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## Music Student Selected For National Conference

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

Victoria Pitre, a graduate student at the Greatbatch School of Music, was one of eight national finalists at the 2017 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) national conference. The competition for the ACDA took place on March 9 in Minneapolis.

Daniel Black, Director of Vocal Music and Conducting, said of the ACDA, "The membership is more than 20,000 representing more than one million

See **ACDA** page 2

## College Choir Kicks Off Spring Tour

ANNA SCHILKE

At seven this morning, the College Choir departed for their week-long tour of the East Coast. Their path includes performances at nine different churches and several schools.

"The College Choir tours to re-connect with Houghton alumni, engage with prospective students, promote the college to those in communities we visit, and provide an opportunity for current choir members to perform at a high level in a variety of quality performance spaces," stated Director Daniel Black. According to Black, the choir has been touring for decades, continuing the long tradition of Houghton excellence that started when Wilfred Bain founded the College Choir in the 1930's.

The tour this year is planning to make stops in a variety of states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Maryland. Per graduate assistant Ales-



FACEBOOK.COM

"I believe that part of our responsibility as Christians is to work to renew the world, to be the new Jerusalem here on earth, and that putting things of beauty, such as music, into the world, is part of fulfilling that responsibility."

sio Tranchell, the first performance will be in North Wales, Pennsylvania at a Lutheran Church on Main Street and the week will finish out with a performance

of the National Anthem at a Rochester Red Wings baseball game. Choir members will get to stay and watch the game afterwards. Of the places on the itiner-

ary, Black was most excited about performing at the New Life Church in Maryland, the Aisquith Presbyterian

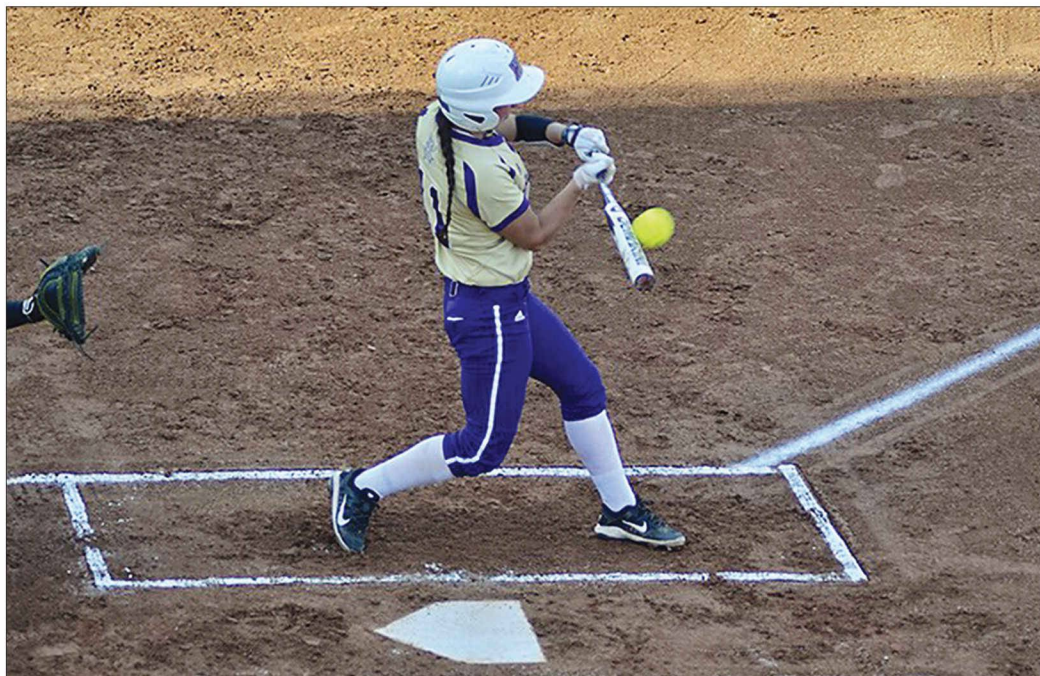
See **CHOIR** page 3

## Spring Sports Near Season End

QUINN HULL

Highlander softball snapped a six game win streak in two close losses to Utica College last week, 5-8 and 6-7. The Utica double header commenced conference play for the women, followed by Ithaca College on Wednesday and an away double header this afternoon at Elmira College. While the six-win streak was non-conference play, it was the longest streak Highlander softball has been able to string together since the program rebooted in 2012. Now in its fifth year and under its fourth set of coaching staff, it remains to be seen how the team will fare this season.

Baseball sits at 8-10, with one win and four losses in conference play. On Tuesday, the team faced Alfred State College. The team will face Empire 8 foe, Utica col-



COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

Houghton softball had its longest winning streak to date this season, but lost last week to Utica College

lege, at home this afternoon at 4 p.m., and tomorrow for a doubleheader beginning at 12 p.m.

Men's tennis turned out strong, shutting out their first

two conference competitors Hartwick and Alfred University 9-0. The men will continue their season at home tomorrow afternoon at 1 p.m. against conference opponent

Stevens Tech.

Women's tennis closed last Saturday with a loss to

See **SPORTS** page 2

## Covenant Revisions Progress

MICAH CRONIN

Edits to the Community Covenant's language regarding LGBTQ students may be formalized as early as May according to Vice President of Student Life, Rob Pool.

The language in question in the current community covenant reads, "We believe that Scripture clearly prohibits certain acts, including drinking alcohol to excess, stealing, speaking or writing profanely or slanderously, acting dishonestly, cheating, engaging in occult practice,

See **LGBTQ** page 3



# National // Reed Joins Climate Solutions Caucus



MICHAEL SIEVERS  
MICAH CRONIN

Republican Representative Tom Reed of the twenty-third Congressional district has joined the Climate Solutions Caucus, making the decision to do so on March 30.

Reed’s district covers much of the Southern Tier, including Houghton. Students, including the Houghton EcoReps, have been in frequent contact with Reed’s office, largely through the Do Something Table. The Do Something Table mobilizes students every Thursday to contact Reed and other elected officials about environmental and immigration policy. According to Student Government Association President-Elect, Sergio Mata ‘19, the Do Something Table asked students to call Reed about joining the caucus on March 23. “We do think the Do Something Table had some impact on Reed’s decision,” he said. According to EcoReps member Sarah VandeBrake ‘18, students have asked Reed to join the caucus repeatedly before

March 23. According to the Climate Solutions Caucus website, “The Caucus will serve as an organization to educate members on economically-viable options to reduce climate risk and protect our nation’s economy, security, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply and public safety,” according to documents filed with the Committee on House Administration. It is co-chaired by two South Florida representatives, Democrat Tom Deutch and Republican Carlos Curbelo. Backdropping Reed’s decision to join the caucus is National Fuel’s proposed Northern Access Pipeline, which will bring hydro-fracked natural gas from Pennsylvania through Reed’s district. The project

was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on February 4 according to National Fuel. Reed drew irritated crowds in the hundreds to his round of town hall meetings in February. The “early anger” was out of the ordinary for the consistently Republican district which heavily supported President Trump, according to NPR. EcoReps members and Mata travelled to his meeting in Fillmore on February 18. Faculty advisor to the EcoReps, Brian Webb, said the students asked Reed “face to face what he wants to do about climate change. Further action was taken by Houghton Students following the town hall meeting. On March 18-21 Mata took a group of students to Washington D.C. to lobby their senators and representatives

as part of his internship with the Friends’ Committee on National Legislation. “We talked to Reed about why it’s important to oppose cuts to Medicaid and [the supplemental nutrition assistance program] SNAP,” he said. ★  
*Micah is a senior majoring in theology.*

## ACDA from page 1

singers across the United States.” Black continued, “[The competition] has been around for many years and takes place at every national ACDA conference. For choral conductors, it is widely known.” To qualify for the competition, Pitre conducted two pieces which changed meter. “Last October, we arranged for Victoria to record herself conducting the Houghton College Choir in a twelve minute video,” Black explained. “Additionally, she was not able to work with

the choir prior to the recording so they were prepared by me. My goal was to have the choir function at a very high level so that she could spend her twelve minutes shaping the music they produce to her liking.” “Victoria’s [also] incredibly gifted when it comes to conducting,” commented Carolynne Waddington ‘19, a fellow music student. “Whenever she conducts us in College Choir, everyone responds so well. She has so much energy that just radiates off her and makes its way to us. She is so talented and the school of music is so blessed to have her.” Black went and said “The

competitors were looking at gesture, rehearsal technique, and demeanor on the podium. Each graduate student had only eight minutes to work on two pieces with a choir they had never heard before. Obviously, with that kind of constraint, efficiency in achieving one’s goals is paramount.” Chosen from over a hundred applicants, Pitre successfully secured one of the eight national finalist positions along with an invitation to compete at the conference. She is the first student from Houghton college to receive this honor, according to Armenio Suzano, Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music. “Victoria has many ac-

“It is a testament to the music program offered at Houghton College that one of our students was selected to be in that small, extremely select group,” Suzano said. “Furthermore, it reflects the unwavering commitment of the Greatbatch School of Music and our Music faculty toward excellence in all levels of music education, regardless of style or genre – from Opera, to Collaborative, to Technology, to Worship. Uncompromising, relentless pursuit of musical excellence, with solid Christian values. Victoria Petri’s ACDA competition is a validation of that mission” “Victoria has many ac-

complishments in and out of the music building. She is such a wonderful person that lights up any room she walks into,” Waddington added. “She has one of the most beautiful singing voices and I’m so happy she has been able to really show it off this year.” “Having the fact that I was a semi-finalist on my resume will be something that helps to establish to future employers that I have a solid skill set,” Pitre recognized. “Also, I had the opportunity to meet the other competitors, and network with peers who have similar strength of goal and vision for the future.★

## SPORTS from page 1

Geneva College. After making steady gains in conference play since the program was inaugurated in 2013, the women have stalled with nearly the same overall and conference records as last year. They finished 3-5 in the Empire 8 conference, and 7-8 overall. Men’s and Women’s lacrosse, both relatively new programs in their fifth season, have struggled to find their footing this year. Each team recorded a 0-3 start in the Empire 8 conference. The men face Steven’s Tech at home tomorrow at noon. The women will battle St. John Fisher away tomorrow at 1 p.m. ★



COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

Now in its fifth year and under its fourth set of coaching staff, it remains to be seen how the Softball team will fare this season.



CHOIR from page 1

Church which is the regular host of the Maryland State Boychoir, a nationally recognized group, and his own home church in Rochester.

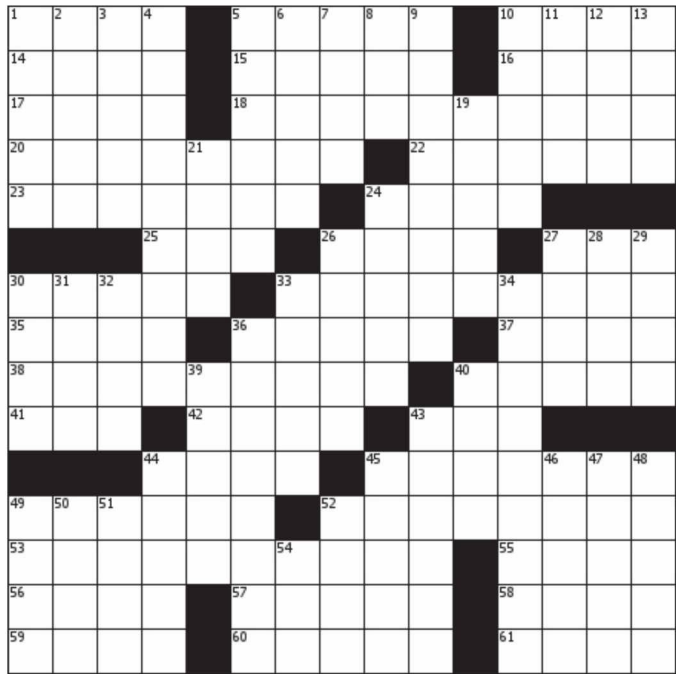
Choir members are perhaps most excited for stop the choir will be taking in New York City. As the choir tour falls over holy week (ending the day before Easter), Black had no easy task selecting songs. “I started with pieces with which I had a personal connection” he said, “and that I thought the choir would like and sing well. As the list of pieces grew, the theme that emerged was that of gratitude for the many blessings God bestows on us.” Black’s song list is a little bit of every-

thing, representing a range of styles. From Bach to Italian Madrigals to contemporary gospel pieces, few genres are missing. The set will end with the standard piece “Give me Jesus”, which is sung at the end of almost every college choir concert. Black’s theme of thankfulness splits itself into five different categories, sung sequentially throughout the program. “I identified a few categories of things for which I think we ought to be thankful,” he added, “and finished the program by finding pieces that fit into those

categories.” College choir members are looking forward to traveling together and performing. “I’ve never been on tour with the choir,” said member Gabrielle Sheely ‘19. “It sounds like a lot of fun. Members have been working on some of the pieces since the beginning of the year, and are excited to get to perform them.” “It’s a great opportunity” added Gena Hartman ‘19, another member. “What I love most about this process is that I have the privilege of bringing together

students from many different backgrounds, majors, and walks of life, in order to build something beautiful that points the singers and our audiences to Christ,” stated Black. “I believe that part of our responsibility as Christians is to work to renew the world, to be the new Jerusalem here on earth, and that putting things of beauty, such as music, into the world, is part of fulfilling that responsibility.” Dates and locations for the tour are available on the Houghton website. ★

Crossword of the Week



Across

- 1. Relatives of Mmes.
- 5. Relatives of Mmes.
- 10. Greek dairy product
- 14. Scot, for one
- 15. \_\_\_ cologne

- 16. Father of Fear and Panic
- 17. NHL penalty killer
- 18. A way to go by
- 20. Augur
- 22. Pre-euro currency, somewhere

- 23. Some doctors
- 24. Ho-hum character
- 25. “. . . \_\_\_ of thee”
- 26. It can convey action
- 27. More than is?
- 30. Express feelings
- 33. A way to go by
- 35. Duchess of \_\_\_ (Goya model)
- 36. Underlings
- 37. “. . . and the truth is not \_\_\_”
- 38. A way to go by
- 40. Small fish
- 41. Darjeeling, for one
- 42. Aesthetic, to a fault
- 43. Corp. numero uno
- 44. “\_\_\_ brillig and the slithy toves . . .”
- 45. Couple in the news each December
- 49. Some protests
- 52. It crosses the nave
- 53. A way to go by
- 55. \_\_\_ many words
- 56. Safecracker
- 57. Some still-life subjects
- 58. It’s high once a day

- 59. To be, in ancient Rome
- 60. Unthreatening, as threats
- 61. River into Donegal Bay

Down

- 1. Some escapist literature
- 2. Scouting job
- 3. Awake and aware
- 4. A way to go by
- 5. Strongly interacting particles
- 6. Praises highly
- 7. Auto-service job
- 8. Relative of Geo. or Chas.
- 9. Long Beach and Texas City, e.g.
- 10. Bogus
- 11. Ontario-Huron link
- 12. Big top
- 13. Confused
- 19. \_\_\_ Buena, Calif.
- 21. Yank ally
- 24. “John Brown’s Body” poet
- 26. May 8, 1945
- 27. Teenage problem

- 28. Actor Julia
- 29. Prefix for while
- 30. Flat float
- 31. Gen. Robert \_\_\_
- 32. Start of a magical word
- 33. Madcap comedies
- 34. A way to go by
- 36. Scratchy
- 39. Signs of drowsiness
- 40. First name among 007 portrayals
- 43. First-rate
- 44. A bit of color
- 45. Salad oil server
- 46. Man of La Mancha
- 47. Canon rival
- 48. Fourteen pounds in Brighton
- 49. Eye ailment
- 50. Riles up
- 51. Readies for sale
- 52. Recipe abbr.
- 54. Beret relative
- 67. Answer a raise
- 68. Word with box or trick
- 69. Hematite, for one

LGBTQ from page 1

and engaging in sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage (including premarital sex, adultery and homosexual behavior).” Last year, students began a petition to review this language, specifically “homosexual behavior.” President of the LGBTQ student group Philip Maenza ‘17 said this phrase “sexualizes LGBTQ students”. The petition stalled at the end of last year, though the

issue was put on the Student Government Association (SGA) agenda this past fall. A committee was formed by Student Life staff to rewrite the paragraph in question. The revision was then presented to the SGA for approval. In part, the revisions read, “...We also believe that sexual expression should be confined to marriage between one man and one woman as legally assigned at birth. Therefore, we expect members of the Houghton College community to refrain from engaging in premarital sex, adultery, and same-sex sexual behavior or dating relationships....” The proposed edits were rejected by voting members of SGA after two weeks of

public discussion. SGA then formed its own committee to propose another version of edits. The edits proposed by the SGA committee read in part, “We [Houghton College] affirm, endorse, and teach traditional marriage as between one woman and one man. Practicing Christian hospitality we remain an open and welcome community of friendship and shared Christian learning to LG-BTQA+ community members. We value and welcome all individuals, and the perspective and gifts they bring to Houghton College, while committing to live within Scriptural and Wesleyan ethics together. We expect that all community members refrain from pre-marital sex

and adultery....” SGA President, Joanna Friesen ‘17, said this language was purposed to reflect “the suggestion from a number of students that ‘no pre-marital or extra-marital sex’ be the common community standard.” This edition of revisions was approved by SGA on November 21. For any edits to be codified in the official community covenant, they must be approved by faculty, President Shirley Mullen, the president’s staff, and the Board of Trustees. Three drafts of edits have been presented to the faculty, according to Pool. “One is the original draft from the Student Life Council, one from the SGA resolution passed in the fall,

and the third is a draft proposed by a faculty member that blends a bit of both. The drafts were presented before February break for discussion and again last Thursday. The faculty moderator took a vote to narrow the options from 3 to 1 (via consensus) with plans during the next meeting to discuss any edits.” He continued, “I expect we’ll have a faculty approved draft to then be shared with the staff cabinet and then the President’s staff. With [the President’s staff] approval, it goes to the Board.” While May is the earliest the board could encounter proposed revisions, Pool said he “would not be surprised if it was an October board agenda item.” ★



# Review: Film Festival 2017

JACKSON WHEELER

Our annual Film Fest is a time to grab your best friends, put on something your parents won't let you wear to church, and celebrate the diligence and craft of our peers as each new film flashes across the wall. Kudos to C.A.B. of course for choosing professor Gaerte and Steve Dunmire to host. Both performed their duties amicably over the course of the night.

As far as the films were concerned, I will say that I was impressed. After a relatively lackluster showing from last year, and the departure of Film Fest giants like Olivia Graziano '16 and Derek Booker '16, I had relatively low expectations as far as quality was concerned. But thanks to a fresh crop of talented newcomers my concerns have greatly diminished.

The Drama category was definitely dramatic so we're off to a good start. The winner, *Between Two Pines* directed by and starring Meredith Guffey '17 follows its director through a mystical wood as she searches for a better cell phone signal. I was personally more of a fan of Jakin Rintelman 17's *Lotted*, which tracks the emotional and psychological toll that the guilt of losing a significant other has on its protagonist. Both had great bits of editing, but I do think that *Lotted* succeeded in telling a more cohesive and

engaging story even if the theme of death has been way overdone. To all future Houghton filmmakers, people do not have to die for there to be drama in a story. Death can certainly be done well, but I've been going to Film Fest for four years and in every single one there has been at least one film about the death of a girlfriend. I'm used to dogs dying in movies, #letthegirlfriendslive.

The Sorrow Estate deservedly won the Best Music award for the video of their song "Faces and Places" featuring everyone's favorite vocalist who we wish hadn't transferred out, Laura Johnson '17, and filmed by Jonan Pilet '17. Though the lip-syncing didn't always match the singing in the video it was beautifully shot and struck a nice tonal balance between the music and lyrics.

Next came Best Animation, one of my favorite categories just because of the pure creativity behind each project. And while Robert Kuchar 17's minimal absurdist project *A Day in the Life of Ian* brought me all kinds of joy, I agree with the Academy's decision to honor Emma Carpenter 18's *The Kite War* as the superior film. It had a great aesthetic and style to it. The colors were vibrant and the story was really cute; sort of like Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* if the tree was a little bit creepier.

Best Comedy went quite deservedly to *Dreamemes*. If you haven't seen it, you owe it to yourself to drop some acid and give it a watch. Any lover of



COURTESY OF KASEY CANNISTER

Winners include (from left to right) Melissa Maclean '17, Emma Carpenter '18, Lars Ljungholm '20, Ben Munkittrick '18, Jakin Rintelman '17, Emily Vandenbosch '19, and Meredith Guffey '17.

memes and frantic editing should love Benny Munkittrick 18's short film. I laughed the hardest at his, but the other two entries, *The Note* and *The League of Extraordinary Shentlemen* are both great in their own rights. This might have been the strongest category. Don't actually do acid, please.

Lars Ljungolm '20 walked away with a few awards on the night, one for Best Cinematography rightly going to *Show Reel* and one for Best Short. I'm biased in my admiration for Lars' work, but I am confident that as of right now he is the best videographer

on campus. His style is distinct and his composition of shots is unmatched, so I look forward to seeing how he matures as an artist over his next three years, even if I may not be around personally to see him at Film Fest.

If there were any snubs, I'd say that Judith Marklin '17 was one of them. *To Be Nepal* and *I Caught This Morning* specifically; these two films were gorgeous. The latter, *I Caught This Morning* had some of my favorite shots of the whole night. The diversity in locations, in lighting, in subjects; it was a mood, a special feeling that it evoked. I wish Ju-

dith had won something because considering the entirety of her body of work, it would be her films and their internationally transcendent subject matter that most closely embody the pinnacle of filmmaking that Houghton has to offer.

I wish I could describe the rest of the films in greater detail and credit the other artists for their contributions, (Melissa Maclean '17, Melissa Maclean, Melissa Maclean) but to see every film for yourself you can watch them on the Houghton College Film Fest page on YouTube.★

## College Celebrates National Poetry Month



COURTESY OF SUZANNE NUSSEY

Nussey, pictured above, is one of two visiting poets this month.

CARINA MARTIN

This year for National Poetry Month, Houghton's Department of English and writing will host two visiting poets on campus.

The first of the visiting poets is Suzanne Rhodes, a New York native who now makes

her home in Virginia Beach and teaches at the Muse Writers Center. The author of five books of poetry and lyrical essays and a finalist for the Pushcart Poetry Prize and the Library of Virginia Prize, Rhodes is currently at work on her second full-length poetry collection. She describes her work as an exploration of "the natural world with its Oth-

erness and beauty ever summoning, and the human complicated, often contradictory human self." After sharing a short on-campus poetry reading on Monday, she had dinner with students from the department and answered questions about her work.

On April 24, Canadian poet, Suzanne Nussey '74, will visit Houghton to read excerpts from her published works and sharing insights into her writing process, which she says "hope(s) to bring to light something that was previously invisible to me, to find out what some part of me already knows but has not reached the level of language." Nussey, a Houghton alumnus, has won the Nick Blatchford Occasional Verse Contest and the 2014 National Magazines Award, and has published articles and poems in a variety of publications.

Professor of English, Linda Mills-Woolsey, a published poet herself, invests great worth in the experience of hearing from accomplished and experienced authors. "The immediate value is getting to know about another writer," she said. "If you have the chance to talk to other writers, they become part of your net-

work." In the past, visiting writers have given aspiring writers valuable advice and have been open to students contacting them later for advice and feedback. This makes these events especially valuable for those who wish to enter the writing community or even consider publication.

Mills-Woolsey also emphasized the value of interacting with "people who once sat where you are sitting now," and who have learned to transfer academic truths into their lifelong writing practice. While both Rhodes and Nussey have advanced degrees, they are also women who have balanced careers, family responsibilities, and creative pursuits. While Nussey describes her Houghton education, particularly the influence of fellow poet Jack Leax, as "foundational in my development as a writer," she also said a lifetime full of diverse experiences has given her "more self-confidence as a writer, more empathy, an ear for different voices, and a real appreciation for the absurd."

Both writers have drawn on own experiences as well as poetic tradition, providing a model for student writers who have

other career ambitions. "Each of them decided not to go the full academic route, to do other things," Mills-Woolsey shared. Rather than pursuing a career as a full-time writer or professor, Rhodes remained at home to raise her children, work with various homeschooling groups, and write grade school curriculum materials, while Nussey has worked as an editor, teacher, and tutor.

"These sorts of writers are accessible," Mills-Woolsey said. "They give you useful patterns for the writing life, because not everyone is going to be famous one day." She believes that these two particular writers showcase the rewards of "keeping at it."

For those who may be unable to attend the events but still wish to hear from these exemplary poets, Suzanne Nussey offers a few words of encouragement for aspiring writers: "Expect to go through periods, sometimes seemingly unending, of self-doubt, bad writing, or no writing at all. This is pretty common for most writers I know. Pay no attention to the little devil on your shoulder who says you're a failure. Be patient."★



# Excellence in Teaching Award Given To Longtime Professor

BETHANY KUIKEN

Every year since 1990, Houghton College has selected one of its faculty members to receive the Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is intended to recognize, publicly acknowledge and reward faculty for outstanding teaching.

This year, Ron Oakerson, professor of political science, is the recipient of this honor.

Oakerson completed his undergraduate studies at Taylor University, then continued on to earn a Masters degree and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University. The end of this semester will mark his twenty-fifth year of serving at Houghton, including two years as the chair of the department of history and political science, and seven years as the academic vice president and dean of the college.

Faculty colleagues of Oakerson have “unques-

tionably” noted him as “one of the college’s top scholars.” They admire his ability to “devise new, creative, and innovative classroom experiences” that create a “remarkable” educational experience for his students.

Peter Meilaender, professor of political science, said, “Ron is a tremendously innovative teacher who has continued to experiment with new approaches. He has developed multiple new courses, and he has introduced an important element of fieldwork into his teaching.”

Oakerson is passionate about bringing students into an unfamiliar environment where they come face-to-face with issues that are only understood when experienced.

“Increasingly, I have been more interested in getting students out of the classroom,” he said. “I love the classroom, but I also think students need to come into contact with people who are immersed in doing things and accomplishing things and reflecting on how they do and accomplish these things.”

Issues related to community governance and international development have taken

Oakerson and his students to numerous communities around the country and around the world. In his course on urban governance, Oakerson has taken students to meet and talk with government officials and community leaders in Buffalo to interact with principles they learn in the classroom.

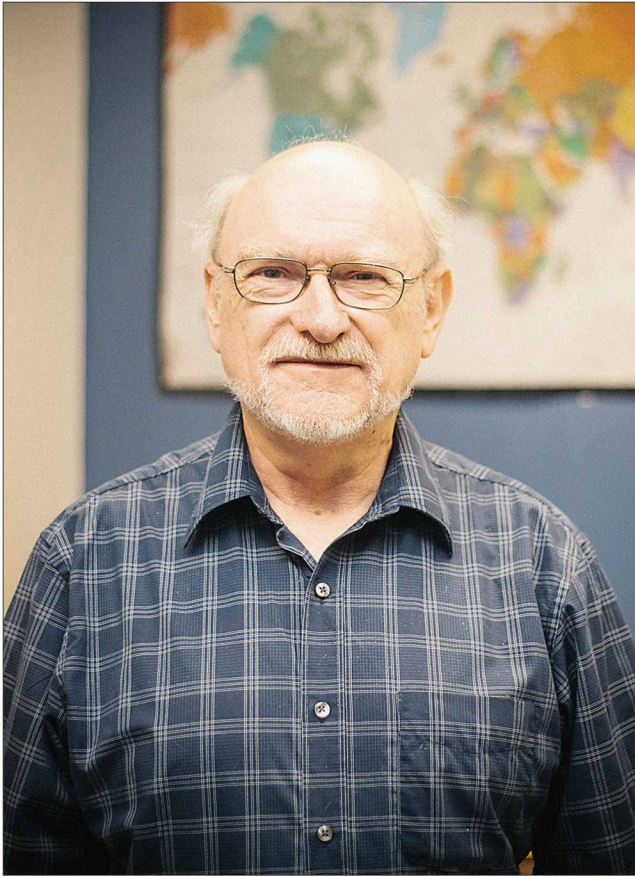
Perhaps his most well-known endeavor would be the “Mango Out-Growers Project,” a joint outreach of Houghton College and World Hope International that Oakerson has led in Sierra Leone since 2009.

In this experience, students engage in field research in the rural villages of Sierra Leone and investigate various issues that are related to development.

“For many of those students, it has been a life-changing experience,” Oakerson said.

“The ‘Mango Project’ has been a remarkable opportunity for students not only to put their political science study into practice, but also to perform Christian service at the same time,” Meilaender said.

One of the most important lessons Oakerson has learned over the past 25 years



COURTESY OF AMY TETTA

Dr. Ron Oakerson, pictured above, is the recipient of Houghton College’s annual Excellence in Teaching Award.

of teaching at Houghton has been the value of respect in the classroom. He said, “I’m sure I have not always succeeded in this, but my effort and my aim has always been to try to accord respect to students for their thoughts, their ideas, and their articulation of those ideas.”★

# Students To Present at National Research Conference in Memphis

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

From April 6 to 8, five English students and their professor, Laurie Dashnau, will take part in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Memphis, Tennessee.

Established in 1987, NCUR “is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students,” according to their official website. They welcome undergraduate students “from all institutions of higher learning and from all corners of the academic curriculum.” The conference was founded at the University of North Carolina Asheville, but it is hosted by different institutions every year. This year it is taking place at the University of Memphis. Their official statement says, “We look forward to showcasing the best in undergraduate research and the creative and performing arts

during the conference.”

In 2011, the NCUR was hosted by nearby Ithaca College, and several Houghton students learned about the event and attended. Last year, five Houghton students majoring in English and writing attended the conference when it was hosted by the University of North Carolina Asheville.

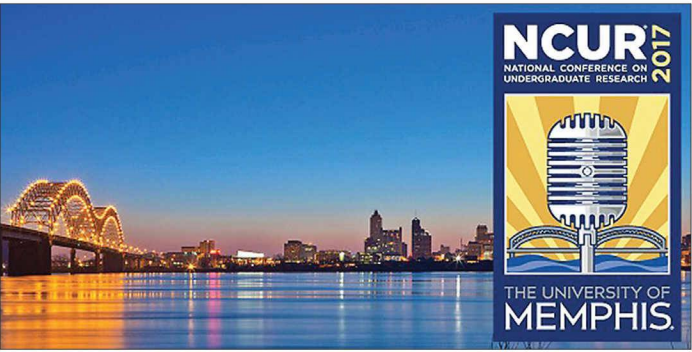
This year, five Houghton students, including Bethany Kuiken ‘18, Emma Carpenter ‘18, Emily Friesen ‘17, Alyssa Rogan ‘18, and Grace MacKay ‘17, will join over 4,000 students from across the country to share their work in the form of 15 to 20 minute presentations. Dashnau, who has overseen their research projects all semester, will accompany them.

“Their presentations are culminations of proposals they submitted last fall and independent studies done with me this spring,” she said.

Kuiken, who is presenting an analysis of the work of two modern American poets, said that she wanted to participate in order to challenge herself and learn from other students around the country. “I wanted to step outside of

my comfort zone and engage in this conference that I knew would stretch me in many ways,” said Kuiken. At the conference, she and the other students will have the opportunity to learn about research from several different disciplines. When asked about what she is most looking forward to, she said, “I am most looking forward to supporting my peers from Houghton who will be presenting and interacting with other students who share the same passions.”

Carpenter, another English student going on the trip to Memphis, also decided to attend to stretch herself. In response to why she wanted to attend the conference, she said, “I thought it would be a great opportunity to gain experience presenting my work in a formal academic context.” Carpenter is presenting on the elegy and eulogy poems of W.H. Auden, a twentieth-century writer, and will also share some poems she wrote herself in Auden’s style. Carpenter is most looking forward to learning and absorbing knowledge from other presenters. She added, “It will be a great opportunity to represent Houghton College, and to take



COURTESY OF CUR.ORG

Five Houghton students and Professor Laurie Dashnau will attend the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, which is being held in Memphis, Tennessee.

what I’ve learned here and share it with other conference attendees.”

Friesen is also going to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. She was invited by the English department, and plans to share her paper, “Joseph Beuys and the Performance of Jacques Derrida’s Writing Difference.” The paper compares the writings of Derrida, a seminal literary critic, with Beuys, a late twentieth-century German performance artist. Friesen is most looking forward to hearing from other undergraduates, and going to Memphis for the first time.

While it is her third time attending the conference, Dashnau remains excited at the prospect of attending. She thoroughly enjoys the opportunity to see her students share their work with others at the conference, and have the opportunity to present research as students in the humanities. “They now have the privilege and joy of sharing these papers with students invested in undergraduate research,” she said. “Students who are especially interested in cultivating the life of the mind beyond the traditional classroom setting.”★



# Acknowledging Complexity



MICHAEL SIEVERS

MARINA CULL

As children, most of us were probably lectured by our parents a number of times about the power of words. We’re taught to remain silent if we have nothing kind to say, that we cannot take back what we say to others, and that our words have the ability to build others up or tear them down. Through these lessons, children and adults alike come to a basic understanding of the wonder and mystery of language, that despite being a series of arbitrary symbols and

sounds, words are perhaps the most formidable tool at human disposal.

While some people might be unfazed by this discovery, I am not. I’ve long been fascinated by the impact our choice of language has in shaping not only our interpersonal relationships, but our most foundational beliefs and thought processes. Consider for a moment in some Inuit communities, there are as many as 50 words for snow, such as “piegnartoq” for “the snow [that is] good for driving sled” and “aqilokoq” for “softly falling snow.” In this case, the use of language has created an alternate perception of reality and opened up a whole other world for these communities, in which what I consider “snow” is a much more complex and nuanced matter.

Naturally, as I became passionate about international development, I began to question the language we use around poverty. Specifically, how it aids or hinders poverty reduction efforts. I soon realized that,

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“The issue is not that the poverty narrative communicated in mass media is wrong, it’s that it’s incomplete.”

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“The result is the Global South is not viewed as dynamic, thriving communities in the minds of others...”

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although poverty is a worldwide phenomenon, it most strongly affects countries in the Global South. However, international responses to it are primarily controlled by the Global North. As a result, many of the people who have the power to shape international development efforts are largely unaffected by poverty themselves, and therefore exposed to the issue primarily through mass media entities. What does this mean? The content mass media present, and the way in which they present it, is one of the driving forces behind global poverty reduction efforts.

At this point, you may be expecting me to denounce the media, arguing its representation

of poverty and the people whom it affects is incorrect. While this is certainly the case sometimes, much of what is presented in the media is not inherently false. Rather, the issue is that it falls prey to the “single story” phenomenon. This concept refers to the tendency of mass media to use such similar language, images, and ideas when communicating about these global issues, audiences form a distorted or limited understanding about them. For example, how often do we see images of unhappy children with distended stomachs, or hear about “war-torn” and “unstable” areas in news stories or films about Africa? On the other hand, how often do we see images of happy and thriving families, or hear about “successful” and “ethical” businesses?

The issue is not that the poverty narrative communicated in mass media is wrong, it’s that it’s incomplete. Unfortunately, this is lost on many people in the West who, having only ever

encountered the developing world and its inhabitants through words and images on a page or screen, accept this singular narrative as the full reality. The result is the Global South is not viewed as dynamic, thriving communities in the minds of others, but rather become that single, flat image of a haunting family outside a mud hut in a conflict-ridden area.

Now, maybe this doesn’t seem like a problem to you. But I’d argue, among Christians, it should. For how can we love our brothers and sisters around the world if we see them as being somehow worth less than us? How can we care for them if we do not understand their needs? How can we be the united Body of Christ if we see them as entirely different from ourselves? Dare to demand more from the nonprofits you support and the media you consume. Dare to demand they honor the Imago Dei in their representations of the people from every corner of the world. ★

*Marina is a senior majoring in communication and international development.*

# A Call To Proximate Change



NATE MOORE

EMILY BARRY

Donald Trump’s presidency felt real to me for the first time when, in between classes, a friend asked, “Have you heard about the refugee ban?” Having avoided newspaper headlines and successfully blocked my ears from what was going on, I answered that no, other than what had been said on the campaign trail, I had not.

I knew in that moment that I had ignored current events for a few weeks too long, and it had to stop. I spent

that afternoon researching what I had missed and learned the details of the president’s proposed policy. The original executive order suspended the United States Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days and aimed to decrease the total number of refugee admissions by more than 50% during the coming fiscal year. Furthermore, it halted the resettlement of Syrian refugees and banned refugees from Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen.

Stories of refugee families, some of whom I have had the privilege to call neighbor and friend, flashed through my mind, and I realized the sadness and disappointment I felt was not so much about President Trump as it was about these beautiful people. I was reminded of a Somali mom I once tutored, who wanted to get her GED so she could get a better job and support her children. I remembered an Eritrean man who, over a table of homemade bread and chai

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“...ask yourself what it is that you care deeply about, look at where your feet are planted and who you can serve right around you, and then do something.”

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tea, reflected, “We love Jesus, so we love other people and are kind to them.” I remembered the hours I spent playing soccer with a yard full of fifth graders. I could tell you lots of stories that I’m sure only tap the surface. From the city streets of Buffalo to the rolling hills of Rwanda, these encounters continue to challenge me.

As I read headline after headline, though, I felt powerless. After all, even politicians have few options when looking to respond to an executive order. What could I possibly do? I knew I cared about refugees, but my hands felt tied. You might ask what the point of all this is. This news broke weeks

ago. The executive order has since changed. While I would certainly argue that refugee resettlement is still important, the issue at hand goes further.

I fear that our affinity for extravagant, fix-it-all solutions has caused us to forget the value of proximate change. While macro-level responses and policies are both necessary and valuable, we cannot neglect the small responses.

In many ways, humans are limited. As a college student, I cannot force the President to rescind an executive order. People who respond to issues like climate change and global poverty are, in many ways, only chipping at the surface. We can only do so much. Still, we hope and persist. Jena Lee Nardella, the founder of the community health organization Blood:Water Mission says this about proximate change, “All our work—even if we lose, even if it is merely proximate is

worth fighting for. The world is indeed a hard place to live, and it will likely break our heart if we keep engaging with it, but we choose to hope anyway.”

My challenge for you is this: ask yourself what it is that you care deeply about, look at where your feet are planted and who you can serve right around you, and then do something. Call your congressional representatives, talk about it with a friend, attend a town hall meeting, or volunteer in your city. Proximate change might not be flashy and it will not solve everything overnight. On the other hand, if we let cynicism or a desire for grandeur keep us from starting somewhere, we might not ever start. In the small, people grow, minds are changed, and commitments are made. And to the Christian: we serve a God who is completely able, yet cares about and works even in the small. What a privilege it is that we might join him.★

*Emily is a senior majoring in political science and international development with a minor in Spanish.*

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“I fear that our affinity for extravagant, fix-it-all solutions has caused us to forget the value of proximate change.”

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# Not Statistics: People



MICHAEL SIEVERS

COLLEEN SHANNON

*As someone who appreciates trigger warnings: \*trigger warning\* this article acknowledges some realities of sexual violence that might be unsettling to read.*

At the beginning of this week, our college joined the efforts of a foundation aiming to end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse, and all other forms of sexual violence. There are millions of sponsors, speakers,

members, and volunteers across North America and Europe that facilitate and participate in similar events each year. But honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if, even immediately after the several events this week, there are people here who don't know what Take Back The Night really is.

Even if you think Houghton is a place where sexual violence does not occur, that doesn't mean it is not an issue here. One in three women worldwide experience some form of sexual violence, with one in six men also experiencing it. A significantly low percentage of victims report these crimes.

Please take a moment to realize that this means you undeniably know someone who has experienced sexual violence.

Now take another moment to realize the way you act regarding topics of sexual violence, and events like Take Back The Night, matter a lot to approximately one third of all the people you meet. Be it family, friends, roommate, dorm-mate, or classmates, these aren't just statistics, these are

people that you know. If you still think this is an issue of elsewhere, know that just by reading this article, you now know someone who has been affected by this. I endured a season of abuse as a young child in a public daycare centre. I don't say this to bring sympathy, but to encourage each and every individual here to do what they can to make this campaign against sexual violence matter more. I say it to raise awareness for the millions who've received the mark of "victim" and little else. I say it to acknowledge those who have yet to find their voice. I know what a hard journey it can be and it's important to know you are not alone.

That is why this is an issue at Houghton. Even if it didn't happen here, people here are trying to walk through that reality in their life. Even in a middle-of-nowhere, Liberal Arts Christian college. Paying heed

and contributing to efforts like Take Back The Night is a way to care for this specific hurt in the body of Christ. It tells your sisters and brothers in Christ they should not have to suffer alone. For many, this is not something that happens and then is left in the past, it can seem ever-present and insurmountable. You can equip yourself to reach gently into their isolation as a safe and concerned individual who will give them non-judgemental space to speak if they need to. Even if you can't fully understand, you can listen. Foundations like Take Back The Night give you the chance to do that.

A panel on Monday evening provided the opportunity to become more informed, especially regarding the trusted (RA, RD, Professor, Coach, Safety & Security) and confidential (counselor, Dean of Chapel, Title IX Coordinator) employees on campus you can speak to. Tuesday evening hosted a coffeehouse that provided avenues for artistic expression and a chance to listen to one another. On Wednesday, the

issue was addressed from the chapel stage and in a faculty lecture. The events concluded with a service and prayer walk. These three days can be overwhelming, but it is important we give what we can toward Take Back The Night's mission to create safe spaces, understanding relationships, and open communities that seek to end sexual violence and care for those who have experienced it.

When April 2018 comes around, I urge you to be more involved in the events organized by a small group of dedicated students here. And while this year's events have passed, there is still much you can do. In everyday thoughts and behaviors, you can become known as a safe and accepting person, someone who will listen to another's hurt and then be sure it is not the only thing you know them by. Do what you can to work against society's implicit consent to sexual violence and, perhaps most importantly, care for yourself and others with grace, hope, and love.★

*Colleen is a senior intercultural studies major with a minor in child well-being.*

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

## Letter to The Editor:

"I am what some might call ex-ex-gay." So began one of your April Fools' Day articles, a satirical op-ed "by Kristen Stewart". It's not funny.

I'll admit, there was a humorous aspect to the article. Rewriting somewhat familiar-looking articles about sexuality while swapping the "hetero" and "homo" throughout makes them sound silly. As a bonus, it gets people to question why they like or dislike certain arguments, as the arguments themselves sound so ridiculous when said in this backwards way.

However, this is clearly not the only joke present. With this aspect stripped away (that is, if you put the "hetero" and "homo" back in place), what remains is an ungenerous and intentional misinterpretation of an article that looks a little TOO familiar. The first line is clearly taken directly from my year-old article "Me, Marriage, and the Myth of Sexuality" (albeit altered slightly), and it puts the entire article in a terrible and uncomfortable light. It tells the reader, "Read this article as a re-write of Michael Carpenter's original opinion piece on the topic." With this in mind, I come off as unintelligent and backwards. My article, an attempt to be dangerously vulnerable with the Houghton public, now becomes the story of a fool who can't see past his own evangelicalism long enough to hear God calling him by his

true name: gay. At the very least, Kristen Stewart (known for playing the ditzy lead in Twilight) becomes my metaphor, a romantic who is too easily swayed by the affections or lusts I've run into most recently.

If this was not your intention, you should not have taken a sentence from my article so directly (and no, dear reader, they did not ask my permission to do so, either). This is poor satire of the worst kind. The funny aspect of this article is not worth making a cheap joke of another person. Not only that, but these words simplify and ridicule the testimony God has given me in my life, as well as those of others whom God is currently shaping in similar ways.

If this were the first time my story had been made fun of this way, I could let it roll off my

back more easily. Sadly, it's not. But more than defending myself, I write to you now to let you know you have overstepped your bounds. As the campus' only source of journalism, you have failed in this case to represent Houghton to itself honestly, compassionately, and without bias. I condemn your cynical and bullying sense of humor, your unapologetic one-sidedness, and your failure to be empathetic.

Finally, I can't help but ask: where is the LGBTQ community in this? Over and over, I have heard the beautiful call from the LGBTQ community on this campus to listen. I agree, LGTBQ community, that Houghton too often fails to take you seriously. This is why I have attended panels and talks, read articles and Facebook posts about listening to the stories of the marginalized, and taken your stories seriously. If I have been at work oppressing your voices, or have spoken words worthy of mockery and derision, I'm sorry. This letter to the editor is void, as my story deserves being made into a punchline. If not, I am hurt at your silence. I personally know many who claim membership in that community (we are not strangers), and though I'm willing to forgive, I will be especially upset if the author of this article claims such membership, too.

I recognize that, as the year reaches its end, this letter is reaching an editor who will only be there for so long. I hope next year's staff is reading this, too, then. Do better, Star staff.

Michael Carpenter '17

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2016

The Houghton  
STAR

2017

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SOPHIA ROSS // Features Editor  
MICHAEL SIEVERS // Media Director

BJØRN WEBB // Business Manager  
SUSAN BRUXVOORT-LIPSCOMB // Faculty Adviser



# Artist of the Week

Sarah Ritson

//senior art and inclusive childhood education major



MICHAEL SIEVERS



## Titles & Media

*clockwise descending*

- Capricious, *oil paint*
- Life model study, *conte pencil*
- Portrait of a Baby, *watercolor*
- Untitled, *colored pencil and ink*
- Untitled, *graphite*

“I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.”  
- Vincent Van Gogh

