

Joseph Gilligan IV

Guest at

Final Professional Dinner

MICAH CRONIN

Joseph Gilligan, IV will speak at the final Guest Professional Dinner of the academic year, hosted by the center for Vocational Opportunities and Career Advising (VOCA). Gilligan is the father of Joseph Gilligan, V '17, an accounting and business administration double major.

Gilligan and his brother, Lawrence, co founded Akadema in 1997, hoping to sell “innovative” baseball

See **VOCA** page 3

Campus Hosts Women of Worship



FACEBOOK.COM (MINDY SAUER)

Houghton alumna, Mindy Sauer '03 will return as a speaker for the Women of Worship conference

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

This Saturday, the Kerr Pegula complex will host the

Women of Worship: Refresh Your Spirit conference. The event lasts all day and features several keynote speak-

ers and an award winning musician. While the morning workshops are reserved for women, men are welcomed to

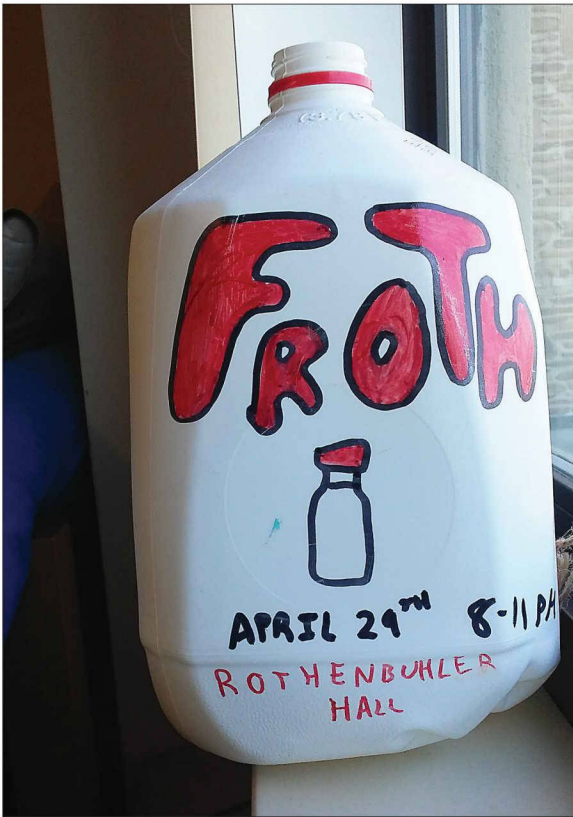
enjoy the evening concert.

Whitney Capps of Proverbs 31 Ministries will provide the opening and closing keynotes for the morning workshop sessions, which start at 10:00 a.m., according to the event’s page on the Houghton website. Capps’ personal page for Proverbs 31 explained Capps practices speaking simply and with honesty. This is an attempt to cut past what she terms the “church talk” people so often tire of hearing. In doing so, Capps expressed the hope that listeners would consider familiar texts once more and find new meaning in them.

Publisher of Gwinnett Magazine, Kelly Greer, remarked, “Whitney has a freshness and youthfulness that makes you think she’s your peer. The truth is spiritually she is wise beyond her years and works faithfully to make a positive difference for the Kingdom.”

See **WOMEN** page 3

End of Semester Events: Froth and Backyard Fest



COURTESY OF JOE MINER



COURTESY OF HANNA SIEVERS

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

There will be two events happening this evening, Froth and Backyard Fest. Both are available to all students and offer free food.

Froth is Rothenbuhler (Roth) Hall’s annual party dedicated to milk. According to the Houghton College website, the event will take place tonight from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m.

“Part of the fun about Froth is not completely knowing what to expect,” said Joe Miner, a Resident Assistant (RA) at Roth. “But, I can say that there will be lots of music, milkshakes, ice cream, and more. We will have lactose-free products as well for our lactose intolerant friends. For the most part, though, Froth is something you really need to attend to understand all that’s

Froth will take place from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. at Roth Hall and Backyard Fest will be from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Ski Hill.

See **EVENTS** page 2

International // MOAB Dropped



MICHAEL SIEVERS

HANNAH SIEVERS

Last Thursday, April 13, the United States dropped what is considered the larg-

est and most powerful non-nuclear bomb on an Islamic State tunnel complex. The bomb was dropped in Afghanistan in attempt to take action against the terrorist group ISIS.

According to CNN “A GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), nicknamed the ‘mother of all bombs,’ was dropped at 7:32 p.m. local time, according to four US military officials with direct knowledge of the mission.”

The bomb, CNN reported, was “ a 30-foot-long, 21,600-pound, GPS-guided munition.” This bomb cost “\$16 million, and more than \$300 million to develop” as stated by the New York Times. The bomb, so large it

had to be dropped from a cargo carrier, detonated before it hit the ground and could be seen from 20 miles away.

President of the United States, Donald Trump, authorized the attack and described it as a “another very, very successful mission.” Trump has handed over “total authorization” to execute operations against ISIS. While the United States authorized this attack, they have yet to release the death toll publicly or discuss the specific damage. Fox news reported, “There are under 1,000 ISIS fighters in eastern Afghanistan. Gen. John Nicholson said hundreds of U.S. airstrikes in the past two years have cut the number down by two-thirds.” Fox news also

reported, “Afghan officials say 36 ISIS fighters were killed in the strike.”

With the possibility of loss of civilian life, the White House and Military officials have stated clearly their decisions were the best option for action against the Islamic State. They have also stated their other options of a land attack would have resulted in loss of American and allies of the United States life. However, this is the third American lead airstrike since Trump took office. Previous bombings have claimed the lives of 3,471 civilians, according to the New York Times.

Press Secretary, Sean Spicer, claimed during his daily press briefing at the

White House, that the strike would lessen operational space for ISIS. The Afghanistan Government was kept in the loop surrounding the discussion of the drop of the massive bomb however the former Afghan President condemned it.★

Hannah is a first year student.

EVENTS from page 1

happening.”

Miner has been working with Jon Craton, the Resident Director (RD) of Roth, to organize the event. “However, to make it all run smoothly,” Miner added, “It will take a group effort of some Roth residents, RA’s, and our friends.”

He continued to explain the history of the odd theme, and how it returned once more to Houghton. “Froth was created in the Spring of 2015. It was a combined effort from

students who have now graduated from Houghton,” Miner said

The turnout of the first Froth was, according to Miner, a bit unexpected. “I don’t think they expected many people to show up because it’s literally a milk-themed party, but a lot of campus ended up coming. It’s one of those funny things that had no right to be successful, but was a success anyway.”

According to Miner, the event is back for it’s third year in a row because “we heard so many positive reviews.” Because it was such a success,

when Miner and Craton were planning events for Roth’s upcoming academic year, they “decided to bring it back again.”

The timing of the event is strategic for the sake of pacing events and also for the mental health of students. He said, “We intentionally planned this for the end of the semester. Most of Roth’s traditions take place in the Fall, so it’s nice to have something else happening in the Spring.” Miner continued, “Froth is great to have at the end of the semester because it’s an opportunity to let some

of the crazy out. It’s one last chance to dance your heart out, and I think students appreciate that.”

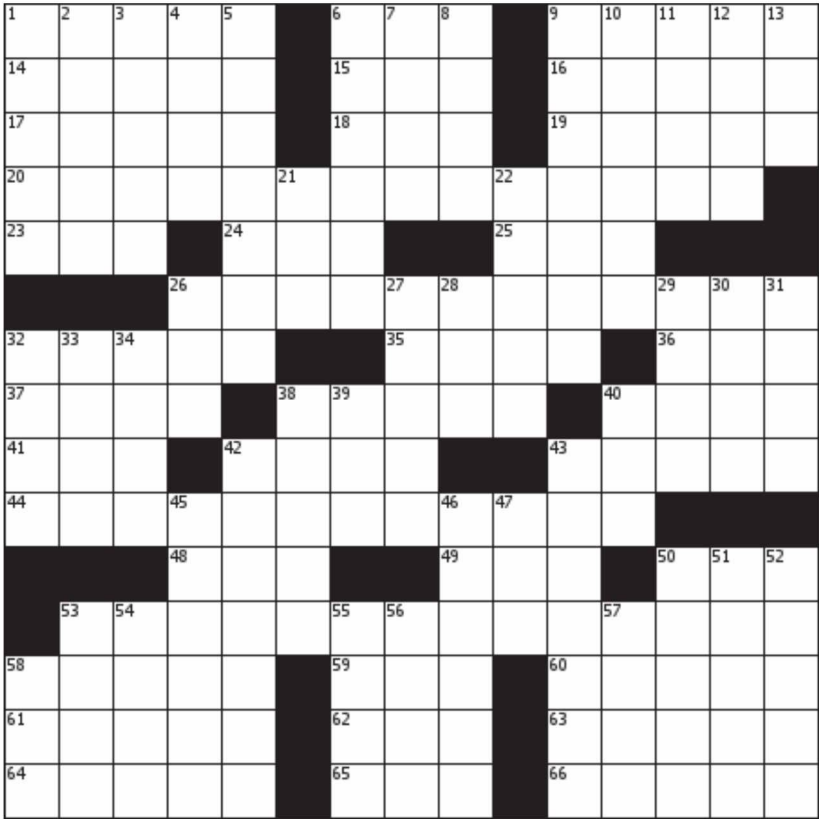
Also hosting an event this evening is the class of 2020. Backyard Fest, which will take place on the Ski Hill, will happen from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Following the backyard theme, according to the Houghton College website, the event will feature lawn games, s’mores, and live music.

Hannah Sievers ‘20, class president, explained the inspiration for Backyard Fest. “So actually I had a dream about

this event. I woke up and realized I had to throw this event, so starting in January or so I began talking to the executive cabinet and my class cabinet to get the wheels rolling.”

The class cabinet worked alongside several members of the executive cabinet to create the event. Their goal was to create a “chill hangout coffeehouse kind of vibe” for the evening.

Sievers added, “I am super excited to hopefully have Backyard Fest be an annual tradition to be carried on even after our class graduates.”★



Across

- 1. Attack from all sides
- 6. Baseball bat wood
- 9. One of Bart Simpson's aunts
- 14. In ____ (stupefied)
- 15. Milli Vanilli, e.g.
- 16. Freeze over
- 17. Form of passive protest
- 18. Shape with an axe
- 19. 1990 Swayze/Moore film
- 20. Start of a quip

23. Isr. neighbor

- 24. “ ____ the ramparts we watched...”
- 25. Daisy Yokum's middle name
- 26. Part 2 of the quip
- 32. This puzzle has 78 of them
- 35. Stops being indecisive
- 36. Coveted game show prize
- 37. Well-ventilated

38. Word with ceiling or jaw

- 40. Capitol topper
- 41. Tinseltown's Thompson
- 42. Indochina country
- 43. Winnie-the-Pooh's favorite nosh
- 44. Part 3 of the quip
- 48. “ ____ Wiedersehen!”
- 49. Throw a few 50-Acrosses
- 50. Lightning-fast punch
- 53. End of the quip
- 58. Sci-fi, for one

- 59. Trellis-climbing plant
- 60. Robin Williams' “Aladdin” role
- 61. Playful riverbank dweller
- 62. Place-kicking prop
- 63. Soothsayer's observations
- 64. Old fiddles
- 65. Cessation
- 66. Paper money44. “Do ____ others as ...”
- 46. Spike and Harper
- 47. Largest city of Nigeria
- 49. Earthy pumper?
- 52. Beasts of Bolivia
- 55. Catch red-handed
- 56. Jed's discovery
- 57. AAA recommendations
- 60. Marten relative
- 64. Earthy target?
- 67. Emperor after Claudius
- 68. Glacial sand deposit
- 69. Do a Thanksgiving Day chore
- 70. Small singing group
- 71. Boston Bay vessel
- 72. “Slammin’ Sammy”
- 73. Assist in illegality

Down

- 1. Groundwork
- 2. Enlighten
- 3. Goat-footed deity
- 4. Tony-winning basso Pinza
- 5. Weak, as a mental grasp
- 6. Cling
- 7. Seeks damages
- 8. NHL legend Gordie
- 9. Indicators

- 10. Bounced off the walls
- 11. Red Army founder Trotsky
- 12. Contemplate
- 13. Quick to learn
- 21. ____ out (relax completely)
- 22. Sends off
- 26. “You, over there!”
- 27. Sing one's own praises
- 28. FedEx alternative
- 29. Clickable symbol
- 30. Family crest inscription
- 31. Jennifer of “Dirty Danc-ing”
- 32. Juvenile Jersey
- 33. Stead
- 34. Orsk's river
- 38. Faux pas
- 39. ____ Lobos (“La Bamba” band)
- 40. Salon styles
- 42. Overlapping slats
- 43. Honeycomb shape
- 45. Comic sidekick Stan
- 46. Took orders from
- 47. He was Opie and Richie
- 50. La Toya's sister
- 51. Skirt cut
- 52. Say a benediction over
- 53. Himalayan monster
- 54. Aware of
- 55. Location
- 56. Fifty-fifty
- 57. Interoffice communiqué
- 58. Last three letters in the IRS's URL

WORD ON THE STREET



“Get out there because there are going to be really great people and clubs and you’re going to be nervous but there’s really great peopl and you just need to break out of your shell and meet them.”
Courtney Walters, Senior



“Stick to your studies right off the bat because it will make your life so much easier, especially when you get into your area of study.”
Dillon Hirsch, Senior



“Read a lot, and read widely”
Jonan Pilet, Senior



“Utilize the time that you have to do things other than schoolwork because I really regret not exploring Alleghany County, not exploring Houghton Woods. I feel like I spent a lot of my time focusing on my schoolwork and nw I’m reminenscing because I only have 25 days. So take time to actually enjoy it all.”
Kate Christy, Senior

“Find extracurricular activities that you enjoy and do them because they’re a lot of fun and they’ll help you not be stressed when school gets difficult.”
Savannah Harms, Senior



“Do your readings for your classes in your major because they will actually help for your major.”
Maddie Malda, Senior



If you had one piece of advice for underclassmen, what would it be?

“Buy and use an agenda, but don’t let it define you.”
Teira Hawkins, Senior



“To make the most of Houghton because it can be a great opportunity to commit and learn so much about life and make friendships and develop as a person or it can be a great place to hide in a crowd.”
Jazmine Nova, Senior



VOCA from page 1

gloves. Lawrence Gilligan, an All-American shortstop at the University of Tennessee and later a shortstop for both the Chicago White Sox and St. Louis Cardinals minor league teams, found that there had been “little to no innovation” in baseball gloves in decades, according to the company web-

site. This lead him to enlist his brother to roll out a new series of gloves for infield, outfield, and catcher’s mitts. In a review of the company’s products, The Baseball Diamond said the brothers “know the value of getting the input of professionals in creating the gear that the best players really want.” Further, the company is “revolutionizing the game” with its “use of technology that’s within the rules.” The small company has

taken hold of 20% the U.S. production of professional baseball gloves- a market which is largely based overseas, according to New Jersey news source, nj.com. Akadema has contracts with 30 major leaguers, including Tim Redding of the New York Mets and Manny Ramirez of the Los Angeles Dodgers. While a large part of the glove production is mechanized, the products still carry a handmade touch. Company craftsman, Mike Ratta-

casa, told nj.com he uses his mother’s wooden soup ladle to smooth out the gloves’ fingers toward the end of production. Akadema’s most successful products include the “near fingerless” Reptilian, which is designed to absorb shock and allow for easier ball transfer, according to the company’s product description. “The Funnel,” another one of Akadema’s infield gloves, is described by the company as a glove which

“naturally stays open” because of specially constructed thumb and pinky fingers. “For Akadema, it’s simple,” say the brothers. “If you want to make the best sports equipment, consult the best athletes.” Gilligan will address and network with students from 5 p.m. till 6:30 p.m. in the South End Dining Room. Students who wish to attend should register via Handshake. ★

WOMEN from page 1

The conference will also feature Mindy Sauer ‘03, a Houghton alumna, and mother of Ben Sauer, who inspired the “Blue for Ben” campaign in 2014. Throughout the tragedy of losing her son to cancer, Sauer was quoted

numerous times on how her family has found strength in their faith. Sauer will be speaking in the first session of the morning workshops. The second session has yet to have a speaker assigned. Lisa Allen, Executive Director of Proverbs 31 Ministries, will be the keynote speaking for the evening session of the conference. With a background as a Women’s Ministry Director, Allen expresses in her biography “a passion for seeing women reach their fullest potential and live their best lives.”

She emphasized recognizing how God made individuals, and how their individuality feeds into God’s calling for them. Other topics address finding ways to realize where God is working in one’s life to more fully and willingly participate without suffering from a spiritual burnout. Her biography described her as being having a “playful yet practical style gives audiences fun and profound insights that build their confidence.” Singer-songwriter, Laura Story, will provide the music for the conference’s evening

concert. She has received multiple honors as an artist, including a Grammy. Story is an experienced songwriter for other singers, including Chris Tomlin, as well as producing her own award winning works. In her most recent album, Open Hands, she focuses on the need to surrender to God’s will instead of insisting upon our own. She remarked in her biography, “The irony is the less control we have, the more peace we have and the more, I would even say, success and joy we find. It’s

a contrary picture to what the world tells us, but it’s gaining through letting go.” Also pivotal has been her role as a mother and her personal experiences of God’s grace taking shape in unexpected circumstances. Story emphasized the gravity with which she takes her work as a songwriter, recalling how God has been able to use songwriters in the Bible and more recent history for His glory. Tickets for the conference are still on sale starting at \$22. ★

2017 Commencement Speaker Announced

JONAN PILET

This year college president, Shirley Mullen, selected John Inazu to speak at Commencement. When choosing a speaker, Mullen values those who have something important to offer the graduates. She looks for someone with an ability to speak eloquently, as well as someone who can extend Houghton's connections in one way or another, either in connection with the church, the region, or the larger academic world.

Inazu is the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion and Professor of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis where he teaches criminal law, law and religion, and various First Amendment seminars.

In his Washington University biography, Inazu explained his area of study, "My scholarship focuses on the First Amendment freedoms of speech, assembly, and religion, and related issues of political and legal theory."

Inazu has written several

books on the topic including, *Liberty's Refuge: The Forgotten Freedom of Assembly*, published by Yale University Press in 2012, and *Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving Through Deep Difference*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2016.

Mullen values that Dr. Inazu is "a deeply committed Christian [who has] worked with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship." She values that he is concerned with how to create a society where people with strongly held differences can live together peaceably without compromising their personal beliefs. "Given today's increasingly divided political and theological world, this is a high priority."

Inazu comes from a prestigious academic background, including being named Washington University's 2014 David M. Becker Professor of the Year, a visiting assistant professor at Duke University School of Law, a Royster Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As well as distinguished legal experience, he clerked for Judge Roger L. Wollman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. According to Houghton's press release, he also served for four years as an associate general counsel



WUSTLEDU

John Inazu, the Sally D. Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion and Professor Political Science at Washington University, will be the 2017 Commencement speaker.

with the Department of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

Mullen sees Inazu as an ideal person, with his extensive legal and religious experience, to speak to graduates on how to navigate today's divided political and theological world.

"I believe that graduates of Christian colleges like Houghton are ideal agents or catalysts for creating this kind of peaceable society that is also

rich in ideas and reflection—as opposed to a society where everyone must think the same thing in order to be able to live together in peace—or live in fear of ideas that are different from one's own," said Mullen. "I believe this is the work of being 'salt' and 'light' as followers of Jesus Christ in our time." She continued, "In creating this hospitable space for complicated and difficult conversations, we are also

creating space for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of both believers and unbelievers to bring us deeper into the Truth."

While Mullen recognizes the most important thing about Commencement is the awarding of diplomas and the celebration with families, she added, "We want to offer on that day something of potential value as our graduates think about their future."★

Community Celebrates Arbor Day

SARAH VANDE BRAKE

In April, spring begins to feel more real as buds and flowers come out and the air grows warmer. Students spend time on the quad, lying in hammocks or studying together at tables outdoors. Houghton College has planned an Arbor Day Community Festival with many events and activities to facilitate involvement during this season of renewal. Earth Day and Arbor Day invite celebration of the Earth in its springtime beauty, as well as conversations about the environment.

On Monday April 24, Houghton plans to host an Arbor Day chapel on the quad. Sustainability Director, Brian Webb, said this is most likely the first-ever outdoor chapel in Houghton's history, and if weather permits, the experience will

be unique. The speaker will be Ed Brown, an ordained minister and the executive director of an organization called Care of Creation. According to the Care of Creation website, Brown is "a talented writer and public speaker" who has traveled overseas for missions work and to spread his "deep passion for Christian environmental stewardship." Webb said, "Ed Brown is one of the forefathers of the modern creation care movement."

According to Webb, the outdoor chapel service is part of a wider revival of the tradition of celebrating Arbor Day in community. Webb said that Houghton had Arbor Day celebrations for decades, though it has now been close to 15 years since this tradition was part of campus life. The Arbor Day Festival on Monday will include between 15 and 20 opportunities to participate in service projects on campus throughout the day. "The basic idea is to give faculty, staff, and students an ex-

cuse to be outside and do some hands-on projects around the college," Webb explained. He encouraged everyone to participate in projects like "planting pear trees, raking leaves, painting, laying new pathways, and trail maintenance." He added, "I think that the Arbor Day Festival will be a really cool opportunity to get everyone engaging with one another and get the community more involved."

The final event of the festival provides another chance to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day outdoors. "We're ending the day with an outdoor community picnic on the quad to encourage the community to come together," Webb said. This event will include food, games, and the presentation of the first annual Caretaker of God's Creation Award. A campus-wide email explained this award "aims to recognize two individuals (one student and one faculty or staff member) who actively incorporate creation care and biblical earth

stewardship into both their personal lives and their participation in the Houghton College community." The outdoor picnic will last from 5:00-6:30 and is free to attend.

Lexi Wilkas '19 expressed excitement about the upcoming festival, "I love how there's a way for everyone on campus and in the community to be involved. It's both a fun and meaningful way to enjoy the world we live in." She added, "I'm definitely pumped for the picnic celebration!"

In addition to hosting the Arbor Day Community Festival, Houghton plans to participate in international efforts to be involved with the environment. Eleven Houghton students will attend the People's Climate March in Washington, D. C. on April 29, according to Daniel Bellerose '17. Bellerose attended the People's Climate March of 2014, which occurred on the eve of the UN Climate Summit. He said, "It was an amazing experience. It

was powerful to be marching united with people from different backgrounds." He also described how individuals from countries made vulnerable by climate change such as the Maldives and Tuvalu marched in a group to increase awareness of their situation. Webb, who helped organize a larger group of about 80 evangelicals who will be present at the march, said, "This is the first time that I know of that such a large group of evangelicals has intentionally marched for climate change." Houghton students and the other evangelical marchers will participate in the planned march in D.C. along with an estimated half a million people, and will stay afterward to lobby representatives of congress and senate. Bellerose, who helped organize Houghton's involvement in the 2017 Climate March, said he is looking forward to the march as an energizing event that will "get people excited about these issues again."★

The Giving Tree: Class of 2017 Senior Gift

SOPHIA ROSS

When the beloved Tree of Life in Houghton’s Field of Dreams was struck down by lightning last summer, its demise was given tribute by Houghton community, alumni and students alike all over social media. In response to the loss, the class of 2017 has decided to make its class gift a tribute to the tree. According to an official letter sent by the class of 2017 cabinet to senior class members, their gift will be to plant a seedling from the original Tree of Life, and install rock benches for outdoor seating around the new tree.

Prior to the announcement, the senior class had the opportunity to vote between planting the seedling and placing a fire pit near the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex (KPAC).

“We came up with the idea by brainstorming things around campus that we have noticed which could be improved to be more useful to future students,” said class president Sarah Kopa ‘17, when asked how the cabinet determined these options.

“We also really wanted a gift that would have meaning to our class and the things we have experienced together. From there it was narrowed down based on what was possible both to implement on campus and was also affordable.”

Class gifts have been an on and off again tradition at Houghton. According to Daniel Noyes, Regional Director of Development, the first recorded class gift was the class of 1925’s gift of the memorial outside Fancher marking the birthplace of Willard J. Houghton. Other class gifts current students might recognize include the swing set by the Paine building, the Christmas tree outside the Campus Center, and the study abroad road sign outside of Chamberlain. For the class of 2017, the Tree of Life has seemed like a possibility for their class gift since the beginning of the academic year.

“From the very beginning of the Fall semester, the cabinet kept returning to the idea of the Tree of Life and how we could incorporate that into the senior gift,” said class cabinet secretary Teira Hawkins ‘17. “There were some ideas to use the wood from the original tree but the logistics and finances were much more intricate than a class could afford to do as a gift.” She continued, “Originally we had planned on



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTON

The Class of 2017’s senior gift will be to plant a seedling from the original Tree of Life, and install rock benches for outdoor seating around the new tree.

buying a seedling to put in the area of the Tree of Life but when administration heard of our idea, they informed us that they actually had some of the original seedlings, which is fantastic because it would have so much more sentimental value, and would allow us to purchase more benches.”

According to Kopa, planting the Tree of Life seedling does

connect directly to the class of 2017’s experience at Houghton.

“We were the last class to have the Tree of Life be a part of the majority of our time here,” said Kopa. “My hope was that the class would feel connected and united by our gift, and I think this gift accomplishes that.”

While the logistics for planting the seedling have yet to be

confirmed, Kopa said that the rock benches have already arrived, and the cabinet hopes to place them after Easter Break. The cabinet also encouraged their class to help finance the gift through a pledged donation of \$20.17. Seniors who give before May 1 will have their donation commemorated in the Commencement program.★

Annual Senior Show Opens

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

On Tuesday, April 18, the Ortlip Gallery opened the annual Senior Show, an art exhibition dedicated to showcasing the work of students graduating with art degrees. This year, there are 12 seniors being recognized for their work, including Hannah Banks ‘17, Michael Carpenter ‘17, Thomas Rhett ‘16, Andrew Foster ‘16, Emily Friesen ‘17, Marta Gowett ‘17, Meredith Guffey ‘17, Kimberly Logee ‘17, Jill Magara ‘17, Sarah Ritson ‘17, Jennifer Zacchigna ‘17, and Rachel Rava ‘17.

According to the director of the Ortlip Gallery and assistant professor of art and printmaking, Alicia Taylor-Austin, these 12 seniors have spent this year preparing works for the show, along with writing a thesis paper to address the ideas that went into their pieces. She said, “This thesis is a part of the grade for their senior studio class, but

the exhibition itself is not, since showing in the gallery is a privilege that they can attain, but not a requirement for completing the program.” Taylor-Austin has met with the seniors a few times to go over their exhibition proposals. “I’ve also viewed their work in progress over the spring semester and given feedback,” she said.

Carpenter is showing over a dozen digital photographs and a deck of cards he designed. “The work is all related, and about one subject, which I’ll leave you to see at the show,” he said. “I will say, though, that you can play cards in the gallery with the deck I designed.” He expressed excitement for the campus to experience the hard work done by him and his fellow classmates. He added, “I hope our work sparks conversations and new ideas within those who see it.”

Zacchigna is showing a collection of 12 pieces in watercolor and ink. She said, “They mostly depict abstracted natural objects, such as flowers, nature scenes, and human figures.” In regard to the planning that went into the show, she discussed the process of choosing work and getting it approved by the art faculty.

“We had to create a layout plan for how our work would hang in the gallery,” she continued. “We learned how to frame, prepare, and hang our pieces properly.” Zacchigna is most looking forward to the opening reception of the show.

Gowett is showing a single installation piece made of found objects, fabric crafts, and ink. She said, “This semester has been very different for me, as I usually work in 2D materials such as pencil or charcoal drawings. As such, a lot of the planning that went into the show started back at the start of the spring semester, when I began gathering material for the installation.” Gowett is looking forward to seeing everyone’s reactions to all of the different artwork that the seniors have made.

Magara has one installation piece titled “Let Myself Feel” and one sculptural piece titled “Beauty From Dust.” Both pieces include ceramics, and the installation includes photographs. She will also have an assortment of functional ceramics in the atrium. “I had to plan a ton to make sure things were gallery ready,” she said. “I’ve also been doing tests



MICHAEL SIEVERS

The opening reception for the annual Senior Art Show will be held in the Ortlip Gallery on Friday, April 21 from 5-7 p.m.

all summer to get my ceramic pieces to look the way I wanted them to.” Magara is excited about having her friends and family be able to see her pieces, and the culmination of four years of work.

Foster will show a few drawings, as well as several stoneware bowls. He talked about the work that went into getting the show ready. “We have to select what we think is both our best work, and what works best as a whole group” he said. “Then we have to

submit a proposal to the gallery director, who divides up the gallery into sections for each of us to display our work.” Foster looks forward to showing artwork which is a result of a full year of creating his own art, as opposed to assigned work.

The opening reception for the exhibition is on Friday, April 21 from 5-7 p.m., and will remain open for visitors until May 13, the day of Commencement.★

On Respectful Disagreement



MICHAEL SIEVERS

AVA BERGEN

This past March, Middlebury College in Vermont hosted the controversial political scientist Charles Murray as a guest speaker. Murray has been decried as a “white supremacist” in light of his book *The Bell Curve*, which arguably supports scientifically-defended racism. The Southern Poverty Law Center calls Murray a “white nationalist” who “believes in the intellectual and moral superiority of white men and advocates for the elimination of welfare and affirmative action.”

Clearly, some of Murray’s expressed views are contentious at best and extremely harmful at worst. But does he retain the right to speak, and engage in respectful discussion in an academic setting?

Middlebury students, evidently, did not think so. Groups of angry students protested his talk, turned their backs to the stage and yelled out organized chants over his words. When college administrators moved the talk to another room to be broadcasted online, protesters pulled the fire alarm and cut off the connection. Afterwards, protesters followed Murray to his car, rocked, hit, and even jumped on the vehicle. This violent display by upset students is shocking. Yet, I couldn’t help but be reminded of our own community’s response to Julian Cook’s chapel this past February. I want to be clear: I’m not arguing that those who walked out of Cook’s chapel are the same as

“Regardless of whether or not you disagree, Julien Cook deserves to be listened to. He had the chapel floor.”

the violent demonstrators at Middlebury.

Yet, their similarities must be observed. Both of these actions (walking out, pulling the fire alarm) carry messages of outright disrespect, regardless of one’s personal opinions concerning either issue. The message implicit in both protestations are clear: “I refuse to listen to your wrongful opinion,” and in both instances the rigid unwillingness to listen prevented any genuine (and potentially enlightening) dialogue to take place.

I was embarrassed and angry as I watched members of our Houghton community walk

out of Cook’s chapel. I was even angrier when a student sitting in front of me jeered and made a public show of putting in headphones while Cook laid bare many of his fears and hopes. I find this unwillingness to entertain other perspectives, evident in both the reactions to Cook’s chapel and the Middlebury protests, deeply disturbing.

I personally disagree with Charles Murray, and probably agree with the opinions of some of the Middlebury protesters. Yet I am appalled and horrified by their actions. They had a rare opportunity to engage and listen firsthand to a recognized figure with whom they disagree. What better way to deepen their knowledge and learn to argue respectfully, and what better context than an academic setting?

I am proud of our community’s attempts to facilitate open discourse. But we cannot have open discourse if we ourselves are not willing

to be open. This means we must relinquish our claims to absolute moral superiority against an unrighteous other. I heard several reasons for walking out of Julien Cook’s chapel, one of which stated that Cook was saying hateful things against the police and was expressing racism against white people.

Regardless of whether or not you disagree, Julien Cook deserves to be listened to. He had the chapel floor. Disagreeing with his message does not justify the insensitivity and downright rudeness of leaving in the middle of his talk. It is your choice not to listen. It is your own choice not to learn. But something changes when your actions hurt other people. Though leaving chapel is not as extreme as jumping on a car, it sent a message to everyone attending chapel that day: “I do not respect voices that are different from my own.” And that, in this college where we are privileged to interact with diverse opinions every day, is unacceptable.★

Ava is a senior majoring in English and communication.

“I find this unwillingness to entertain other perspectives, evident in both the reactions to Cook’s chapel and the Middlebury protests, deeply disturbing.”

Reflections On Discomfort



MICHAEL SIEVERS

KIRSTEN BRADY

The summer before my freshman year I promised myself that I would be more honest with myself and others. I didn’t make this promise because I have a history of being a pathological liar, or because I avoided the truth at all costs. I made it because it’s important to understand the reasons behind our actions.

I haven’t always made good on that wager. Sometimes, I have run in the opposite direction with

as much anger and spite as I could muster. I would give into a thirst for solitude, this need to be alone to think, alone with God and no one else. There have been times when I didn’t want to listen to someone who was hurting or even love them enough to just be present with them. These times were extremely uncomfortable. They weren’t picturesque moments of re-commitment that led to an immediate shift in behavior or the overall quality of my life. These moments were raw, sloppy, covered in tears, bookended with grace, and maybe even a twinge more of peace or happiness.

I’m writing this because Houghton isn’t perfect, neither am I, and neither are you. We all fail at cultivating an authentic sense of honesty with one another and with God at some point or another. If I have learned one lesson my entire Houghton career, it would be that you grow

“We make the mistake of believing that God is calling us to some life-changing, sin eradicating moment that will somehow define our identity.”

when you are faced with the uncomfortable. Not the discomfort you feel after eating Sodexo, or the disappointment you feel when your Big Al’s bucks run out. This isn’t small discomfort, but rather the uncomfortableness of hearing something you don’t agree with in chapel, reaching out to that friend who hasn’t been there for you or vice versa, maybe the uncomfortableness of being alone. Whatever it is, being uncomfortable can be a good thing if you are willing to dig deeper to the root of your discomfort.

We make the mistake of

believing that God is calling us to some life-changing, sin eradicating moment that will somehow define our identity. We want change to be immediate. I’m not saying this is beyond God’s power, it’s not. But many of us fail to see that God has called us to do small things here and now because we have become too distracted by the possibilities of doing something great in the future. We are called to higher standard than straining toward what may happen or being stuck on what has happened, we are called to love and listen to those who are hurting. This doesn’t mean you must agree, it doesn’t mean it will be easy, and it certainly doesn’t mean you’ll be comfortable. To be willing to sit through a chapel that makes you squirm and deeply challenges you, or to go and have that conversation you’ve

been putting off will be filled with uncomfortableness, but it will make you grow.

Go, sit through a challenging chapel, even if you’ve already received all 28 chapel credits. Go to an SGA coffeehouse on a talk you don’t understand. Have a conversation with someone you’ve been avoiding. Listen to people who are hurting and how you can help them, listen to how you can learn to love better, even if you don’t agree. Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Be uncomfortable.★

Kirsten is a junior majoring in communication with a concentration in media arts and visual communication.

“If I have learned one lesson my entire Houghton career, it would be that you grow when you are faced with the uncomfortable.”

Getting Past Polarization



MICHAEL SIEVERS

SARAH VANDE BRAKE

A few weeks ago, President Trump signed an executive order that nullifies Obama-era environmental efforts and seeks to revive the coal industry. While it is not an official exit from the Paris Climate Agreement of 2016, this executive order will make it impossible for the U.S. to meet clean energy goals. What disturbs me most about this executive order is its arbitrariness. It is a political statement, nothing more. It only serves to further polarize and impede bipartisan efforts to

find solutions to climate change. When we communicate about the environment simply as a political issue, we undermine the people and places affected by its degeneration.

Throughout President Trump’s campaign, he vowed to repeal the Obama-era Clean Power Plan and prioritize fossil fuel industry jobs over renewable energy jobs, a statement that appealed to many conservative voters. Though they applauded the executive order, most coal miners do not expect the coal industry to return to its peak due to dwindling reserves and market forces. This executive order’s purported victory is therefore almost entirely symbolic, but its effects will be real for the environment and the U.S. as a country. With the way cleared for the fossil fuel economy, environmental regulations that protect our health and our resources are tossed aside.

The environment has long been a political pressure point in America. Climate change

and conservation efforts have been cast as liberal issue. Friction between conservation efforts and corporate interests have reinforced that idea. However, this is an illusion, since environmental issues represent threats to just as many conservative values as liberal values. According to the U.S. military, climate change poses a significant threat to national security. Loss of crops due to climate change damages regional and national economies, which in turn threatens the job market. This shows that our words and actions surrounding issues of the environment have a direct impact on the environment itself. When people accept the idea that caring for the environment is solely a liberal cause, they miss some basic realities.

Why are we divided? On

“While both liberals and conservatives are out attacking political symbols, our real Earth and real, vulnerable people are suffering.”

this one, we really can’t afford to be. While both liberals and conservatives are out attacking political symbols, our real Earth and real, vulnerable people are suffering. Some claim climate change is a hoax, and others delude themselves into thinking since they believe in climate change they are not part of the problem. Both ignore what we have in common, and make working together for positive change difficult. We are all inheritors of this Earth and its problems.

This polarization surrounding environmental issues discourages me, but there is hope. For the past few months, I have been calling Republican Congressman, Tom Reed, about climate change. Congressman Reed, I might add, is an avid supporter of President Trump. At first, I didn’t understand how to communicate about environmental issues with someone who I assumed would dismiss me out of hand. I kept trying, however, even attending a town hall meeting that involved standing outside in the mud for three hours surrounded by a hundred shouting people. I respected the Congressman’s

calm demeanor during this event, yet I was bewildered and disappointed to see many liberal constituents and the conservative Congressman essentially speaking different languages on some issues.

I didn’t give up on trying to learn to communicate more effectively, however, because I believe we have more in common than we are led to believe. A month ago, I was encouraged to learn Congressman Reed had signed onto the Republican Climate Resolution, which states climate change is a legitimate threat that requires action. A few weeks ago, I experienced something even more concretely affirming. After calling Congressman Reed for months asking him to join the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, I received the news that he had done just that. Cooperation is possible! We can think rationally about the environment and listen to people instead of allowing political stereotypes to control our behavior. We can accomplish things that benefit all of us.★

Sarah is a sophomore majoring in English and environmental biology.

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.



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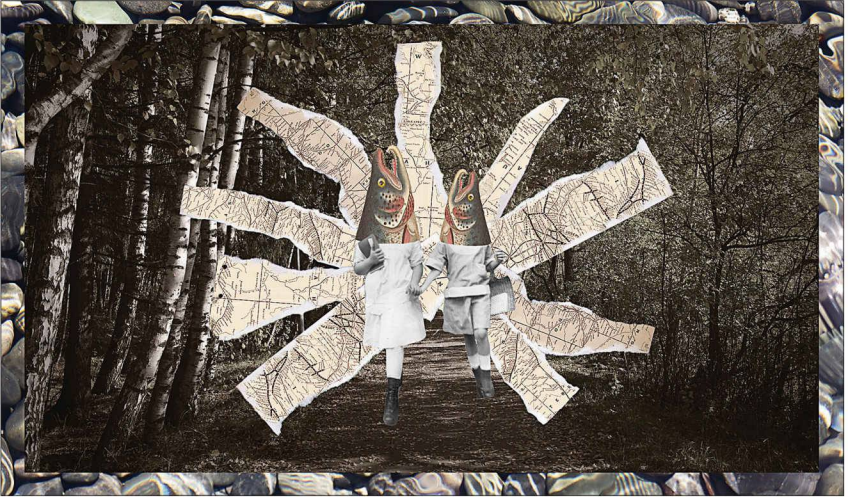
Artist of the Week

Kim Logee

//senior art and communication major with a minor in writing



MICHAEL SIEVERS



Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Solace in the Long Run, *digital collage*

Fresh Start, *digital collage*

Brittle, *artist's book*

Tell Us of Us, *digital collage*

First Roots, *artist's book*

Sister, Sister, *digital collage & mixed media*

