thought to old and young alike, throughout our constant human attempts to maintain a grip on both the past and the future. To some, the experimentation in Bellion’s new album can be a sticking point, especially for those who felt comfortable with his sound in *The Human Condition*. However, his departure can also be seen as his manifesto: the end goal isn’t fame, but rather self-expression and growth. Now, that’s a message that we all can get behind.★



Jon Bellion released his new album on November 9th.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

Photo  
of the  
Week

Timothy Paschalis







COURTESY OF TIM PASCHALIS  
SKYLAR HILLMAN

In 1896, a young Viennese journalist surprised the world by declaring that it was feasible for the Jews to return home. The editor of the New Free Press in Vienna, Austria, Theodore Herzl wrote the famous Zionist pamphlet “Der Judenstaat,” which was in favor of a Jewish homeland. When Herzl delivered his proposal in Basel, Switzerland in 1897, he articulated a formidable case for the Jews to leave diaspora and return home. As the world watched, Herzl spoke about the need and possibility to reestablish the ancient state of Israel; fifty-one years later under the leadership of David Ben-Gurion, the Jews declared Israel a nation once more. The next day, war was brought upon the infant nation. Through extraordinary resilience and the lack of coordination on behalf of the League of Arab nations, the rag-tag Israeli Defense Force defeated the large militaries of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Yemen. Israel was reborn! The Jews returned home.

Seventy years after the successful birth of the Jewish state, Israel’s right to self-determination continues to be controversial around the world, sparking debates among academics, politicians, and laymen. Although there are many controversies associated with the nation of Israel, I shall focus on the validity of Israel’s statehood. First, I will address a major criticism.

As M. Shahid Alam, Professor of Economics at Northwestern University, has adamantly asserted, “A Jewish state in Palestine could only emerge as the bastard child of imperialist powers, and it could only come into existence by displacing the greater part of the Palestinian population,

by incorporating them into an apartheid state, or through some combination of the two.” Professor Alam’s claim couldn’t be further from the truth. Israel is a country consisting primarily of refugees and their descendants who have exercised their right to self-determination. These Jewish refugees were fleeing persecution from Eastern Europe, Russia, and from Middle-Eastern nations. Even before Herzl wrote his pamphlet, Jews had already begun to immigrate to Palestine, starting in the 1880s. Six to seven waves of Jewish immigration would follow, known as *aliyah*. Instead of acquiring the land of Palestine through imperialistic methods, the Jews purchased a significant amount of land from absentee land-owners and speculators. As Martin Buber, a strong supporter of Palestinian rights, observed in 1939: “Our settlers do not come here as do colonists from the Occident, to have natives do their work for them; they set their shoulders to the plow and they spend their strength and their blood to make the land fruitful.” Scholars like Buber show that the Jews fleeing persecution were not colonialists.

Furthermore, historian Paul Johnson has documented the attempts of many colonial powers to thwart the establishment of a Jewish homeland. “Everywhere in the West, the foreign offices, defense ministries, and big business were against the Zionists” he writes. Jewish refugees had to overcome British, Turkish, and Pan-Arab imperialism to achieve self-determination. Britain eventually came to the side of the Zionists for a couple of decades in the early twentieth century, with support from the Balfour Declaration. But under pressure from Arab terrorism, Britain started to limit Jewish immigration to Palestine. In the end, Britain transferred the partition plan over to the U.N who divided up the land in 1947.

Critics of Israel’s right to self-determination fail to realize that the Jews have compromised a significant presence in Palestine for millennia before the

waves of *aliyah*. After the expulsion of the Jews from ancient Israel by the Romans in 70 A.D., the Jews continued to have a majority presence in significant areas. Harvard legal professor Alan Dershowitz notes, “...despite repeated efforts by the Romans, the crusaders, and some Muslims to make Palestine empty of Jews, thousands of Jews managed to remain in its holy cities, especially Jerusalem, Safad, Tiberias, and Hebron.” There were also Jewish communities in Gaza, Rafah, Ashkelon, Caesarea, Jaffa, Acre, and Jericho. Jerusalem was a predominantly Jewish city well before the first *aliyah*.

Although the land given to the Jewish community in the 1947 UN division was more than they had owned previously, the Israelis have also acquired the additional land in conflicts they did not initiate. Critics claim the Jews displaced local Arabs who were descendants of Canaanites and had lived on the property, uninterrupted, for 1300 years, but Dershowitz’s research undermines this claim. Palestine’s demographics before the first *aliyah* consisted of a melting pot of different groups. The population included Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Arabs, Besnians, Druzes, Circassians, Persians, Sudanese, etc. Dershowitz states, “the few Arabs who lived in Palestine...when Jewish settlement began, were a tiny remnant of a volatile population, which had been in constant flux, as a result of unending conflicts between local tribes and local despots.” Jews constituted a higher demographic in Palestine than the Arabs before the creation of Israel.

Research conducted by well-known scholars reveal the truth behind the origins of the modern state of Israel. Far from being a “bastard child of imperialism,” the establishment of the Jewish state emerged through legal and ethical procedures. Claims of colonialism are outright false.★

Skylar is a junior majoring in Political Science.

# THREE

## The Israeli-

ANNA SCHILKE

In Jerusalem, there is a house.

It’s owned by a Jewish woman, a second generation immigrant. She inherited it from her father, who bought it from a realtor. The woman has never known another home. Neither have her children, or the family dog. Their entire lives have been spent on the same street, with the same scraggly backyard and slightly crooked mailbox.

Less than a hundred miles away, across a barbed wire wall manned by IDF agents, a Palestinian family is in almost the exact same situation. Except their house is a tent in a refugee camp, and they didn’t buy it from a realtor. But like their Jewish counterparts, the children have never known another home.

There are two keys to that house in Jerusalem. One belongs to the Jewish family who currently occupy the house. The other belongs to the Palestinian family in the refugee camp. They have hung onto it for almost a hundred years, from the day their long-dead patriarch fled the city with his family, abandoning the house and most of his belongings in favor of safety. They have hung onto it, hoping for a day when they can return. Not only the city where they used to live, but to that house, with the scraggly backyard and slightly crooked mailbox. They

have hung onto it, claiming ownership just as fervently as the Jewish family that holds the legal deed.

Who does that house belong to? I confess I don’t know. I first heard this story from a journalist who was speaking on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; I’m not even sure it’s verifiably true. But it illustrates the complexity of this issue in a way that I have a hard time articulating with only statistics and research. Like a Jewish and Palestinian family can both have reasonable claims to the same house, two different people groups can have reasonable claims the same land.

Take some of the common arguments. Some people start with which group has a stronger historical tie to the land. Given that both have existed in the Middle East for over two thousand years, it seems a little absurd to start basing current decisions on who can find the earliest pottery shards. Both groups have outstanding specimens. Others point to issues of whom has possessed the land for longer. Again, it’s a long and complicated question, and there’s no clear victor. In the last hundred years alone, the lines of land ownership have changed at least once every ten years. In some cases these changes were UN sanctioned, in others they were a result of wars, in others terrorism, in yet others illegal settlements. A few brave souls try to stick with one of the many maps



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# VIEWS

## Palestinian Conflict

that have been drawn over the last century, but due to the abovementioned wars, terrorism, illegal settlements, and various forms of corruption, there's no map that the international community is willing to objectively claim as satisfactory or accurate. Finally, there's the issue of religious ties. On this, too, both Jews and Palestinians have strong claims. Jerusalem is the home of the Wailing Wall and the Dome of the Rock, two of the holiest places in the world to Judaism and Islam respectively.

Given this incredibly complex history - which I've oversimplified for brevity's sake - any earnest solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must take into account both group's claims to the land. This is hardly a new position; American foreign policy has been trumpeting the "two-state" solution for years. Yet for all of the talk about finding a way to divide the land, we are still a long way away from a peaceful and content Israel/Palestine. Waves of violence pass, terrorism and religious killings continue, and a wall with armed soldiers and barbed wire is being slowly built. What exactly should be done about this situation?

I cannot answer that question as a Palestinian or an Israeli; I am neither. But I can comment out of my identities as a Christian and an American, identities that cause me to consider this question slightly differently than I might otherwise. From the perspective of the first, I believe in the importance of peace. Much of the rhetoric surrounding this issue seems more concerned with making biblical arguments and trying to protect holy sites or oil rights. This is unacceptable. As followers of a man who chose to die rather than pick up a sword, our first priority ought to be finding solutions to this problem that stop bloodshed. Everything else is of secondary importance.

To this end, it's time American foreign policy

asked some hard questions. We currently pour billions of dollars into the nation of Israel each year. We play a large part in their government, and our militaries exchange weapons and technology. Many of the treaties between the Palestinians and the Israelis - such as the Camp David Accords - have been negotiated on our soil. The ethics of the depth of American involvement is a matter of debate in and of itself, but for the moment I am more interested in how our current aid is affecting the potential of peace. This is an issue that we - as voters - need to be aware of. If our money is directly or indirectly responsible for bloodshed, it needs to stop.

That's a hard possibility. But it's a hard issue, one that causes me to stumble on house ownership, let alone ownership of a whole nation. I am, however, insistent on three things. The loss of life needs to stop. It needs to stop with a solution that recognizes the validity of both Jewish and Palestinian claims, and Americans needs to consider how our aid and foreign policy might be harming that goal. Those are three extraordinarily big things to insist on; I recognize that. But if we want a real solution - a permanent and fair one - they must be acknowledged. ★

*Anna is a senior majoring in Writing.*



COURTESY OF MICHEAL SIEVERS

LINNEA LACELLE-PETERSON

Israel has been a nation for 70 years. Whether its formation was an ethical or moral right, the fact remains that it has been a player on the international field for longer than our parents' generation has been alive. After almost three quarters of a century of impact as a nation, the question of Jewish legitimacy needs to take a backseat to the discussion of their actions. The question that needs consideration is that of violence: is Israel an aggressor?

On January 3rd, Israeli soldiers shot and killed Mos'ab Tamimi, making him the first Palestinian casualty of 2018. He was seventeen years old. Since then, at least 51 other children have been killed in the conflict, and over 150 adults. (Though Israeli civilians have also died at Palestinian hands, the total number of casualties since January is 11 individuals. None of them were children.)

The threat of violence that Palestinians live under is total and constant. Not even their houses are safe. Raed al-Salhi, 22, was shot seven times at close range in his own home during a night raid, a practice

in which Israeli troops storm Palestinian towns under the cover of darkness, and search homes with neither warning or warrant. Al-Salhi's death is but one example pulled from a pool of far too many. He is a victim of a terror tactic that has no other intended effect than to make sure Palestinians do not forget exactly how vulnerable they are.

Their children are not safe, their own lives are not safe, and their land is not safe. Under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank grew from approximately 2,000 to upwards of 120,000. For a people already pushed off their land, often by force, this is unforgivable. This Israeli expansion is accompanied not only by a further displacement of people, but also by destruction of ancient Palestinian villages.

Not only is this a gross display of power, it's a destruction of proof of Palestinian heritage. One of the most common arguments for the Jewish right to the land is the roots they have in the region; it's position that conveniently ignores the validity of similar Palestinian claims. By destroying Palestinian history, Israel is



COURTESY OF LINNEA LACELLE-PETERSON

erasing their history and their claim to a homeland they've been pushed to the margins of.

Israel stands now as an unjustly divided state with Palestinian blood on its hands. (And lest we get into the argument that the violence goes both ways, let's remember that there's a huge difference between violence to throw off oppressors, and state-sanctioned violence carried out by a military with 3.8 billion dollars of American backing.) Whether or not a nation deserves to be a nation is a messy question that I, personally, am not equipped to answer; whether or not a nation should be able to violate human rights with impunity, on the other hand, seems pretty straightforward. ★

*Linnea is a junior with an undecided major.*

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# Artist of the Week

## Olivia Donato

// senior environmental biology major and art minor

“I have loved the wilderness and painting and drawing for as long as I can remember. I began drawing portraits a few years ago, and after spending a semester in Alaska I used the photos I took as subjects for my oil paintings. My style also includes replicating old family photographs, and abstract combinations of landscapes and portraits. I am a senior environmental biology major with a minor in art, and have run cross country and track all four years at Houghton.”



Untitled, oil paint



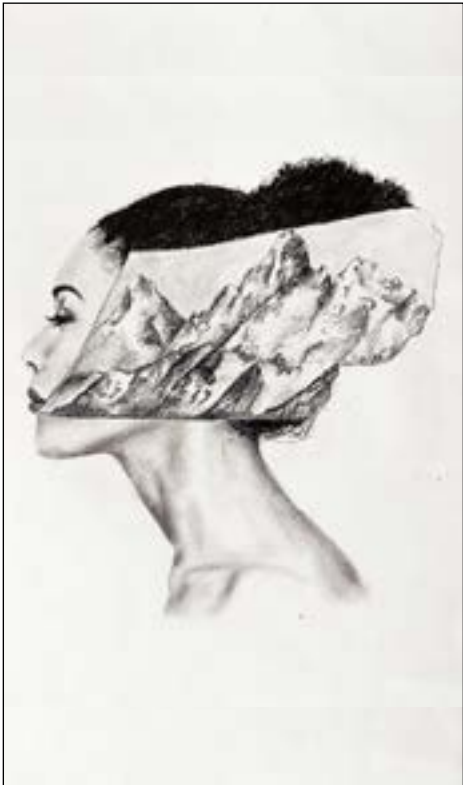
Untitled, oil paint



Untitled, oil paint



Untitled, oil paint



Untitled, pencil



Untitled, pencil