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Student Action Leads to Gender Discussion



SARAH DERCK

Students for Gender Equality participants visit the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York, where the first women's rights convention was held in 1848.

DANI EATON

Every Thursday morning at 11:30 a.m. in the Lennox Dining Hall, a group of students and faculty meet to discuss issues regarding gender and women's rights issues. This group, Students for Gender Equality, is a new addition to the Houghton community. The discussion for

the group started last fall with junior, Jessica Vaughn, and, Sarah Derck, assistant professor of Old Testament.

That discussion, Vaughn said, generated the idea for the group and the need for its presence on campus, "Dr. Derck and I were talking about how Houghton is not always friendly when it comes to gender is-



SARAH DERCK

The First Wave Statue Exhibit at the Women's Rights National Historic Park features men and women who were at the first women's rights convention.

sues, and how there might be a need for a place for women who felt like the atmosphere was hurting them to go and meet."

According to Vaughn, from there the idea of the group snowballed. After leaving campus for a semester, Vaughn reconvened in this fall with the group, who, in her absence, had done a mentoring program,

formed a name, and now had a sense of direction. The group of students and faculty, originally known as Deborah's Daughters, included Vaughn; Houghton professor, Kristina Lacelle-Peterson; 2011 alumni, Rebecca

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Pending Data Science Major Brings New Opportunities

LUKE LAUER

Houghton College has made progress on the proposed new data science major this semester, which opened up new opportunities for current students. Internships, job opportunities, and new classes in data science are already available for students.

Alumna Carmen McKell, said of data science, it is a "new field designed to fill the demand for data-savvy professionals in virtually every part of the economy." Ken Bates, department chair of business and economics, said managing and marketing cannot be done properly, "unless we can somehow harness the streams of information flowing at us all the time," which is a good

visual for what data science is about.

According to Bates, the curriculum is in progress. Originally, he said, curriculum had a lot of computer science courses, but Bates, McKell, and Garfield Fisher, McKell's husband, who are involved in creating the curriculum, are worried about excluding communication, business, and psychology majors who do not want to take all the computer science classes. Now they are considering a more interdisciplinary approach, and perhaps adding several tracks in the major. In conjunction with a liberal arts education, McKell said, the data science major will prepare students "to communicate complicated findings to a wide range of people in several different ways such as written text, or

infographics, as visual stories or data dashboards."

McKell and Fisher will be on campus Dec. 11-12 to work further on the curricu-

lum with faculty and meet with students. Bates aims to have the curriculum sent

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM POOL

Pictured left to right, Alumna Carmen McKell, Stefan Heeke (CEO of SumAll), and Kim Pool, director of VOCA, at the Strata Hadoop Conference in New York City in October, 2014.

December Grads Say Goodbye to Houghton

SAVANNAH DOVIK

This December will mark a season of change for the 46 students who will earn their degree, ending their collegiate time at Houghton College. A reception will be held this Wednesday, Dec. 10 to honor the mid-year graduates for their hard work, celebrate their completion of college, and say goodbye as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

The Academic Dean will host the reception, and brief remarks will be given to the graduates by Houghton President, Shirley Mullen; Linda Mills Woolsey, Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Daniel Noyes, Executive Director of Alumni Relations. The reception will be located in the south end of the dining hall, running from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., complete with a selection of desserts.

This year's December graduates represent students from numerous areas of study. Of the 46 students anticipating their degree, "One-half (23) are earning a Bachelor of Arts; 13 earning a Bachelor of Science; five a Bachelor of Fine Arts; four a Bachelor of Music, and one is completing a Master of Music degree," said Eva Hillman, administrative assistant in the office of academic affairs. Hillman went on to explain, that of the graduates the most common area of study was education, followed closely by communication, art, and music.

Hannah Zgrablich, a senior earning her degree in communication and December graduate, said money, along with "getting ahead of the job search process instead of getting caught up in the mix of graduates who will be looking for work by summer time" have been the biggest incentives to graduate early.

Evan Anstey, also a se-

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NATIONAL // Riots in Ferguson Cause Unrest



KATHARINE LABREQUE

On what many thought was an ordinary August day, within a suburb outside of St. Louis, in Ferguson MO, a not so ordinary incident occurred. Michael Brown an unarmed African American 18 year-old was shot and killed by a white police officer, Brian Wilson. The event initiated violent riots and protests throughout the country, which have continued and only heightened after the grand jury made their final decision. The account of the event has varied. However reliable sources state Brown fled from a Market and Liquor

store where he and one other person stole cigarillos, a type of cigar.

A block away, Officer Wilson met him on the street. Wilson then proceeded to stop the men, calling them from his S.U.V. A quarrel erupted between the two, where some witnesses say Brown attempted to grab the officer's gun. Two shots were fired, missing and/or grazing the teenager. The officer supposedly proceeded to chase the suspect. Brown then turned and began to run towards the officer who fired several more shots. A majority of the evidence collected appears to support this testimony, investigators say.

The grand jury, made up of 9 whites and 3 blacks, was responsible for determining whether or not there was a probable cause to indict Officer Wilson with crime. A New York Times article reported the recently published transcripts, forensic and photographic evidence by the county prosecutor, which is traditionally kept clandestinely away from the public.

The Ferguson case is arguably unique and intricate in more than one way. First, typical court cases are usually presented to a jury within one day whereas the

grand jury in the Ferguson case met over a span of 25 days within a 3 month period. Secondly, the grand jury received testimonies of the incident from over 60 witnesses. A jury will usually see only two to three witnesses per case. Thirdly, a jury doesn't usually hear from the defendant themselves, however Officer Wilson testified for 4 hours. Fourthly, a prosecutor generally offers a range of specific charges, which a grand jury may base their indictment on. In the Ferguson case, Robert P. McCulloch, the county prosecutor, did not recommend any charges against Wilson. Lastly, under Missouri Law, all evidence and related material is kept secret within the courtroom, and may be submitted at a later trial. Not so here, McCulloch released all documents following the grand jury's decision not to indict Officer Wilson.

However, the case doesn't end here. Two investigations are underway. A civil rights inquiry was opened up by the F.B.I., involving the shootings that took place on August 11. The other civil rights investigation was opened by the Justice Department, who has begun to examine whether the policy in

Ferguson have a historical background of discrimination and exploitation of force. The death of Michael Brown sparked numerous protests and riots for weeks. Buildings were set on fire and raids on business were reported. Police were forced to respond with tear gas and rubber bullets. Governor Jay Nixon deployed the state's National Guard to curb the violent responses prior and post the jury's decision.

Recently President Obama responded to the uprisings following the grand jury's decision, suggesting this case represents "the broader challenges we still face as a nation," involving discrimination. Furthermore, the President responded to accusations of racism in Ferguson as a result of the "legacy of racial discrimination in this country." These statements reflect the facts that Ferguson County consists predominantly of black communities.

Nearly the entire police force in Ferguson consists of white males, with the exception of four blacks. This ratio reflects a historical trend 'white flight' in many American cities over the last few decades. As many white families moved out to the

suburbs, black families have moved into the suburbs. However, the large number of white officers may reflect the nature of job placement or historical relationships and ties to the community.

As riots and protests are breaking out around the country, people are wondering what will happen next. The death of Michael Brown has raised questions about the relationship between black communities and law enforcement. Perhaps the case reiterates the demand for our nation to address our criminal justice system. However, without a doubt in terms of dispensing true justice, many contend our system is the best in the world. "But, like every facet of the American democratic experience..." CNN legal analysis and criminal defense attorney, Mark O'Mara remarks, "...it can use polishing." Within these months and even years to follow, The Justice Department will be forced to grapple and respond to these harsh realities facing our nation today as it pertains to justice and discrimination.★

Katharine is a senior political science major.

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Rowley; VOCA director, Kim Pool; junior, Carly Congilosi; senior, Megan Miles; and senior, Hope Schwartz.

The group then began meeting in peoples' homes and discussing their options for the current academic year. From these meetings came the idea of a lunch discussion open to students and faculty, including both men and women alike. Accord-

ing to Vaughn, the idea of lunch discussions combined both the idea of talking about gender related justice issues, "along with the idea that we might be able to bring the conversation to a more public sphere" outside of the lunch conversations.

Since then the group has met almost every Thursday this semester, has discussed a variety of topics, and even took a trip to Seneca Falls, the location of the first women's rights convention. According to junior, Emma Brittain, some of the topics talked about during lunches have

included "using gender neutral language for God, the negative impacts of certain gender related expectations on society and the church, and basically how we as the church can improve how we handle issues like this."

While the original intent of the group was an open discussion for both men and women, junior, Stacia Gehman, said one thing the group is lacking is a male presence. "It makes me sad that they don't feel comfortable enough to come," Gehman said. "I feel like a lot of them feel like a lot of them feel like

it's just going to be this feminist hate fest, and we're all going to be like 'you suck' and that's really not how it is."

Brittain describes Students for Gender Equality as "a discussion group on campus that hopes to be men and women uniting in Christ to fight injustices related to gender issues." Vaughn said her goal for the group would be ultimately to be a consistent group that is affiliated with SGA which continues on a yearly basis and is not contingent based on the amount participation the group experi-

ences in each given year. The group has already begun the paperwork to gain unofficial club status within the SGA, which will hopefully lead to the establishment of Students for Gender Equality as an official student club on campus.

In addition to attempting to gain club status, the group is also hoping to have an active role in the planning of Take Back the Night, a world-wide event that promotes the safety of women and the hope that one day woman will be able to walk in the dark without fear. ★

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to Albany, New York for the state's approval sometime early next semester.

Bates does not expect a new hire in data science. However, he said, because of the pending major as the business department searches for one finance and one accounting faculty, they will likely favor candidates with some expertise in data science.

As the data science curriculum progresses, the college is already offering two new classes: Data Science Senior Seminar during the spring semester and Social Media Marketing and Data Analytics during Mayterm. The one credit hour spring class will "help expose them [current seniors] to some aspect of data science right

away so they hit the ground running with a little more knowledge about the industry," said Bates. Glen Avery, instructional technology librarian, is the coordinator of the course. The course will likely involve guest speakers on various topics in the course. Taught by alumnus Shane Fraser, The four credit Mayterm class will expose students to everything social media and look at how organizations are, and can use data gathered from social media.

Kim Pool, director of VOCA, said the three branches of the proposed data science major, are social good, learning analytics, and sports analytics. Social good is concerned with humanitarian, nonprofit, and government efforts; learning involves higher education such as admissions or alumni relations; sports will involve Houghton's own sporting data, pos-

sible connections with the Buffalo Bills and Sabres, and concussion analysis of athletes. Along with this, Pool anticipates a new concussion lab in the KPFH.

In October, Pool attended the data science Strata Hadoop Conference in New York City. McKell and Fisher, who own BaseMetrics, an advanced analytics and visualization company based out of Ottawa, Canada, also attended the conference. Amanda Stent, alumna and principal research scientist at Yahoo Labs met with Pool and McKell at the conference, who shared some of data work at Yahoo. McKell said, "Much of the Strata conference was devoted to the best practices in data science, with presentations from some of the worlds' leading data scientists on to to make data work in business, health, finance, media, fashion, retail and government."

Pool, McKell, and Fisher met with employers such as: SAS, a business analysis company, Microsoft, Rapid-Miner, Bloomberg, and Bell Canada to inquire about data science internships for Houghton College students. They also met with Stefan Hecke, CEO of SumAll, a data and impact analytics company, who has a non-profit organization branch. According to Pool, they also discussed creating a fellowship in New York City for Houghton students "Students would bring their own research data and be given guidance and instruction on analytics, dashboard visualization and policy implementation," she said "It would be a great experiential learning opportunity for students interested in applying data science to a humanitarian effort." McKell and Fisher also discussed opportunities to use business's data software

software in classes within the major.

Bates said there is no other Christian college offering a data science major. He hopes for Houghton to be the first, or among the first, especially from a liberal arts perspective.

Concerning the application of the major in the workplace, McKell said "Let's just say, there is not a job that can't be enhanced with the understanding and use of data." Bates said, "Right away there are job opportunities for our students." He adds the VOCA office is already lining up contacts.

Bates said he asked employers, "if they were open at all to entry level liberal arts students and they all said absolutely 'yes!' They prefer to hire those kinds of students, our kinds of students, as opposed to someone who's finished a masters degree in data science." ★



New Music Industry Major



ANTHONY BURDO

Professor Stephen Plate, associate dean and director of the Greatbatch School of Music, controls audio and sound for Prism rehearsal Wednesday night, Dec. 3 in the Wesley Chapel.

LAURA JOHNSON

On November 4, 2014, Houghton College and the Greatbatch School of Music received approval from the New York State Department of Education to offer a Music Industry degree. This degree, launching in the fall of 2015, will prepare students to enter the field of music. Kevin Jackson, the director of technical arts and music industry instructor at Houghton said, "The goal of the new Music Industry major is to open more doors of opportunity for students after graduation while still maintaining high standards of musical excellence and technical facility, creativity, applied knowledge and spiritual growth as part of a student's experience at Houghton."

Instruction will be given in almost every aspect of the industry starting with a solid understanding of music, for which the Greatbatch School of Music is already widely known. From there, students will take courses in music business, music technology, live sound production, studio recording and music produc-

tion preparing them for jobs such as music technology, production, business, publishing, recording and broadcast engineering, artist booking and tour management, film and video game composition, and performance law.

Students pursuing the new bachelor's degree will have access to some of the top instructors and equipment currently in the industry. Matt Odmark, acoustic guitar player and founding member of the well known Christian rock band, Jars of Clay, will be joining as an adjunct instructor for an upcoming Music Production Analysis class. It's scheduled to be offered sometime next year. "We are fortunate to have a person like Matt interested in Houghton, especially with the wealth of experience and connections he brings to the college," said Jackson. "When Jars of Clay played here a couple of years ago, Matt expressed great interest in partnering with us and caught the vision of what we were attempting to accomplish. He followed up by guest lecturing one of the Pro Tools classes that year."

The college has also invested about \$80,000 in a

new music technology lab. This lab is equipped with twenty student stations and a teacher station equipped with the latest Mac computers, M-Audio controller keyboards, PreSonus recording interfaces as well as the latest recording and composing software — Pro Tools 11, Sibelius 7.5 and Ableton Live 9.

"We now have one of the best studios in upstate New York — and one of the most extensive microphone lockers and outboard gear collections. If you visited a top-notch studio in Nashville, Los Angeles or New York City, you would find that we own the same equipment here at Houghton," said Jackson. "This benefits the students in that it allows the students the ability to practice their craft on the same gear that professionals are using every single day in professional recording and post-production studios worldwide."

The department is currently waiting for degree approval from the National Association of Schools of Music, an organization Greatbatch has been a part of since 1947. Nate Floyd, a junior and music major, plans

on switching to the new major as soon as possible. "It's dealing with the industry in a real way. Professor Jackson has real world experience and uses it in the classroom," he said. "In that way we are leaning what's actually happening in the field, not some idealistic version of it."

The coursework of the major is built to give students an in-depth understanding of the industry as a whole which makes them prime candidate for jobs in the field. Classes such as Introduction to Pro Tools and Pro Tools Production 1 will give the students hands-on experience with Avid Pro Tools, the most widely used recording software in the professional audio world. After completion of the course, students then have the opportunity to become Pro Tools certified. This certification allows future employers to see a student is a skilled Pro Tools user. Other courses like Sound Design and Processing for Film, TV and Video Games, and Introduction to Film Music will focus on broader topics like compiling and creating sound effects and composition for film, TV, and video games.

Music industry majors will also complete courses such as Recording and Studio Technique, Music Production Analysis, Advanced Music Production, and Critical Listening and the Art of Mixing.

First year student, Aaron Campbell, first came to Houghton hoping to pursue degrees in both business and vocal performance, but found the classically grounded music program was not exactly what he was looking for. "Ideally I want to compose and produce music and so music industry is a better fit for me. The music industry major offers in-depth training in almost every aspect of musical recording and production as well as many others," he said. "Also it compliments my business major to create a stronger degree. The training in the music industry program opens up new opportunities and provides viable skill sets for jobs with a realistic chance of employment."

Jackson has personally been working on the degree for about eight years. He said, "It started with dreaming, praying, asking questions and then vision casting." The first step was to offer a practicum in sound and recording class, which trains Houghton's student tech team who run sound and provide other tech support at many of the events around the campus. Around three years later Houghton started offering Pro Tools classes, these classes were the foundation of what would eventually become the music industry degree.

"I believe we have one of the best music industry programs in the country. There are many reasons for that, including our internships with industry professionals in Nashville, New York, and Los Angeles. The recording studio and brand new music technology lab here at the college and our faculty who are world class," Jackson concluded. "Not just in all things music technology, but in their respective musical fields. When you combine all of the above together, you have a program that is based on musical and technological excellence."★

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nior earning his degree in communication, has similar goals and said, "My biggest

influence in being a December grad was saving money and applying for jobs at a time when everyone else wasn't." Anstey's plan to get ahead paid off. Upon graduating, Anstey will be heading straight into the workplace,

receiving a full-time job as a multimedia producer at WBTA Radio in Batavia, New York.

Though graduation brings a time for celebration, seniors expressed that graduating also came all the anx-

ious feelings that come with change. "I will definitely be missing the overall college lifestyle, and wish I could prolong it as long as possible," said Zgrablich. Anstey also mentioned he would miss all the friendships he

has made during his time at Houghton.

All students and faculty are encouraged to attend the reception and show support to the December graduates. The reception attire is business casual.★



Seven Months Since Graduation

Recent Houghton alumni face the world after college

SYLVIA MORROW

Recent graduate James Delventhal joked, “Best part of being done....laughing at the rest of you from afar....I AM KID-DING!” In reality, Houghton’s May 2014 graduates described a diverse range of experiences and emotions as they have been navigating their first year out of undergraduate studies and for most, away from the place they had spent the past four years of their lives.

One of the few common threads described by recent graduates was the challenge of establishing firm financial footing. Danny Kim, now a first year medical student at Saint Louis University School of Medicine noted that even the small things like “breakfast cereals and chocolate milk” add up. Freelance videographer Steve McCord is living with his parents “because it’s cheap and there’s free food.” Amy Coon who is also living at home while employed as an artist in residence at a Clay Arts

Center said, “It’s definitely not easy to return home after being away for four years at college, but I’m very thankful for the opportunity to save some money and to spend time making art.”

Similarly, Sarah Hutchinson, now working at Jericho Road Community Health Center in Buffalo said she has struggled with budgeting now that she has to balance daily expenses with “big items like rent and loans.” Sarah Munkittrick, now living in Sydney, Australia also expressed being caught off guard by the cost of “internet, electricity, rent, food... Things that are just available for you at college that in the real world you have to pay for.”

Graduates who have moved into the workforce had mixed reactions to the adjustment of no longer being in school. David Richards, who recently returned to Houghton to start working as an assistant coach for track and field said he has found it challenging to go without “the structure” provided by student life. Similarly Coon

said, “I actually miss paper writing and assignments. I felt like I was actively learning. In the real world, you’re learning but in a less intentional way.”

On the other hand, William Strowe, who works as an interim student ministries director, expressed relief and said the best part of being done with college is “not worrying about researching, writing, or receiving grades on papers.” Hutchinson said working a nine to five job has given her considerably more free time compared to her time in college where between homework, work-study, and extracurricular activities she always felt like there was something she ought to be doing. Now, she said, she feels like her “personal growth has skyrocketed.”

Like many other graduates who have found the change socially challenging, Jessica Miller, now a research coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania’s Positive Psychology Center said it’s taken her longer to get to know people than it did

at Houghton. However, she also shared that she has already run into other Houghton alumni, “People always say that Houghton follows you everywhere, and I was happy to discover that to be true.”

Moving forward some graduates, said they do not expect much change in what they will be doing at this time next year. Others, such as Hannah Lily who is an Assistant Manager at a Cenex Convenience Store, are still searching for a more permanent situation. Lily said, “in a year I hope to be working as a high level marketing executive...or at least have a marketing job” but since graduation she has learned that “sometimes, having a degree means absolutely nothing! ...sometimes I think it’s my work ethic that will actually take me places.”

Inevitably graduation does not quell all doubts. Many recent graduates have no clear vision of where they will be this time next year such as Strowe who said, “I’m just going with the flow!” Hutchinson said,

“Ahhhhhhhhh---ask me in a few months!”, and Coon said, “When you graduate, the possibilities are endless, but it’s more scary and overwhelming than exciting.” Munkittrick said, “I have no idea what next year looks like, still trying to figure out next week!”

However, Jason Orlando, who is about to go to Airborne school and continue training to be a special forces medic said, “I found I was fairly prepared for life after college.” Similarly, James Vitale, who is pursuing a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary, said, “even in the midst of all this change I feel I am a well rounded, well adjusted person in general, and I definitely have Houghton to thank for that.” Tyler Miller who is now a full-time teacher in Olean said, “I enjoy being able to put my education to use out in the real world. You get a little antsy to see if you can make it out here while you are in school, and it is really fun and exciting to put yourself to the test.” ★

Brothers, Sisters, Teammates

BETHANY CHESEBRO

Many pairs of siblings attend Houghton, but one aspect of their college experience heightens through their relationship as teammates. Brothers Jared and Jesse Toth and sisters Lindsay and Hattie Burgher have experienced life at Houghton as both fellow students and teammates.

Sophomore Jesse Toth’s decision to attend Houghton last year came almost completely from the fact that his older brother, now a fifth year senior, Jared attended Houghton. Jesse and Jared had the opportunity to play on their high school’s soccer team together for one year, while Jared was a senior and Jesse a first year. Because of an injury during Jared’s sophomore year playing for Houghton, he gained an extra season of eligibility. He was able to play for an additional season and this was “surprisingly a blessing” to Jesse. He said, “Playing with my brother in high school was one of the best experiences I ever had and I wasn’t about to pass up playing two years with him here at Houghton.”

The brothers shared nothing but positive experiences and benefits of attending the same college and playing on the same team. They said the biggest benefit they bring to their team is their chemistry and understanding of each other on the field. While playing together, Jesse says “we constantly know what the other person is thinking” which is what makes being on the field together fun and exciting. Jared describes their experience as “unexplainable” because



Junior Hattie (left) and Lindsay Burgher '13.

there is nothing like being able to “battle everyday on the soccer field with your brother.”

When asked to share a memorable experience they’ve had while being at the same college, both Jesse and Jared described hard-fought soccer victories. Both games were ones they were not expected to win, but they both credited their victories to their brother’s hard work. This year being Jared’s last season, he shares he was glad he got to play his college soccer career with his “own blood” and is proud of what his brother has brought to the team.

Lindsay and Hattie Burgher bring a slightly different relationship to the aspect of sibling teammates because their relationship broadens to one of a player and coach. Junior Hattie Burgher’s decision to attend Houghton came with a bonus, having her sister already on campus. Her sister, now assistant volleyball coach, Lindsay Burgher, was a senior when Hattie started at Houghton so they only played one year on Houghton’s volleyball team together. Hattie said,

“I wish I had more than one year of playing with her... but I’m so grateful for that one year.”

Both sisters commented on the reward they’ve received in watching their sister grow and develop as a player, and for Hattie, seeing Lindsay as a coach. Lindsay and Hattie played two years of volleyball together in high school, but Lindsay said “I valued playing with her a lot more than in high school, because I wanted to make the most of (what I thought was) our time playing together for the one season we had.” When thinking of her transition from player to coach, Lindsay shared how “natural” it was to have Hattie at her school and as a teammate, but the struggles it brought transitioning into a leadership role. Lindsay had to learn to balance her relationship as a sister, friend and now a coach.

Hattie’s most memorable experience with her sister at college was hearing about her recent engagement. Hattie shared her excitement in being able to “revel in that monumental moment with her and to see the ring and give her a hug” which is something she



Sophomore Jesse (left) and Senior Jared Toth.

would not have been able to do if Lindsay wasn’t still at Houghton. However, Lindsay’s presence on campus brought some struggles, as Hattie stated “we are sisters.” She said of her sisters coaching position, “she legitimately has the right to boss me around” but said that their relationship would experience some arguments which is natural and expected.

Lindsay’s greatest experience

has been watching her younger sister “transform before her eyes” on the court and work to earn her position as a leader on the team. Lindsay is grateful for the opportunities she’s been given while at Houghton with her sister and said, “Whether coaching or playing, I am proud and thankful we can continue to be a part of the Houghton volleyball program together.” ★

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School Horse of the Year, Pumpkin

HANNAH ZGRABLICH

Tucked away in a cozy box-stall, nuzzled in dry hay, and munching on crispy treats from his extensive fan-base, lays Houghton Equestrian Center’s most prized possession—the 2014 Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) School Horse of the Year, Pumpkin.

The CHA’s Horse of the Year Program is meant to “honor the animals that spend countless hours being patient with new and experienced riders.” Pumpkin has honored this requirement-exceeding expectations and performing with unique personality.

Pumpkin is a 22-year-old Haflinger horse, small in stature and mighty in spirit. He has served as a faithful member of the Houghton College lesson herd since he was donated to the college at the age of five. His chestnut base coat blends him with the autumn landscape and is complimented by a pure white strip that rests down the center of his face. What Pumpkin lacks in height, he makes up for with a sturdy physique built to comfortably hold each rider he meets.

It is Pumpkin’s glowing demeanor that really draws in his fans. “As an instructor in a barn full of horses he is always my first choice,” said equestrian pro-

gram director, Jo-Anne Young. “Five CHA conference attendees sidled up to me to say that they had purchased an extra plane ticket home so they could take Pumpkin with them! Obviously they were joking, but it is an indication of how quickly that special Haflinger builds his fan club with his sweet personality!”

At the age of 22 (69 in human years), he shows no signs of retirement, continuing his service to riders with cheerful willingness. He shows his riders patience, allowing them to build confidence in their abilities. Like a grandfather ushering a child to his lap to read a story, Pumpkin has an inviting way of putting riders at ease, welcoming any skill level or saddle to his back.

“He’s a favorite because he is so predictable and consistent,” said junior equestrian minor Hannah Henry, “he always seems to be aware of the rider’s safety.”

This semester Henry is working with horsemanship student, Christina Moore, and Pumpkin—brushing him, tacking him for riding, and running/walking beside them to give direction. Because Moore has impaired eyesight it is important that she can trust the animals she is working with. “Pumpkin is so sweet with her and always does what she asks and would never try anything dirty to throw her off or



Pumpkin, a 22-years-old Haflinger horse, winner of the 2014 Certified Horsemanship Association School Horse of the Year award.

trick her,” said Henry.

Pumpkin is also willing to collaborate with advanced riders, showing western styled maneuvers like soaring over course jumps. He performs with patience while riders practice a new move—allowing them to try, and try again, but also has the sophistication and experience to execute a maneuver with ease once his rider gets it. He can gallop 400 meters per minute on a cross-country course, light on his feet, and thoughtfully navigating through rocky terrain.

Among his favorite activities of being a lesson horse are pulling the meadowbrook cart, being pampered with love and affection, and being rewarded with treats to which he responds with an approving exhale or delighted

whinny. “I’ve been working with horses all my life and I’ve never met a horse who loves his job as much as Pumpkin,” said, senior, Jalene Amling.

“You could truthfully say he is worth his weight in gold to us! It was an honor and a great pleasure to have him recognized as the 2014 CHA School Horse of the Year,” said Young. ★

Photo of the Week Winter Edition



WINNER //

Aubrey Skeele ‘18

Delicious Christmas Treats

LAUREL WROBLICKY

Of the best ways to spread Christmas cheer, making food for all to share comes second to singing loud for all to here. However, some may argue the order is switched.

As Christmas approaches, a counter in our kitchen is cleared off to make room for the incoming gifts of Santa shaped sugar cookies, chocolate truffles, and peppermint bark. Red colored tupperwares are stacked to optimize space while crumbs begin to gather and assemble to be scattered again by the next sweet toothed smuggler. The treasured sweets are consumed with delight, whether in good company or in secrecy.

While we receive vast amounts of sweets, our kitchen is constantly humming as we prepare our own gifts to share. Compiled below are a couple of my favorite recipes for the Christmas season. Be sure to play Christmas music very loudly while baking to allow the desserts to reach their full holiday spirit potential.

Fat Fantastics

Makes 24 squares.

Ingredients:

- 1 c. Butter
- 2 c. Graham cracker crumbs
- 1 (12 oz) Butterscotch chips
- 1 (12 oz) Chocolate chips
- 1 (14 oz) Sweetened condensed milk
- 1 c. Coconut

Directions:

1. Mix melted butter and graham cracker crumbs.
 2. Spread mixture on bottom of 9 x 13 inch pan.
 3. Layer the following: butterscotch chips, then chocolate chips.
 4. Pour condensed milk over top.
 5. Sprinkle coconut over top.
 6. Bake for 25-30 min at 350°.
- Suggestion: If desired, add 1 c. chopped nuts prior to coconut layer.

Snowballs

Good for a playful indoor snowball fight...Makes 4 dozen.

Ingredients:

- 1 c. Butter
- 4 T. Sugar
- 2 c. Flour
- 3 t. Vanilla
- 1 c. Nuts (chopped fine)

Directions:

1. Mix.
2. Roll into balls.
3. Bake 15 min at 375°.
4. Roll in confectioners’ sugar while still warm.

Thumbprint Cookies

A realistic option. Because who can keep their fingers out of their dough really? Makes a dozen.

Ingredients:

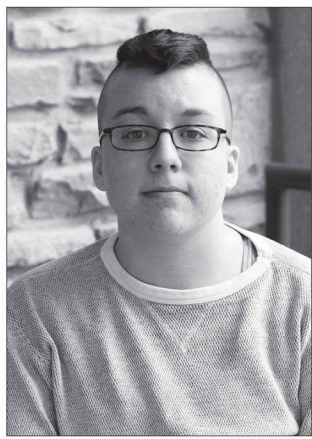
- ½ c. Shortening (butter)
- ¼ c. Brown sugar (packed)
- 1 Egg (separated)
- ½ t. Vanilla
- 1 c. Flour
- ¼ t. Salt
- ¾ c. Finely chopped nuts
- Jelly or preserves

Directions:

1. Mix shortening, sugar, egg yolk, and vanilla thoroughly.
2. Measure flour by dipping method.
3. Blend together flour and salt; stir in.
4. Roll dough into balls (1t. per ball).
5. Beat egg white slightly with fork. Dip balls in egg white; roll in nuts.
6. Place about 1” apart on ungreased baking sheets; press thumb gently in center of each.
7. Bake 10-12 min @ 350° or until set. Cool. (What’s colder than cold...?)
8. Fill thumbprints with jelly or preserves.



Justice for Michael Brown



ANTHONY BURDO

SYLVIA MORROW

Following the grand jury decision to not indict Darren Wilson for any crimes in the killing of Michael Brown, the matter remains, in the hearts and minds of many, unresolved. What now?

On the most basic level, we must resolve the injustice in Brown's death: a human being died at the hands of a police officer under circumstances steeped in a deeply troubling senselessness or even maliciousness.

Brown deserves justice, but justice is not wholly dependent on what happens to Wilson. Complete justice involves a larger scope. It requires tackling not just an individual but the system from

which that individual emerged and the flaws in that system which people perpetuate with continued unresponsiveness.

By now you have probably heard the prevalent slogans, "Black Lives Matter" and "Hands Up, Don't Shoot." These simple but poignant phrases address two major concerns in Ferguson: racism and police brutality. Advocating police accountability offers partial solutions to both.

As Michael Jeffries said in *The Boston Globe*, "The simplicity of the phrase [Black Lives Matter] is a national shame." While we struggle to figure out the degree to which Brown's race influenced Wilson's actions, Jeffries pointed out that, "Brown is described as 'it' and 'a demon' in his killer's testimony." While this does not directly indicate racism, it portrays with disturbing clarity Wilson's sense of otherness towards Brown: Wilson has stripped Brown of his humanity.

"Hands Up, Don't Shoot" addresses the police's use of excessive force. A chart compiled by *PBS Newshour* indicated witnesses agreed with high consistency that Brown put his hands up in surrender when Wilson fired upon him. At least six of Wilson's shots hit Brown, two of which impacted his head. After Brown's death, the police abused peaceful protestors.

The Ferguson police would better serve their community by wearing cameras than wearing riot gear.

According to a *Vox* article by German Lopez, "police donned riot gear, wielded sniper rifles, rode on armored vehicles that resembled tanks, fired rubber bullets, and launched tear gas – a chemical weapon banned from international warfare – into demonstrating crowds." Beyond the obvious physical harm this caused, the police's actions blew open an already perilously wide trust gap between the residents of Ferguson and the police.

According to *The Washington Post* editorial board, "Congress in 1994 told the Justice Department to collect and publish national numbers on the excessive use of force, but federal officials have never managed to do it." The system will not change without transparency.

In the past few years American police forces have started implementing body cameras and car dashboard cameras. The Ferguson Police Department owns cameras, but Police Chief Thomas Jackson

said the department does not have the money to implement the technology. The Ferguson police would better serve their community by wearing cameras than wearing riot gear.

Shadee Ashtari and Sara Boboltz said in the *Huffington Post* that police obtain military-grade weaponry largely through the 1033 program which provides "billions of dollars' worth of surplus military weapons at no charge" to police departments nationwide. The police action following Brown's death indicates a significant need for greater accountability regarding the equipment and its use. It would make more sense if police received free cameras and had to budget for weaponry according to necessity.

Similarly, Wilson's actions against Brown imply a basic need within the police force to increase officer training that focuses on de-escalating an altercation. Retired police sergeant and criminal justice

educator Peter Jirasek told *The Huffington Post* that "if you only seek to wound someone by shooting, you do not have justification to shoot at all."

I feel powerless when faced with an issue as ubiquitous and enigmatic as police accountability, but as a first step we can sign various petitions created as backlash to the police's use of force against peaceful protestors and supporting the dissolution of the 1033 program. In the long term we can pay closer attention to the bents of the politicians we vote for. Maplight, a nonpartisan research organization, has a map displaying which house representatives voted for a congressional amendment which would have effectively disbanded the 1033 program had it passed. We must educate ourselves because we have no simple or quick solution to injustice; we must vote into power politicians committed to standing with us in solidarity.

Ferguson has the power to take the media attention it has already gained and direct the attention of politicians, police, and voters alike by putting the spotlight on important conversations – racism and police accountability – so let's talk. ★

Sylvia Morrow is a senior physics and writing major.

Third Gender: A Push for Inclusion



ANTHONY BURDO

MARY STRAND

Female and male. Woman and man. American society is ruled by an overwhelming tendency to divide the human population into two distinct, polarized categories based on sex and gender. Gendered bathrooms, changing rooms, academia, government identification, healthcare and even the English language are reflective of a culture that recognizes two distinct genders. There are those, however, who do not fit into this binary structure of gender—individuals whose bodies and experiences fall outside of the male-female gender binary. This third gender is in need of recognition.

Achieving an inclusive understanding of gender requires challenging important assumptions that American

society tends to make. To begin with, one's gender is not equivalent to one's sex. While it may be determined genetically whether a human's biological sex is male or female, though intersex people are also born, gender is fluid. Gender is a culturally and socially constructed aspect of one's personal identity that does not necessarily go hand-in-hand with the genitals one is born with.

Different cultures and individuals understand third gender differently. A third gender may represent an intermediate state between man and woman, a state of being both, the state of being neither, the ability to cross or swap genders, or another category altogether independent of man and woman. In the United States, those whose personal identities exist outside of the male-female gender binary may identify as queer,

third gender, gender neutral, agender, genderless, non-gender, two-spirit—terms that are often used interchangeably or defined differently by each individual. Still, all terms refer generally to the same experience of gender as one who does not fit into the cultural construct of "man" or "woman".

Christians, as those who are called to model the life of Jesus, have a responsibility to be at the forefront of the response to the oppressed and marginalized. In that way, Christians ought to open their eyes to those in society who are routinely overlooked as they are forced to associate with a gender with which they do not identify.

The story of Philip encountering the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40, as interpreted by Reta Halteman Finger of *Sojourners Magazine*,

provides clarity to this Christian calling. Castrated before puberty, appearing beardless with a higher voice, and having been trained to take sensitive positions not typically entrusted to males, the eunuch is never referred to as a man.

Eunuchs were, thus, understood as a third gender, inhabiting a distinct space between women and men within their societies. While the position held by the Ethiopian eunuch provided him with some wealth and privilege due to his relationship with his Queen, the eunuch was routinely humiliated and rejected by the religious establishment in Jerusalem. His early castration inhibited him from societal status as a "proper male" as he lacked the ability to procreate and become circumcised—both necessities to carry on the covenant line. For that reason, despite his being a God-fearing individual, the eunuch's gender status prevented him from worshiping in the temple in Jerusalem and having a place in the religious community.

After having known a deep rejection and marginalization by the religious community, the eunuch listens carefully to Philip's words. Philip explains Jesus' life, crucifixion, and resurrection as the fulfillment of the "humiliated servant" of God described in Isaiah 53. Reading further in Isaiah to chapter 56, it is declared: "Do not let the eunuch

say, 'I am just a dry tree.' For thus says the Lord, 'to the eunuchs who ... hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters. I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.'" When the two reach a stream, then, the eunuch says, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" The answer? Nothing.

Certainly, this particular story in Acts may be interpreted to communicate other important ideas. Modern Western Christians may tend to pay little attention to the condition of the eunuch, assuming that they have never met a eunuch. Understanding the eunuch's position in society as that of a third gender, however, has significant implications on how one ought to respond to the marginalized, queer population.

Let's strive to understand all people as they understand themselves, educating ourselves about, and building open relationship with, the marginalized. Let's take steps that will enable us to refrain from forcing the human population into a two-gender system that is neither innate nor universal. Let's embrace an inclusive theology, a theology that seeks to understand and love all human beings as they are. ★

Mary is a senior intercultural studies major.

Christians ought to open their eyes to those in society who are routinely overlooked as they are forced to associate with a gender with which they do not identify.

The Hunger for Violence



ANTHONY BURDO

CORY BRAUTIGAM

Over Thanksgiving break I went to see the third movie of *The Hunger Games* series, of which I have read all three books. Since then, multiple people have asked me if I liked it, and each time I have had trouble answering. Did I like it? I don't think so; but I don't think this series was meant to be enjoyed.

It's not that the cinematography was bad or the acting was poor, but it's disturbing to see the parallels between the dystopian society imagined by the author of

The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins, and the world we live in. And surely this is, at least in part, the point of the series. However, what's more disturbing is the number of people I hear talking about how much they like the series. I'm not saying that it's necessarily wrong for someone to like it, but we need to at least understand that it is more than entertainment. It is revelatory.

If you're not convinced this is true, look to Thailand. Following the military coup in May, people began to use the three-fingered salute from *The Hunger Games* as an act of resistance to the new military-run government. This led to multiple arrests. People living in the systems of our world can relate to this story of a totalitarian empire that sends children into the "Hunger Games" where only one can come out victorious, only one survives -- these games held to display government power. This is scary.

There are many disheartening parallels to be found between the nation of Panem in *The Hunger Games*, the nation we live in, and all the powers and principalities of this world. But this is not the

The Jews would have much preferred Katniss Everdeen riding in her flaming chariot to Jesus riding on a donkey. Surely, they would not have killed her.

only evil exposed by this series. Though, it is the easiest to see. In fact, the larger wrongdoing revealed, the one I think we would do good to uncover, may be the very reason that it is easiest to see the evil of the government.

So what is this subtle evil? Violence. The will of the crowd. The most disturbing part of reading this series was witnessing my own passion to bring about justice by way of violence catch fire, so to speak.

Let me say that I am thankful to be an American. However, I was ready to throw the first stone at my nation upon reading these books, but I am now realizing that, sadly, I have both benefited from the brokenness of the system and contributed to it. I certainly

have no right to violence; and as Brian Zhand points out in his book *A Farewell to Mars*, we often think this is what freedom is: a right to violence. He goes on, in this book, to say that "violence cannot tolerate the presence of one who owes it nothing." This is a hard truth. We either put ourselves at risk of being stoned or we join in the stoning. No other options exist.

In *The Hunger Games*, the resistance to the government is formed behind the image of a warrior, a victor, a "courageous" killer, Katniss Everdeen and her three-finger salute. This symbol brings the people of Panem together against the Capitol. The Jews would have much preferred Katniss Everdeen riding in her flaming chariot to Jesus riding on a donkey.

Surely, they would not have killed her.

In the series, you see Katniss struggling with the symbol she has become. She is unsure of whether she should continue in her role as the incarnate representation of this resistance movement. In some ways she wants to be more like Jesus and his way of peace. Yet, she cannot overcome the need the mass has for her as a symbol of retaliation, and the systemic "necessitation" of violence.

As Christians we have a different symbol to unite behind, the only symbol that can unite people in peace. That is Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Through his death on the cross he has exposed the inherent evil of the violent systems of the world, the systems that put him on the cross. I think, if we are attentive to the revelatory nature of *The Hunger Games* series, we might be able to see how they also shine light on these evils. May we not worry about whether the odds are ever in our favor, but instead always choose to follow Christ down the path of peace and peacemaking. ★

Cory is a senior business and philosophy major.



The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This napkin fiasco is absolutely disappointing and disconcerting. It is frustrating that Sodexo would make such a fundamental change without even attempting to see how the Houghton community would react. While it is understandable, and even admirable, that our "food" provider is attempting to use less and conserve resources, getting rid of table-by-table napkin dispensers is not the best way to go about it. While I can appreciate the effort of trying to use less, I have seen innumerable students partaking

in the usual meals, with stacks of unused napkins resting on their tables, or being sent into the dish room because everyone at the table brings a small stack of napkins, not knowing what disastrous spillage may occur. Especially considering Sodexo deemed it acceptable to completely throw away all of the table dispensers. Now, each one of the dispensers has a retail value of about \$10, and let's say there are 50 tables in the cafeteria (a modestly low estimate), that's a solid \$500 quite literally in the trash. Could we not have donated them to a community organization, at the

very least? Ironically, this has all come to light in the midst of the Eco Rep's waste awareness week, a week dedicated to making the campus aware of exactly how much we're wasting on a week to week basis. I'm so glad we have Sodexo as such a wonderful example of what waste looks like.

Liana Wool
Class of '16

Dear Editor,

I am writing about the new napkin arrangement in the cafeteria. Recently Sodexo

has snatched away our napkin dispensers and replaced them with more centralized napkin holders. Students no longer have access to napkins while at their tables, and must leave their food and friends to venture out for a measly napkin. As a result many students have begun to "silently protest" the new arrangement by snagging as many napkins from the holders as possible -- whether they use them or not. This has led to significant waste of napkins and time. Another issue that the new arrangement has made is students often forget to grab napkins for their meal and must

make, yet another, trip to the food lines in order to grab them. The problem is aggravated by the smaller plates that cause food to spill off the edges. This has created another issue altogether -- finding a table clean of scraps. It is a shame that the new napkin arrangement has overshadowed the recent good changes that Sodexo has made. My request for Sodexo is simple; please bring back the napkin dispensers.

Bradley Oliver
Class of '15

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Artist of the Week



Joshua Duttweiler
//senior BFA
applied design and visual communications

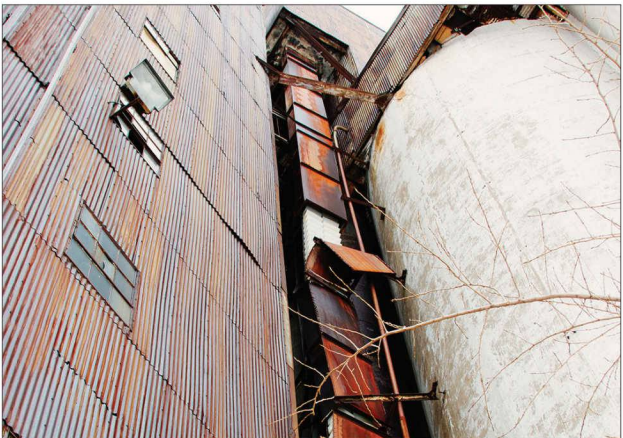
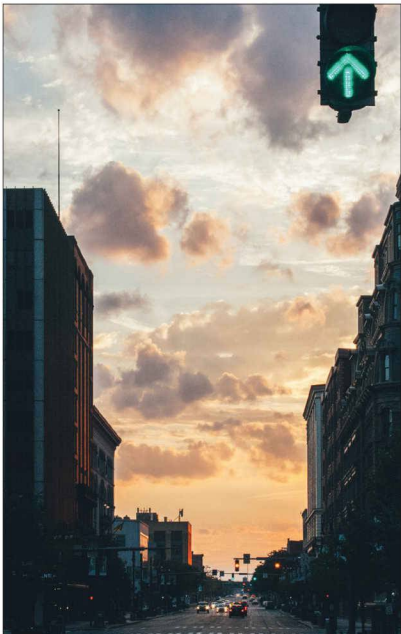
COGNIZANT

Digital Photography

Cognizant is defined as “having knowledge or being aware.” As a photographer, I have chosen to capture the world around me, increasing my own knowledge and consciousness. Photography allows me to focus my observations, as looking through a lens permits me to see in a more controlled manner.

These observations come through seeing the world around me over time, whether I am across the Atlantic or close to home. There are no answers in my work because awareness is the responsibility of the viewer: to pause and observe their own surroundings. It is my hope that by seeing my observations viewers will start to be aware of the relations and interactions that surround them, inspiring their own search for cognizance.

View Cognizant and other work in Java 101 until December 19



“ I must go to Nature disarmed of perspective and stretch myself like a large transparent canvas upon her in the hope that, my submission being perfect, the imprint of a beautiful and useful truth would be taken.” John Updike, The Centaur