



THE HOWARDS: A HOUGHTON LEGACY | *FEATURES*, P. 5

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FTD. ED: SELFLESSNESS AND HUMILITY IN THE NCAA |
OPINIONS, P. 7

INT'L STUDENTS AND BREAKS |
FEATURES, P. 5

ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
EVAN CASTLE *FEATURES*, P. 8

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College Reviews Performance With Decennial Review



Fancher Hall LUKE LAUER

JORY KAUFFMAN

Every ten years, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) requires Houghton College to conduct an extensive review on different aspects of the college. Houghton completed its last review in 2005; the next, already in progress, will reach completion in 2015.

The review is labeled a self-study,

conducted by Houghton for the benefit of Houghton. The MSCHE website describes the review as "a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association" and contains a manual asserting the commission's fourteen "characteristics of excellence" that affiliated institutions strive to meet.

Each institution is required to create a missions statement. Each

See *REVIEW* page 3

Sodexo Opts for Local Food Suppliers

MIRIAM HARMS

Sodexo has recently made an effort to use locally- and regionally-produced and grown foods. Within the last school year, over 23% of the produce served in the dining hall, from potatoes to lettuce, was grown within 250 miles of Houghton. Despite a decrease in students, there has been a steady increase in the local and regional produce being served.

However, there is a limit to the local places from which Sodexo make purchases. For instance, there are guidelines that prevent Sodexo from purchasing food from farms that have not gone through a process of meeting safety regulations. These regulations help companies track the source of contaminated foods as well as other routine safety measures that benefit consumers' health. Tina Powers, general manager, stressed that Sodexo loves the small farmer and small businesses. These are the places that are making new things and doing it with quality. A large company like Sodexo has the means to purchase large amounts of product that can greatly benefit a local economy.

Many of the gluten-free products

available in the dining hall comes from a shop in Ithaca, NY. All of the dairy products used by Sodexo at Houghton are from a local company. Sodexo is also willing to work with any small farm that wants to make the transition to become a Sodexo supplier. For example, Powers shared an anecdote of a sunflower farmer who wanted to sell his sunflower oil to Houghton and they helped him make connections with the people who could help him be inspected and regulated. However, when safe, sometimes Sodexo finds ways to work around the strict guidelines. During homecoming, Powers went out and purchased bags of potatoes from a local farmer to make the dining hall's salt potatoes.

Two students who have worked for Sodexo for multiple years expressed the significance of local foods and in-house processed foods in the dining hall's offerings. Emily Raczelowski, junior, sees the value of using more local products in its reduced cost and reduced environmental impact because of transportation. Jonathan Hardy, senior, said,

See *SODEXO* page 3

Houghton Pops Cancels Activities for Semester

JONATHAN HARDY

Two weeks ago Houghton Pops Orchestra (HPO) director Nathaniel Efthimiou (class of '14) informed the members of the Houghton Pops orchestra that he and the board had decided to cancel the concert scheduled for the 22nd of this week. The performance planned for next semester is still planned for; however, there will be no performances by HPO this semester. "We simply didn't have the resources or personnel this semester," said Efthimiou concerning the decision.

HPO has faced a number of challenges this semester which, in the end, proved to be too much for the orchestra to overcome. One reason given by Efthimiou for the cancellation this semester was the music the group was forced to choose. "Our budget this semester was zero dollars," said HPO president Ian Love, senior. "We had to use scores borrowed from the Philharmonia library," said senior clarinetist Toni Bliemeister. "With the size of our group we just couldn't pull some of them off. And most of it just isn't us. It's not music HPO

should be playing." As a club, HPO is still in the "provisional" stage, making SGA funding requests somewhat unclear. Next semester, however, they are scheduled to be approved as an official club. Orchestra members are hopeful this will allow the club to put on a more cohesive and accessible concert.

Another issue causing the concert cancellation is the extremely small size of the orchestra this semester. "We have more cellos than violins this year," reported one member. Other commitments and schedule conflicts have made it difficult or impossible for past members to participate. Some former members are student teaching or studying abroad while others simply do not have time. "With the musical this semester and everything else I just didn't have time," said cellist Chad Sell, sophomore, who starred in the HMTP production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* earlier this semester. Efthimiou also had other commitments which took away from HPO, including conducting the pit orchestra for a musical as

See *ORCHESTRA* page 3

Buddy's Place Now Open for Business



Buddy's Place is located on Route 19. LUKE LAUER

GRETCHEN REEVES

This past November 9th saw the opening of yet another venture aimed to bring more business to the town of Houghton. Buddy's Place, which had its first open house then, currently offers spaces for rent to community members, students, and other interested renters in the area to retail arti-

san crafts and other goods. Although the establishment has received support from the Houghton Group, a collection of professors and community members interested in bringing business and further economic development to the Houghton area, the venture itself was spearheaded by Ralph Kerr, Houghton

See *BUDDY'S* page 3

WORLD // Venezuela’s Maduro Receives Special Powers



LUKE LAUER

CALEB JOHNSON

Venezuela’s president Nicolás Maduro received special powers from the country’s National Assembly on Tuesday in a bid to tackle corruption and a spiraling economy. Maduro’s powers, authorized under the Enabling Act, allow him to rule by decree without consult-

ing Venezuela’s Congress for twelve months. According to Reuters, Maduro is already planning on implementing two laws very soon. One will limit businesses’ profit margins from fifteen to thirty percent as part of an “economic offensive” against price-gouging. The other would create a new state body to oversee dollar sales by Venezuela’s currency control board. The laws are a response to a growing demand for hard currency in Venezuela’s black market after the Bolivar fuente, the national currency, hit an inflation rate of 54 percent. Although a member of the oil cartel OPEC, analysts believe that not even the country’s oil revenues can cushion the blow of years of economic mismanagement. Maduro’s predecessor, the late Hugo Chávez, used the Enabling Act to nationalize large portions of Venezuela’s oil industry all in the name of socialism. Under his command, Chávez used the oil revenues to buy votes among the poor with handouts such as refrigerators and reward those who supported his policies. Maduro, as Chávez’s hand-picked successor, has vowed to continue the socialist revolution in Venezuela and punish those he has

coined “barbaric... capitalist parasites.” According to the Washington Post, dozens of business owners were arrested after being accused of speculating and hoarding supplies as the country faces severe shortages of basic goods, including bananas and toilet paper. Soon after, Venezuela’s government slashed prices at appliance dealers, auto-mechanic stores and toy shops, prompting a rush on businesses across the country as shoppers hunted for bargains. Along with fears of further damage to Venezuela’s economy, critics claim that Maduro will also use his special powers to silence critics of his rule in the name of anti-corruption. According to the BBC, Maduro’s powers come just before local elections in the country on December 8 and members of the opposition parties in the National Assembly fear Maduro will target them in order to consolidate his regime’s hold on power. Reuters reports that Maduro’s “war on corruption” has already led to the downfalls of an opposition advisor accused of running a transvestite prostitution ring and an opposition legislator stripped of parliamentary immunity for allegedly mismanaging

a state-owned stadium. Maduro’s opponents say that he should be chasing military generals and other senior officials they blame for turning Venezuela into a major supply route for Colombian drugs. But the government denies this is the case, saying that narcotic seizures are on the rise. Political analyst Luis Vicente León believes that Maduro is trying to follow in Chávez’s footsteps and “demolish the idea that he is weak.... He does this with populist actions that can connect him to the people.” Whether or not Maduro’s special powers will be a benefit to his rule and help him to connect with many poor Venezuelans who supported Chávez. Unlike Chávez, whose fiery, charismatic temper helped him to sustain vast support among Venezuelans despite a bad economy, the less bombastic Maduro has struggled to maintain a fraction of this support. ★

Caleb is a senior international relations and history major.

WORD ON THE STREET

“My first reaction on seeing the Star last week was that it reminded me of the April Fools’ issue because it was so diverse in the topics. Some of them seemed kind of silly to me, but I think it is interesting that these students want to get their opinions out there for discussion.”

--Veronica Gerace, sophomore



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

“I don’t agree that the rules should be changed. We are at a Christian college and we come here to do work. I don’t think you should come to college thinking that your door should be shut because you might say trust is okay, but you shut that door, all these things are going to go through your head, things you might want to do, and it’s not what you came here to do, really. You came here to study, to get a degree. You have many more years to do all that stuff you want to do.”

--Travis Trotman, freshman

“I thought it was a little harsh. I thought her point when she was talking about the alumni walking out and her roommate’s family not enjoying it... SPOT isn’t necessarily for them. SPOT is for current Houghton students, and most people do enjoy that.”

--Emma Webb, sophomore



LUKE LAUER

What is your response to last week’s opinions section?



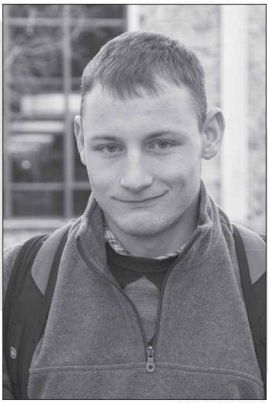
LUKE LAUER

“Well, I guess there were some really juicy ones in this past week. I guess people are entitled to their own opinions. In the grand scheme of things, don’t think it’s going to make much of a difference to the campus as a whole. But, it’s interesting to read.”

--Elias Manzella, senior

“I found the opinion in the SPOT article and their suggestion to put two more students onto the council a little insulting to the faculty. To put somebody on there to review the moral content of an act for SPOT kind of is an insult to the faculty members present, saying they are not capable of doing that when a student somehow can.... I completely agree with the open hours article than Glenn Hampson did, because he made a very nice analogy to a psych ward, and I greatly appreciated his putting some humor into the delicate subject, since it seems to be a divided issue.”

--David Weigle, junior



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

“I think the idea to extend October break is a great idea. I stayed on campus this year during break, which is the first year that I’ve done that. But, if break were a whole week long, I would have gone home for part of it.”

--Deanna Montgomery, senior

BUDDY’S *from page 1*

Group member and owner of the upcoming Genesee Rapids baseball team. Ken Bates, business professor at Houghton and Houghton Group member, said, “We began considering this about three months ago if my recollection is correct. When Ralph brought up the ideas there was an immediate positive reaction and several began suggesting possible businesses that would be interested possibilities.” Added Kerr, “We kind of play off each other and if somebody has an idea, we may just throw it out there.”

The name comes from Buddy Keith, a member of the Houghton community member who passed away about a year ago. ““Buddy was the headmaster of the Houghton Academy for years and years and he and his wife--this was their family

home,” explained Kerr. “To the people that live in this area, Buddy Keith was like an icon.”

With eight total rooms open for rental, Buddy’s Place offers spaces at rates per square foot as well as deals on full-, half-, and quarter-room rentals. Several community members have expressed interest in renting spaces. Stephanie Wittenrich, administrative assistant for the Genesee Rapids who is also involved with the project, described the visitors as “a lot of local crafters, just a lot of community members that are crafty but ... want to team up with other people. There’re a lot of people in the community that are creative and belong to little groups, so they just do crafts on their own. So, they’re all trying to look at forming groups to rent out spaces together.”

According to Wittenrich and Kerr,

two of the available rooms have already been taken. “The first people in this morning... they run a place called ‘Tracy’s Delightfuls.’ They do gift baskets and sell candles and home decorating kinds of things and they also run the Tuxedo Junction tuxedo rental shop...” said Kerr during the open house. Other interested parties have come from the local Allegany Artisans. In addition to accommodating community members, Kerr has also expressed a willingness to work with college faculty and students in putting their pieces up for sale. “We know that, particularly for the students, they’re not going to be in a place where they can commit to a rental,” said Kerr. “But, we’d like to work out something where we could give them a wall to display their stuff and leave it here under consignment or something.” ★

ORCHESTRA *from page 1*

well as conducting pieces for composition students’ recitals. Many other members of the group were also involved in these productions, leaving little to no time for them left for HPO.

Members are hopeful about next semester, however. “Canceling this semester was sad, but the right choice. Next semester will be better, though, with new music and without Christmas Prism to take so much time at the end of the year,” said Bleimeister. When asked to comment on plans for next semester, Efthimiou replied that, “The HPO board and I are taking time to explore new ways by which the success of the orchestra can be ensured so that future productions by our members are of the highest possible level. There is no reason to worry about the health of the Houghton Pops.” ★

SODEXO *from page 1*

“Over the last four years I noticed a gradual increase in quality and variety of offerings. This year is, of course, the largest change yet.”

This semester, the dining hall made a change to serving more foods that have been processed in-house. The rationale behind this was that the food had to be processed somewhere and that food is the best quality when it is processed as close as possible to the time it is served. Raczelowski said that “the benefit of processing whole foods in-house is that as an employee I can see firsthand what is being done to my food.” Most of the salad bar as well as ingredients in the soup and other areas are now all prepared in the kitchen. This is of nutritional and other health benefits. Powers mentioned the shredded car-

rots on the salad bar. They are not as good when they have been pre-shredded and packaged and have added ingredients to keep them fresh. One might have also noticed the lettuce on the salad bar is not the same lettuce that comes mixed with carrots and cabbage in a bag. Powers discussed the fact that the salad is now often browning on the salad bar. This is because it is fresh and has not been treated to prevent browning.

Cafeteria workers have also been trying to find ways to process whole foods as close to the serving time as possible. The drawback to this new policy is that, even though they save on money on produce because they are not paying someone else to process it, they have had to increase labor and pay for more waste removal. Powers feels that the benefits strongly outweigh the increased cost. ★

REVIEW *from page 1*

characteristic of excellence in turn must line up with that statement. One standard of excellence specified by the manual reads, “The human, financial, technical, facilities, and other resources necessary to achieve an institution’s mission and goals are available and accessible.”

The MSCHE provides a resource containing similar information collected by other institutions involved in the commission. Any previous MSCHE study conducted at a given institution may be accessed through the website at any time.

In order to facilitate the self-study process, Houghton collected what is called the Self-Study Steering Committee, comprised of both students and faculty. Paul Young, Chair of the Self Study Steering Committee, works with the president and the dean of the college to select the students and faculty who serve as members.

The committee then works to collect information. Young said, “We’re doing what’s called a comprehensive review... we’re looking at every one of the fourteen standards to see how well Houghton meets the standards.”

During the self-study, the committee appoints seven groups of information gatherers, each of which gather information on two of the fourteen standards. “They are responsible for gathering information, then

analyze what the information means, evaluate it, and write a chapter for the final report,” said Young. Each chapter consists of analysis of evidence in regards to how well Houghton is meeting the specified objectives, and will in turn make recommendations based on that evidence.

According to the Self-Study Design, a document created by Young to outline the purpose and instructions of the Self-Study Steering Committee, each group must “locate existing evidence, collect new evidence as necessary, and analyze evidence relevant to the research questions assigned to the group” as well as “answer each research question, identifying issues critical to Houghton College.”

One of the seven groups, for example, collects information on faculty and educational offerings. Some research questions outlined by the design analyze the qualification of specific faculty in their current roles, current hiring practices and their effectiveness, as well as the efficiency of educational offerings.

Houghton uses the information found through conducting the self-study to improve certain aspects of the college that may prove lacking. In the last survey, results suggested that a full time institutional research position was necessary to Houghton. In 2007, that change was enacted. ★



The Turkey Drive is currently \$1,000 short of its goal. Get your donations in by Monday to help our neighbors this Thanksgiving!

Have an opinion on today’s news stories?



Send a letter to the editor to: editor@houghtonstar.com

Jillian Sokso Attains Competitive Artist Residency

LEAH WILLIAMS

Professor Jillian Sokso, Associate Professor of Art, has recently returned from a two week residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA). With the help of the faculty development committee Sokso was able to achieve the great honor of attending the VCCA.

For over forty years, the VCCA has supported the work of about 350 artists, painters, sculptors, photographers, filmmakers; composers and writers. Typically there are 23 fellows in residency at one time. This includes anyone from a renowned artist to an eager young artist at the beginning of their professional career. Sokso, ever so humbly, said “I am still baffled I was able to get in, it was gratifying being among that caliber of people” as she reminisced about her time at VCCA.

The VCCA provides artists with their own bedroom, three meals a day, and a private studio allowing for the artists to work for hours, days, or weeks completely uninterrupted. “My studio was 700 square feet, had large windows and a skylight,” said Sokso. The VCCA is also surrounded by 400 acres of rolling Blue Ridge farmland, a view Sokso was able to enjoy from her studio.

Artists who have done a residency at VCCA say they were able to accomplish more work there in a matter of weeks than they would have in a year at home. “Time. Time was the most precious commodity and richest blessing,” said Sokso. The VCCA provides a quiet and creative environment for the artists, allowing them to get away from everything as well as giving them the opportunity to be surrounded by more than 20 other highly talented artists which allows for in-depth discussions and new ideas for artists to ponder. “Writers would host readings in their studios and visual artists would invite the fellows to their studio for art critiques,” said Sokso. Along with completing sculptures, an artist book, and a series of 24 drawings, Sokso was also able to trade prints with a printmaker from Virginia.

Past fellows of VCCA include recipients of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Academy in Rome, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, as



Jillian Sokso in the art building.

LUKE LAUER

well as winners of National Book Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, and MacArthur genius awards. Due to the great accomplishments of past fellows, VCCA has become a highly desired residency, making admissions extremely competitive. According to one of their fellows, the VCAA is “one of the most important sources of art in the world.”

Despite her talent and amazing accomplishment of being accepted into the VCCA, Sokso was nothing but humble throughout the interview. She continually expressed her gratitude to the faculty development committee who made it financially possible for her to attend, as well as the Dean’s office that helped provide a stand-in instructor for her students.

Sokso has now set her sights on VCCA’s satellite program in France which requires fellows to have first been to VCCA. “I would like to apply to the program in France, it’s more of a narrow pool and would be a challenge to get in.” ★



Box set, ink, and handmade paper

COURTESY OF JILLIAN SOKSO

Behind the Scenes: Life as a Residence Director

SHELBY WEIL

Living in a dorm allows you to experience an instant bond among your floormates, your RA, and even your RD. The RDs here at Houghton College include Jon Craton (Roth), Jason Stephens (Shen), Ashley Dean (Lambein), and Laura Cunningham (Gillette). This is Jon, Jason, and Laura’s first year here at Houghton, while it is Ashley’s third year as an RD here.

Many students wonder what their RD does all day since they do not have the typical 8am to 5pm work day. Their job is two-fold: administrative and relational. For administrative work, they send emails, send maintenance requests, and attend meetings. For the relational part, they connect with the students themselves and interact with their RAs, empowering them to reach out to their floors.

Jon Craton, the RD of Roth, is very passionate about what he does. The one factor that drew him to Houghton

is the factor that others despised: that Houghton is located in a rural area. What challenges Jon to do his job is to see “students where they are, but then have a vision for what they can become, and then do what [he] can to help them get there.”

Craton, who mentioned to me that he still plays with legos, jokingly stated that he likes to think he can do anything. “I like to be a superhero. That’s actually part of the RD job description. Be a superhero.” Craton realized, though, that he cannot do everything, to which he emphasizes the importance of being vulnerable, and said, “As an RD, I want people to be able to watch me, whether that is in my relationship with Karin or how I work or how I interact with them and I want them to be able to see that and learn from it and look up to it. But I also have to be myself and if we’re honest, I’m not perfect.” Craton knows that in order to develop deep relationships with students, there is a give and take, as well being real, vulnerable, and being true to yourself.

Jason Stephens, the RD of Shen, understands that RDs “don’t always see the rewards immediately, but when you do see it, it makes your job super meaningful.” When asked what motivates him to do his job, he responded, “I think what motivates me the most is having students come to me and share their residential life experience and sharing how they have grown.” It’s these small moments that Stephens loves.

Stephens is all about building personal relationships. After his wife, Kendra Stephens, goes to bed around 11pm, he walks around the building and hangs out with the guys – he tries to do this about five times a week. After that, he has about an hour to himself, whether that is watching West Wing, reflecting, or just relaxing. He finally tucks himself into bed around 2am, only to wake up at 8am. Stephens strives “to be on the floor with no other purpose than to just say hi to the guys. I’m there just to be a presence on their floor and get to know them.”

Stephens enjoys his Saturday

morning drives to McDonald’s with Kendra Stephens for their weekly breakfast together. He realizes the importance of relaxing to prevent burnout. What made Stephens want to become an RA and ultimately an RD was his relationship with his RA when he was a freshman in college. “My RA my very first day took me under his wing. It really made me feel like I was at home.” Jason hopes to help students grow and develop holistically in a lot of different areas.

Ashley Dean, RD of Lambein, sees the importance of knowing the names of the girls living in her dorm, even if she does not have one-on-one interactions with all of them. Dean attended Houghton College as a student, moving right into the RD role after graduating in 2011. Even though she had originally planned on leaving Houghton after graduation, she says, “I wanted to invest back in this place and this department specifically that played such a key role in my development.”

See RD on page 5

The Howards: A Houghton Legacy of Love and Learning



David and Irmgard Howard.

LUKE LAUER

GLENN HAMPSON

It is fascinating to watch professors David and Irmgard Howard together, and it is difficult to explain why. If you ever have the privilege to sit down with the two of them and have a conversation, this feeling will make sense to you as well.

For example, if there is a question presented to them that requires both partners to answer, there will be a slight pause when the Howard’s look at each other. This is the part that is hard to explain, because you can feel the

presence of the information highway that is passing between David and Irmgard, a connection that slows down time and allows the two of them to non-verbally communicate with each other before answering the question. Perhaps that’s just the power two people gain with forty-five plus years of marriage.

The Howards have been teaching here, David in History and Irmgard in Chemistry, since 1970. This effectively makes them the most experienced faculty couple here on campus. The swing set near the science building used to be the place where their home

stood. There, David and Irmgard raised four children while continuing to teach at the college. “I was teaching full-time and she part-time,” said David. “This allowed us to switch off with child care, so we never really had to hire a babysitter. We always had a parent right there with the kids. We lived within walking distance to our job as well, so it was as convenient as you could possibly imagine.”

“Houghton College arranged our schedules so that we could...” Irmgard began, but then was cut off by her husband. “Well, we arranged our schedules and they agreed to it,” said David, and both professors shared a laugh. “Right, we could always switch off,” finished Irma.

Remnants of this schedule remained in the class schedule until very recently. Some science labs used to begin at 2:15pm instead of 2:00pm like it is done now. This was so one Howard could run home to take care of the kids while the other Howard ran to begin the next set of classes. One couple affected the schedule of a whole college for almost forty years.

When asked if the school has changed over the years in terms of hiring both men and women as professors over the years, the Howard’s explained that the college has employed married couples

since they started back in the 1970’s and has been willing to work with couples and their complex schedules. They also agreed that working as a married couple is not any different today than it was back then.

“My conclusion is that, if you’re not in direct competition with each other, that working together is a great way to strengthen a marriage,” explained David.

After forty-four years of working as a team and teaching at the same school, retirement is on the horizon for at least one Howard, with Irmgard in semi-retirement this semester. As far as the other Howard is concerned, it may still be a while longer before he’s ready to move on.

In response to the question if he was looking forward to retirement as well, David answered with a definite “No.” ★

Home for the Holidays? Int’l Students and Breaks

LEAH WILLIAMS

A homecooked meal, relaxing with your family, and the simplicity of being home are things most of us take for granted. International students on the other hand will not be experiencing these luxuries for the upcoming Thanksgiving break. Rather than with their families, most international students spend their Thanksgiving breaks with friends or host families.

Houghton’s intercultural student program has set up programs for the international students who do not have the option of going home with friends. “Internationals who want host families are connected with a family who will ‘friend’ and provide some home atmosphere for them,” said Margo Kettelkamp, intercultural student program coordinator. Senior Danny Kim, a student from South Korea, said “Houghton has done a great job with adapting international students to the campus and making sure there are places for the students who don’t have anywhere to go during breaks.”

Senior Paul Seddon, a student from the United Kingdom, was previously unaccustomed to celebrating Thanksgiving, “It was strange at first but I enjoy it now.” It was the extreme extent to which we celebrate holidays which took Kim off guard. “Thanksgiving I understand, Christmas, of course. But why on the Fourth of July do you all need to get together and eat a hamburger, hot dog, sausage, and everything else in sight to celebrate our founding fathers? That’s something about one of your holiday’s that confuses me.”

Along with adapting to celebrating our holidays international students also have to go without celebrating theirs. Kim misses Hangul Day, the holiday celebrat-

ing the Korean written language. Seddon misses Guy Fawkes Day on November 5th when, in the early 17th century, Guy Fawkes planted gunpowder under Parliament but was caught. Also, on November 11th, the United Kingdom celebrates Remembrance Day. “It’s similar to veterans day, except 11 minutes after 11 we have a minute of silence for our veterans,” said Seddon. Then, with a smile, Seddon added “There’s also Pancake Day, it’s the day before Ash Wednesday, everyone uses all their eggs, flour and milk and make pancakes. It’s called Shrove Tuesday.”

One group of international students that are often overlooked as internationals are the Canadian students on campus. While some of them live close enough to be able to travel home for the weekend if they wish, they still experience the feelings of not being “at home.” Canadian Thanksgiving takes place on the second Monday of November. Senior Sarah Munkittrick said, “It would be nice if October break could be extended to a week so we could celebrate Thanksgiving with our families.” Munkittrick also said, “Houghton does do a lot for the Canadians during Thanksgiving; there’s a special meal, a chapel, and dessert at the Lucky’s. It’s just nice to be home though.”

While celebrating holiday’s away from home is something most international students have grown used to, it is not always easy. “After a while you can start to feel like a bit of an intrusion being at someone’s house for so long,” said Seddon. As Kim spoke about the challenges of being away from home he paused, then thoughtfully said “No one can listen as well and make my comfort food like my mom and there’s no one who loves me unconditionally.” With a slight chuckle, he added, “like my dogs.” ★



COURTESY OF THE HOWARDS

David and Irmgard Howard after receiving doctoral degrees.

RD from Page 4

With a smile, Dean talked about how she “loves students’ a-ha moments. When students can point out areas where they have grown, I like that.” And through the growth of students and herself, Dean strives to be open and honest with her residents.

Even though Dean and her husband, Nathan Dean, are married now, they still embrace the child within them. For Halloween, Dean was a fish while Nathan Dean was a fisherman. They also like to turn their apartment into a fort and have a movie night in the living room.

Laura Cunningham, the RD of Gillette, likes trying new things and new adventures, which is what brought her from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to rural New York. Being an RD is the first experience Cunningham has ever had with student development. Cunningham received her degree in Christian ministries and spiritual formation and leadership after attending Asbury University and Spring Arbor University. Cunningham explains that what really drew her to the RD role was that students are “connected in so many different ways: academics, social, spiritual. So it is great to watch that unfold and support and empower you as you are experiencing those things.”

Cunningham loves that her job as RD is people-focused; she loves getting to know students and RAs and then supporting them all. Cunningham understands that her RAs are students and that sometimes one-on-ones can be rescheduled until after a big test or project is completed.

Cunningham, in jeans and a sweatshirt, playing with her tea in front of her, speaks very intelligently. Through conversation with her, I wrote down four books that I know need to read. She also knows her strengths, listing some as ‘individualization,’ ‘connectedness,’ and ‘learner.’ She draws upon what she knows and loves to see the bigger picture, looking at how things are interconnected. She said, “For now, this is where God has led me.”

The RDs of the dorms are passionate about what they do. They realize the potential that college students have and they want to be here for encouragement, to be a listening ear, and to help us out with tough situations. But more importantly, Craton, Stephens, Dean, and Cunningham have a desire to get to know us as people★

TWO VIEWS

Would widespread economic and political freedom create global peace?



FACEBOOK

SARAH SLATER

Among a certain subset of people in the world, there is a strong belief that the primary requirement for “world peace”—that nebulous phrase used by politicians, college freshmen, and contestants on the Miss America pageant alike—is freedom. Primarily what they are talking about in these instances is political and economic freedom guaranteed by individual countries. I am not one of those people, and this is why.

It is important to note that a given group of people with political freedom depends largely on the values that they hold. For example, in 2005 Hezbollah was elected to power in southern Lebanon. Considered a terrorist organization by the United States government, this is hardly the type of political party to promote peace in the Middle East. The political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the so-called “Freedom and Justice Party”, was also elected by a large majority to power in 2012. (Subsequently, President Morsi was, along with other members of the Muslim Brotherhood, removed from power and charged with murder). While both of these parties were elected through

fair elections within the last ten years, neither of them hold values which would increase global peace.

The other freedom suggested as a requirement for world peace is economic freedom. This is more promising. Probably the best example of an international free trade arrangement is the EU (European Union). No country in the EU has gone to war with another EU member country—this is quite impressive, especially considering the previous history of the continent. This phenomenon extends beyond the European Union to democratic countries in general. Researchers theorize that the reason for this is that in a country with an open economic market, it becomes unnecessary and unprofitable for countries to go to war as resources are easily distributed between countries. War

is no longer a necessity to re-distribute scarce resources but a distraction from more profitable methods of production.

On the other hand, it is possible that the more or less widespread global peace we in the democratic nations of the world have been experiencing is a fluke in the annals of history. (More or less, because a majority of countries in the world are currently or have recently been involved in some type of armed conflict). The reasons that global peace might not be sustainable even with widespread global economic and political freedom come down to the age-old reasons for conflict which currently democratic and economically free governments have at the moment been able to avoid—land and the resources associated with land.

Although the world as a whole is potentially able to support a significantly larger population than it currently is doing, the essential problem is that the largest percentage of increase in population will occur in regions that are less able to support a large population, while a decline is projected to occur in regions more able to support a larger population. For example, the latest UN projections predict the population of Africa will double, while that of Europe will decline by 14%.

Historically, a frequent source of conflict is a large population of young people with less access to resources. The inequality of consumption globally is well established—statistics such as, the 12% of the world’s population which lives in the United States and Europe accounts for 60% of global private consumption, while the third of global population which lives in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for only 3.2%.

Not only is inequality widespread and the global population rapidly increasing, there is evidence that water will in the quite near future become a resource lacking in many areas of world. Less than one percent of the water on the planet is usable for humans and animals.

I do believe that ... freedoms are beneficial and necessary for a country to live well. But they are not enough.

According to the UN, by 2030 nearly half of the world will be living under areas of high water stress.

My purpose in stating all these statistics is not to scare anyone or to present an overly pessimistic view of the world. And I do believe that economic and political freedoms are beneficial and even necessary for a country to live happily and well. But they are not enough. Freedom is what you make of it, and conflict is not something that can always be prevented. ★

Sarah is a junior international development and business administration major



LUKE LAUER

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Though I would agree with Sarah Slater’s point that global peace could never be entirely accomplished due to the presence of scarce resources and competing cultural values, it is hard to negate the evidence that democracies - systems in which political freedom is the foundation - rarely go to war against each other. It is also hard to ignore that economies that practice economic freedom and are increasingly dependent on each other also find it difficult to go to war. For these reasons, it seems fair to conclude that the expansion of political and economic freedoms contributes to domestic and global peace, even if they may not resolve the entire issue.

These arguments ultimately rest on cost-benefit analysis. As Immanuel Kant, one of the early writers on global peace, wrote in 1795, wars do not frequently benefit the ordinary people in a country. Often, citizens have to bear the load of war, “having to fight, having to pay the costs of war from their own resources, having painfully to repair the devastation war leaves behind, and, to fill up the measure of evils, load themselves with a heavy national debt that would embitter peace itself and that can never be liquidated on account of constant wars in the future.” In a republic or a democracy where citizens are free to exercise political control, it would make sense that they try to refrain from going to war as much as possible. Political freedoms, then, become safety valves that citizens may exercise against their politicians when conflicts begin to get overheated.

Theoretically, Kant’s proposition makes sense, but how does it play out in recent history?

Political freedom – by which we mean the ability of the public to engage in a political process without being coerced or compelled in any way – is a relatively recent phenomenon in history and the phenomenon only took hold in the past 50 or 60 years. According to scholar Charles Mandelbaum, “In the second half of the twentieth century ... democracies consistently preferred butter to guns” due to their political choices which reflected their preferences for social wel-

fare programs than to foreign activity and wars. Even the United States, which has acquired the reputation of bellicosity “was subject to the same popular reservations about and objections to war” in the twentieth century that was present in other countries, albeit at a smaller scale.

Increased globalization and the dependency between economies that practice economic freedom also create situations in which the desire for peace outweighs the desire for conflict. Conflict can interrupt trade between nations, the production of goods, and the transactions between consumers and producers which encourages these economies to refrain from war. Again, this argument rests on a cost-benefit analysis between the costs of war and the benefits of peace. As Sarah Slater noted in the previous article, no European state in the European Union has attacked another - a miracle if we examine Europe’s recent history.

We should look at expanding political and economic freedom as a positive force in expanding the capacity of people to behave nonviolently, but we shouldn’t assume that it is a guarantee that people will take the opportunity of these freedoms.

Evidence exists that ... these freedoms increase global peace and contribute to the capacity of people to behave nonviolently.

As Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen wrote concerning democracy in *Development as Freedom*, “Democracy does not serve

as an automatic remedy of ailments as quinine works to remedy malaria. The opportunity it opens has to be positively grabbed in order to achieve the desired effect. This is ... a basic feature of freedoms in general - much depends on how freedoms are actually exercised.” While political and economic freedom may indeed contribute to global peace, it still depends on what people make of it.

In conclusion, I do not believe that there is a one-size-fits-all solution to the issue of global peace and that if only we could snap our fingers and declare that all countries were politically and economically free, then the world would be immediately at one. This approach ignores cultural and historical conditions and also that, as we have seen in the Balkans, the transition from an authoritarian government to a system that promotes political and economic freedom can be a violent one. (The current state of affairs in many Middle Eastern countries today would be other examples.) By the same token, however, the evidence exists that, in the long run, these expansions may indeed increase global peace and contribute to the capacity of people to behave nonviolently. ★

Sarah is a senior political science major

FEATURED EDITORIAL/

Selflessness and Humility in the NCCAA



LUKE LAUER

SAVANNAH DOVIAK

This past weekend the Houghton cross country team competed at the National Christian College Athletic Association National Championship meet in Cedarville, Ohio. Roughly 50 meters before the finish, Cara Davenport, Houghton College junior, collapsed and was unable to keep going. Moments later, teammate Judith Marklin, Houghton freshman, stopped for Davenport and carried her through to the finish line, crossing it together.

The meet official disqualified both girls, saying they aided each other during the race. The whole situation pushed the women’s team from about seventh place to eighteenth place overall. But in a situation where helping another competitor

damages ones own race-time, especially at a national championship meet, should a rule of aiding a teammate apply?

Section 8, subsection f, of the NCAA XC and Track and Field rule book states that an athlete can be disqualified “If unduly aided by a coach, a teammate not in the race or a non-competitor associated with the team.”

Marklin had not yet finished the race, so what exactly did she do wrong? The rule doesn’t include runners who are also competing, allowing you to question the call made by the official. For those who witnessed the dramatic finish, it is safe to say cheating did not cross their minds, but instead I imagine they saw complete selflessness and love.

In a case where the “rules are rules” mentality wins, there is little to be done. Although many coaches of opposing colleges voted in favor of Davenport

To see such humility
can encourage everyone
to do something great
when the chance is
presented to him or her.

and Marklin, saying they should not be disqualified, the meet official had the final say. In the end, it was 100% the official’s decision in the disqualification. Had the assisting of an athlete helped the school,

that would be cheating, but should the rule need to apply to all situations? Although the legality of it all makes sense, what does the situation say about ethics?

The mission statement of the NCCAA reads, “The NCCAA is an association of Christ-centered collegiate institutions whose mission is to use athletics competition as an integral component of education, evangelism and encouragement.”

What happened on the course that day reflected exactly that. Those watching and competing alongside Davenport and Marklin were educated and encouraged at that moment. To see such humility can encourage everyone to do something great when the chance is presented to him or her.

An organization, which is meant to be founded on the teaching and ways of Christ, disqualified an athlete for doing exactly what Christ calls us to do.

Philippians 2:3 says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

“The selflessness of a teammate to stop their race and give up their individual

glory to help a teammate to the finish. That is the reason I coach, because the spirit of sport is revealed and the true character of our athletes shines


through,” said cross country and track and field coach, Matthew Dougherty.

“After the race as Judith and I were helping Cara to the bus a girl from another team came up to us

and told Cara what an awesome finish she had and how great Judith was for helping her,” explained Houghton senior and cross-country captain Leah Williams.

Despite the NCCAA’s decision to disqualify both Davenport and Marklin, there is still a great story to be told. It almost brought me to tears watching the two of them cross the line. “Cara has been such a strong asset to the team this year and to see her give everything she had to get across the finish line makes me so proud to call her my teammate. And for Judith to sacrifice her own race is one of the most selfless acts I’ve ever seen,” said Williams. ★

Savannah is a junior communications major



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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to Stephanie Ford’s article from last week’s issue, I first want to say I regret that some individuals were offended by this year’s SPOT. Though most are probably already aware, it was not my intention to upset anyone, and I am sure that was not what Nathan was trying to do either when he sang the folk parody of “Sexy and I Know It.” In writing the rap, my goal was to encourage the audience to think about the rules with a new set of eyes, and to see how some of the rules may even be silly and demanding of changes --of course, its foremost purpose was to (hopefully) make the audience laugh. The two guys’ “taunting” song served a similar purpose. By choosing one of the most well-known pop songs and slowing down the beat to actually listen to the lyrics, they were ridiculing the absurdity of our popular culture, and maybe “inviting” us to rethink the lyrics of the

songs we listen to.

SPOT is a special night for the whole student body and other Houghton affiliates as well, and many people look forward to it. Why? I think the answer is because it is the time when we all are welcomed to talk about relevant issues in creative ways, to bring about much-needed changes, and to move forward. By fortifying “the bubble” with more rules, restrictions, and censorship on SPOT, we may be taking away that privilege from our future Houghton students.

Danny Kim, senior

Dear Editor,

I’m writing concerning the Featured Editorial, “SPOT Falls Short of Houghton Standards,” in last week’s issue. The introduction’s word choice was sensational and I felt that Ms. Ford stretched the truth in order to set an ideal and romantic scene. Claiming

that “students stood in line for hours” is well, not true, as they only began to show up around 9. To me, it seemed that Ms. Ford did this in order to make the performances she addressed seem even more offensive.

Further, I think it is unfair to accuse some of the performers and the majority of the Houghton population of “blatantly glorifying sin.” As Ms. Ford developed her argument, I felt increasingly judged by the accusatory and exclusive tone of the piece simply because I felt something was all in good fun. At no point during the performance Ms. Ford found particularly offensive, the folk rendition of “Sexy and I Know It,” did I feel sexually

aroused, nor do I believe I was supposed to. Further, by attempting to assign motives to students’ actions, both in performing and choosing Houghton, I felt that Ms. Ford did herself the injustice of assuming instead of researching.

In conclusion, I felt that The Star itself was abused. I found the piece to be unrealistic, rude, and full of assumptions concerning the actions of others, instead of a well-crafted argument, as we should expect from newspapers. It read more like a frustrated rant than a developed piece, and I was disappointed.

Katharine Adametz, junior

SPEAK OUT

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

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editor@houghtonstar.com

the houghton

STAR

2013-2014

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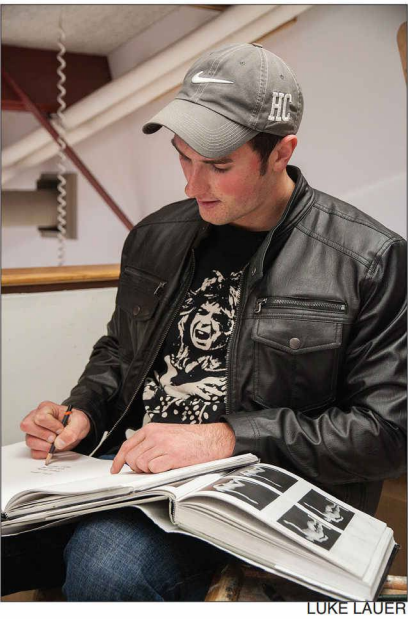
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LUKE LAUER

EVAN CASTLE

I am a Junior, Art Education major from Bolivar NY. I used to be the captain of the golf team...

Evan is a junior art education major.



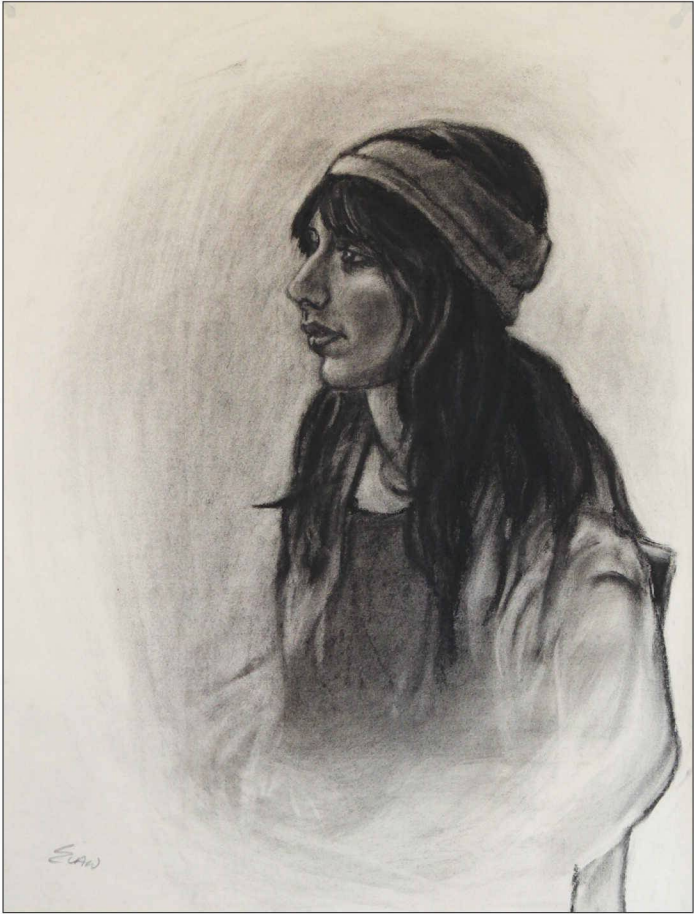
Self-portrait, chalk pastel



Still Life, oil painting



The Old Ford, oil painting



Savannah, charcoal

THANKSGIVING SUDOKU

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Last week's winner was: ROXANNE KEHR!
To enter a drawing for a \$5 Allegany Harvest Co-op giftcard, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 11/13.



The Chair, oil painting