

**FILM FEST REVIEW |**  
*FEATURES, P. 4*

**HOUGHTON MOVEMENT  
AND ARTS |**  
*FEATURES, P. 5*

**"YOU JUST NEED TO PRAY  
MORE" |**  
*OPINIONS, P. 6*

**APPROACHING THE  
FOREIGN ENTITY |**  
*OPINIONS, P. 7*

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK I  
LUKE LAUER**  
*FEATURES, P. 8*

## Campus Store Extends to KPFH

SOPHIA ROSS

This past year, the Campus Store has set up a selection of their inventory in the Kerr-Pegula Field House (KPFH) during highly attended sports events like the Section V and Section VI track and field meets. The arrangement is still being treated as an experiment, but it has the potential to allow for the Campus Store to increase its revenue on weekends and at special events, as well as to increase exposure for the Houghton brand.

Since the KPFH officially opened in October of 2014, the building has hosted approximately 18,700 guests

See **STORE** page 3

## Baseball Team Improves Record

SAVANNAH DOVIAK

A program in its fourth year, the Houghton College baseball team continues to grow with a 14-11 record as of April 13, with just less than half of the season left.

"This season has been a step in the right direction for our program. We are on pace to set a new record for wins as a program, but our record does not fully speak to the talent on this team," said senior and captain of the baseball team, Michael Kerr.

Kevin Cassar, senior and member of the team added to the discussion, "We are a team that is learning to not give up when we get down in games. We've had multiple instances where we have battled back, and although we may not have won a lot of the games we've had to make comebacks in, we never really quit until the last out of



COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

Senior, Seth Cornell, pitches on the baseball field at the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex, which is only a year old.

the last inning is made."

The young team opened their season at the Russmatt Central Florida Invitational where they were 5-5, with their biggest victory putting an end to Alma College's 9-0

record with their first lost.

Currently in the Empire 8, the men are 2-3 with a few big games coming up. Cassar talked about the teams recent sweep against Geneva College as, "some of the best and

most complete baseball we've played."

Cassar explained, "We

See **SPORTS** page 2

## Departments Push to Expand Theater Program

ALICIA NEEDHAM

Houghton College's English, Writing, and Communication departments are conducting a search for a Theater Workshop Director who would produce a spring 2016

theater production. Communication Professor, Douglass Gaerte said, "This new initiative is intended to bring a bit more continuity as well as professionalism to the drama offerings on campus."

Although there has never been a stand-alone theater department at Houghton, there

are two theater related classes, Introduction to Theater and Oral Performance of Literature, which students can be involved with. Students interested in being in the college play can sign up for the one credit class, Comm 236: Theater Workshop, and try out for the play in the fall. According to Gaerte, in the fall of 2015, the director will have auditions for actors, assign the parts, and interview others interested in being crew members for the production. This will allow students to begin working on their lines in preparation for the spring semester.

In the spring of 2016, the director would then teach a theater workshop where they would work with the cast and crew for about a month, running through rehearsals and preparing for the public performance of the play that

## Diversity Task Force Seeks to Understand Campus Climate

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

In the fall of 2012, President Mullen created the diversity task force, seeking to understand the climate of Houghton's campus and if necessary, make changes. A campus climate survey was sent out in the spring of 2013, and the diversity task force developed into a committee.

The diversity committee, meeting weekly, encompasses both faculty and students, all of which are volunteers. Dennis Stack, dean of students, defined its overarching goal, asserting that, "In a nutshell, we would like this campus to be welcoming for everybody." Rob Pool, vice president of student life, noted that diversity can be defined in many ways, but

the committee's primary concerns are racial and ethnic. "Houghton is obviously a majority white campus," said Stack, but affirmed that for students of other ethnicities, "we want this campus to feel as much at home for them as a white majority student." Pool confirmed this goal, "Ideally, the student experience should be seamless." He asserted that underrepresented and majority students should have "the exact same opportunities and bear burdens equally."

With this intent in mind, the committee has sent out the past two surveys. Stack explained each survey "looks for trends at Houghton," whether they are "really good or troubling." Accordingly, the committee seeks

See **DIVERSITY** page 2



LUKE LAUER

*The Drowsy Chaperone* was produced by Rachel Spak '14 in the fall of 2013, and was performed at the Houghton Academy.

See **THEATER** page 3



# International // Terrorist Attack in Kenya



ANTHONY BURDO

MELISSA MCLEAN

One dead and over 141 students were injured as a result of a false terrorist alarm on the Garissa University College campus last Sunday, April 13.

According to CBS news,

an electrical transformer exploded in the school at around 5 a.m., which led students to believe it was yet another attack by Islamic extremist group, al-Shabaab. Earlier that week, al-Shabaab had stormed the halls of the university and murdered students en masse.

Thus, when the students heard the sound of the transformer explode, it immediately sparked a panic and eventual outburst of screams coming from the girl’s wing. These screams quickly escalated and spread to the rest of the building, which ultimately led to a stampede leading out of the building.

The University’s Vice Chancellor, Pete Mbithi, affirmed to the press that the explosion was nothing more than an unforeseen mishap in the electrical system. According to Mbithi, “There was no attack, but because of what happened in Garissa the other day they mistook it for an attack.”

He later confirmed with ABC News that this was entirely unrelated to the recent terrorist attacks by al-Shabbab.

But despite the causation, the effects remained the same. After the students heard the explosions of the transformer, they began to take any means of escaping—running, hiding, and in some cases, jumping.

While some students only had to jump a few feet from their window, others went so far as to jump from the fifth floor. Most students executed this jump successfully, however, one was not so fortunate. This third-year male, attempted to jump from his window on the fifth floor, but could not hold up against the strength of the stampede below and was killed by means of trampling.

The stampede also impacted and hurt the crowd below. As a result, 141 students were injured total from this false alarm.

Just a week before the in-

cident, al-Shabaab executed an attack on Garissa University College, which killed a total of 147 people, according to Kenya’s National Disaster Operation Center.

It was said that al-Shabbab showed up before sunrise and began massacring a prayer gathering happening at the college. The gunmen then proceeded to shoot whomever was in their way, with the exception of people of their own faith, Islam.

According to one account, the gunmen separated the hostages based on their religion and then freed those who were Muslim, leaving the rest to face their fate. The attack resulted in a multitude of injuries in addition to the 147 murdered.

According to the Mail & Guardian Africa, it was “obvious that the recent attacks have hurt the students both physically and psychologically.” In other words, the attack

was only a minor portrayal of the great fear that still lingered in the hearts and minds of the students.

Garissa University College was established in 2011 near the eastern border of Kenya as the only public university in the region, according to ABC news. Because of the proximity, the school is only ninety miles from the Somalia border. This lays another issue due to the ongoing border issues between Kenya and unrest in Somalia.

Since the event, high relief and security has since been implemented to help cope with this issue.★

*Melissa is a sophomore communication and intercultural studies major.*

## DIVERSITY from page 1

to “encourage good things,” and address concerns. With the information from the first survey, the committee made nine recommendations to appeal to the board of trustees. The results of the most recent survey of spring 2015 will be analyzed by the committee once the spring semester has come to a close.

The nine recommendations have formed a large part of the committee’s initiatives. While Stack affirmed the board “liked all of them,” and thinks “the administration is very supportive of the direction we are proposing,” he defined finances as a major obstacle. He noted the “competing importances” for money on a college campus, ranging from upgrading residence halls to maintaining necessary numbers of faculty and staff.

In addition to budget concerns, the committee is aware of its need for a full time director. While the voluntary basis of the committee ensures dedication, the members have competing obligations according to their occupations. “We would love to have a full time person on campus to coordinate initiatives,” Pool explained. Committee member, Zina Teague ‘12, acknowledged that while the group has made “some progress,” a “key person to

make changes” would be beneficial.

For the present, Teague affirms the diversity committee’s focus on “attainable goals.” Various focus groups, such as the international and African-American groups, have been created. Dennis Stack, also advocating “incremental” changes, commended the dining services for diversity related initiatives. Pool indicated that though some of the recommendations are “on hold,” others are indeed “in

process.”

Although the diversity committee faces various challenges, its members firmly maintain its relevance. Teague asserted the universality of its goals, in that “this isn’t just for our diverse students, but for everyone. Everyone benefits for being culturally diverse.” Pool appealed to Houghton’s identity as a Christian institution, noting that the “bottom line” of the committee’s goal is “to be more Christ-like.” ★

## SPORTS from page 1

have a couple must-win games coming up in the next few weeks which will be really important to us making the postseason. When we resume Empire 8 play, it’s going to be tough.” Upcoming games include opponents such as St. John Fisher, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Utica College, all big competitors.

With the remaining season ahead, the men will need a total of 20 wins to make the NCCAA playoffs, and have a big opportunity to be contenders with their current record. The team has set big goals for themselves, explained Cassar, “We’re hoping to finish over 500 and qualify for the NC-CAA tournament.” He added, “We’re also looking to make a run in the Empire 8 conference tournament.”

Over the past four years the players have bettered the

program and their play on the field. “Although we have had good seasons in the past, we would like to be a program that can compete in this conference and have a playoff shot each year,” stated Enrico Sukhdeo, senior and player on the team.

Kerr added, “Our team this year is much deeper than in previous years. We have guys that can step up at any moment. We are not relying on just a few guys this year, we are a team”

This may the program will graduate ten seniors, which includes three starting pitchers, the right fielder, center fielder, second baseman, third baseman, and 3 key relief pitchers. Those seniors also include the last of the players who were there when the team was started.

“Next year we are going to be fairly young and while we still will have a lot of guys with college experience, experience isn’t something you can teach. There are going to

be a lot of young guys that need to step up”, said Cassar.

The Highlanders will be

playing home today against Stevens Institute of Technology at 6 p.m. The two schools

will face each other again tomorrow at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Houghton.★



COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

The baseball program started four years ago and has since expanded in addition to continually improving their record over the years.







# A Night of Willards, Films, and Fancy Outfits

## 9th Annual Film Fest Celebrates Veteran and Amateur Filmmakers Alike

JACKSON WHEELER

2015 marks the ninth consecutive year that Houghton has hosted Film Fest, its annual celebration of student-made films. Its purpose has been to exhibit and reward the work of these students who are willing to submit their projects and relinquish them to the critical eyes of a panel of judges as well as the hundreds of others who fill Wesley Chapel to congratulate the winners on their films as they are shown.

Film Fest covered a wide array of submissions, ranging from narrative driven films, to more technical ones showcasing an attention to shot composition, to commercials for certain events, as well as many other categories. Hosted entertainingly by JL Miller, townhouse resident director,

and Michael Jordan, dean of the chapel, the event chugged on without too many hiccups, as the space in-between viewings of each category’s submissions was filled with their banter and commentary. Overall, the quality of films put on display this year was good, there being some truly impressive stand-outs among the winners and runners-up. The coveted Willard Awards were distributed to the winners, a few student filmmakers picking up more than one.

Ice Nine Studios (a collaboration between Colin Belt ‘15 and Matthew Grim ‘16) snagged four Willards for their animations: one for the best animation award for the eye-catching, ethereal, and especially well done *Allice* trailer, another for best editing for the bizarre mind-trip that was, *The Supple Chunk*, the third for best drama with *Candle’s*

*Tale*, another animated feature. The last film of theirs to take home the Willard for best sound was one of my personal favorites, *Rainbow Kitten Fun Time*, an energetic, colorful, and nostalgic homage to classic video games and the power of friendship. Ice Nine Studios and their strength in this year’s Film Fest hopefully signifies an increase in the presence of animated features in the coming years.

Hannah Folkerts pulled in two Willards as well. The first for best documentary with *Andrea*, a well-shot film that tells the story of the titular young woman Andrea who aspires to be a ballet dancer despite the many setbacks she has experienced. The film cuts back and forth between Andrea speaking to the camera and her dancing in the studio, capturing both the expressiveness in her face as she tells her story

and the expressiveness in her body as she floats, twirls, and spins across the floor. The second of Folkerts’ Willard’s came for best cinematography for *Country and City*, a collection of truly excellent camera work, gathering contrasting shots from environments both urban and rural, showing some remarkably beautiful scenery in both settings.

The Willard awarded for best film of the night went to Derek Brooker’s *Lucid*, an incredibly shot and innovatively edited film that held my breathless attention from the very first scene. *Lucid* excels in conveying the anxiety and bleakness of the situation faced by the short film’s silent protagonist, played well by Brooker himself. *Lucid* fully deserved its recognition as the best of the best.

Several submissions were made by first time filmmak-

ers, introduced to the field through various outlets, be that through sheer curiosity or class assignments. Ava Bergen ‘17 won her Willard for best comedy with her film *Coffee*, a project made initially for her Digital Video class. Her film advocated for the “wonder-drug” that college students have become all too well acquainted with, caffeine. Ava commented in regard to her film, “Though it was satirical, the message was one that I relate to on a personal level. I’m fascinated by the effects of sleep deprivation on the brain, as well as my hopeless dependence on coffee.” Bergen described her decision to submit *Coffee* as an easy one, “I thought, why not? There is no downside to submitting and seeing what happens.” When asked what the recognition that comes with winning a Willard has done for her motivation as a burgeoning filmmaker, she responded, “It’s definitely an encouragement, especially because filmmaking is so fun. I love doing it, so it was nice to receive the positive feedback.” In addition to some of the more seasoned veterans of the filmmaking trade, students like Bergen are the success stories that will hopefully influence other potential filmmakers out there who will do their best to ensure that Film Fest retains its quality and diversity for years to come. ★



Left: Senior Hannah Folkerts walks happily offstage after accepting her Willard from Kasey Cannister. Right: Winners Brittany Hark, Hannah Folkerts, Ava Bergen, and Derek Brooker take home Willards.

# A Sodexo Story: Pam Wilkinson

BETHANY CHESEBRO

Since the fall of 2009, Pam Wilkinson has worked as a greeter in the dining hall where she scans ID cards for meals, does other miscellaneous jobs when needed, and gets to interact with Houghton faculty, students, and other community members.

Pam first became affiliated with Houghton when she attended one of the college’s programs at its West Seneca satellite campus in the early 1980s. She graduated with an associate degree and remembers her time with “fond memories.” Shortly after graduating, Pam met her husband and became a stay-at-home mom to their three children.

In 2006 Pam reconnected with Houghton when her daughter, Candace, attended as a student from

2006-2010. At this time she was not working and since her children were all beginning to leave home, she decided she “wanted something to do with [her] time”. She would often visit her daughter while she was a student at Houghton and began thinking, “I would like to work here”. Following her daughter’s encouragement, Pam decided to go ahead apply at the dining hall. She wasn’t aware that a food service ran the dining hall so she was told to go online and apply. After she applied, Pam ended up earning the position as a greeter in the dining hall. While this was good news, Pam was still nervous, “I haven’t been in the workforce since the early ‘80s, so I was nervous” she said.

Although she has a 40 minute commute each day from Delevan, Pam loves her job and the college atmosphere. “The students are what I love most about Houghton. They are so friendly and so full of



Pam Wilkinson, the ever-faithful Sodexo greeter, greets students at every meal.

energy,” said Pam, who especially enjoys having conversations with students throughout the day. “The faculty and staff are also very friendly,” said

Pam. Pam’s most memorable experience occurred when she came into work on her birthday and found three huge birthday balloons at her regis-

ter, “I have never seen such huge balloons. To this day I don’t know who they were from. I will always remember that! That really made my day!”

Pam doesn’t quite know what is in store for her in the future, but she does know that she wants to continue her work here at Houghton. She and her husband are grandparents to one twenty-one month old grandson and a granddaughter on the way this coming July. During her time off, Pam enjoys hobbies like crocheting, painting, quilting, decorating, and shopping. She also enjoys reading, walking her dog, and watching Jane Austen and Bible movies. Pam can always be seen at the top of the dining hall stairs, wearing a smile, ready to greet everyone entering the our dining hall. ★



# Houghton Movement and Arts Center

Local Dance Studio Offers Opportunities for Aspiring Dancers of All Skill Levels

THOMAS ECKERT

In September of 2011, after living in Houghton for only 8 months, Sarah Badger took over an empty studio on Route 19 and began Houghton Movement and Arts Center with 40 students. The building she currently occupies was previously owned by Sandy Charles who taught dance at her studio named “Pointe by Pointe”. “We saw that dance needed to continue in Houghton. I started initially just thinking I would offer some private lessons to performers who wanted to keep up with dance. It just sort of occurred to me that this building could be put to really good use and I envisioned a way of bringing not just dance but other forms of recreation and performing arts to students in Houghton,” explained Badger, “This could really be a third space for performing arts that’s outside of the schools.” Badger began her training at age four with dreams of being a professional dancer. When she was ten she switched to studying purely classical ballet. She trained at the Ballet San Antonio Academy and also attended a magnet High School for dance, the Northeast School of the Arts. She left Texas for New York City to go to Marymount University. She didn’t study dance in college, but danced professionally while training at the Ailey School. “My plan was always to stay in New York City and have a dance career there. When I married my husband he had not been to college yet and when I finished school he was really interested in attending a Christian liberal arts college. So,

we ended up in Houghton.” Badger felt frightened starting such a new enterprise. “I had never set out wanting to own a dance studio. I had always seen myself as a performer – maybe teaching a little down the line,” said Badger. She enjoyed her first teaching job in New York City. When the Badgers moved out to Houghton, Badger jumped on the opportunity to teach, “It was definitely a little bit scary, but I tend to see potential in things and want to make things as good as they can possibly be.” The studio has done well in the rural setting. It is growing each year and branching out to offer new classes and more performances. Badger said, “People tend to think a dance studio is just for little girls, but we’re so much more than that. We have tons of adult programs. We’ve offered acting and voice classes in the past. We have adult dance classes and dance and fitness and theatre arts – things that can be enjoyed by a lot of different people.” One of the developments the studio has made in the past year is the creation of Genesee Dance Theater. This is a semi-professional dance company, meaning that a fraction of their dancers are not professionals – students, teenagers, community members – who are working alongside local professional dancers. This past December they put on a well-received performance of the Nutcracker, a performance they plan on continuing annually. Ultimately, the goal of the company is to put on two to three annual performances in Western New York. The college, though not exclusively connected to the studio, has a good mutual relationship. Kayleen Norcutt ‘16 has taught classes at the studio

and dances there regularly and said, “Most students I talk to are surprised when they discover that there is a dance studio in Houghton. I found it about a year before I began college, and was in contact with Badger throughout that year regarding job and dance opportunities. It was certainly a deciding factor in attending Houghton.” Kara Bartholomew has been teaching classes for the past two semesters. “Dancing has taught me how to meet people at different spots in their lives. Throughout my years of teaching I have encounter many students at all different levels,” said Kara. The studio is now at a transition point. With her husband Graham graduating from Houghton this semester, he is looking to work in his field which might require them to move. The couple wants to stay local, but aren’t certain where they will end up. Because of this, Badger doesn’t want to commit to owning the studio for another full year. Rachel Phillips, a former instructor for Badger, owns a studio in Fillmore called STEPS. HMAC will merge with STEPS under the ownership of Phillips. Badger says very little is going to change and that she will stay on staff as a ballet teacher and consultant. Badger sees the studio as a place where students can deeply develop their skills whether they are looking to dance professionally or just to keep up their training and health. She encourages all of her students to follow their dreams, “If a student comes to me and they really want to be a professional dancer, I’m not going to laugh at them and say ‘That’s not possible because you live in Houghton or you live in Allegany County’.” ★



ANTHONY BURDO

TWO ABOVE PHOTOS COURTESY OF REBECCA LINDAMOOD



The Houghton Movement and Arts Center offers classes for Houghton students, as well as community members of all ages. The Houghton Movement and Arts Center is also home to the Genesee Dance Theater company.



# “You Just Need to Pray More”



ANTHONY BURDO

MARY CRONIN

One of my favorite Christian bloggers is beginning a review series on Tim LaHaye’s (author of the *Left Behind* series) book *How to Win Over Depression*, a self-help manual popular in conservative evangelical circles.

LaHaye’s work is a reflection of common misconceptions that Christians often hold about people with depression. With chapter titles such as “Self-Pity and Depression,” followed by “How to Overcome Self Pity” and even “Depression and the Occult”, LaHaye promotes the idea that depression stems from an individual’s character flaws. In the introduction he even

states: he is “certain that most depression (is) caused primarily by sin, a faulty thinking pattern, or some failure on the part of the individual to claim the promises of God.”

This lie cannot be tolerated any longer.

Depression is not brought on by a character flaw, failing to love Jesus enough, or not having memorized enough Bible “promises”.

Rather, depression is one of those awful things that happens for reasons we cannot always explain. Depression is like a tornado, and just as a tornado may destroy a homeless shelter yet leave a crack house standing, sometimes good, loving, kind people, including Christians, are chemically imbalanced or experiencing major life difficulties. The jerks who deserve to be depressed are probably out skipping in a sunny field somewhere.

Even Christians who understand this may still cling to another destructive idea: that

“Depression will not keep one from God because God was there, is there, and will be there.”

depression is a hindrance to faith. For a Christian to be useful to the Kingdom, depression must be “dealt with” ASAP.

Yet when I read the Scriptures what I am presented with is quite different. Instead I see Job and Naomi, two people who suffered tremendously yet found the love of God in the midst of long term despair.

In two sudden series of tragedies, Job lost his family, his wealth, and his physical and emotional health. He went from being a respectable man to being a horribly disfigured nobody. His friends who sought to care for Job found him on the ground, self-harming with a sharp piece of pottery. (Job 2:8)

Contrary to what many would assume of a depressed person,

Job the wallowing, depressed cutter came face to face with God. He asked Yahweh deep questions and received profound answers in return. While many flip to the end and think that Job’s redemption came when his heirs, belongings, and health were restored, the actual redemption Job experienced happened in his hold-nothing-back dialogue with God. This communion with God occurred when Job was in the depths, screaming to the heavens “Why?” and cutting his arms.

Anyone who feels like a spiritual failure because of stumbling into self-harm should read the story of Job and take heart.

Then there is Naomi, who suffered through famine, the death of her husband and sons, poverty, and the infertility of her daughters in law. Upon her return to Bethlehem, Naomi declared that Yahweh had turned his back on her and that she was bitter as hell for it.

Praise God that Naomi had a friend (Ruth) who resolved never to leave her, who sacrificed

her future for her well being. Notice that Ruth did not exhort Naomi to claim the promises of God or pray to be delivered from self-pity.

As Christians we believe that in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, there is no part of the human experience that Jesus has not been through and overcome. I am not claiming that Jesus experienced depression, though it is certainly possible. In the Passion narrative, Jesus cried out to God, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34)

At this moment, God knew how it was to feel abandoned by God.

If God has felt the full weight of hopelessness and abandonment, then to say that depression is a hindrance to God is just wrong. Depression will not keep one from God because God was there, is there, and will be there.

Therefore, I encourage all of those at Houghton who suffer from bouts of depression to take shelter in the empathy and compassion of God.

I ask all those at Houghton who know someone with depression to be a witness to that love and compassion in word and deed. ★

*Mary is a sophomore political science and theology double major.*

“Depression is not brought on by a character flaw, failing to love Jesus enough, or not having memorized enough Bible ‘promises.’”

# Is Atlas Shrugging? *The Disappearance of Ninety-Three Million American Workers and Business Startups*



ANTHONY BURDO

JOE GILLIGAN

“Who is John Galt?” and why is the US economy experiencing a large loss of job participation coupled with the lowest numbers of new business start-ups in decades? John Galt was a fictional character in the novel *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand. Rand emigrated from the Soviet Union in the 1920s and was tainted by her own experience in a communist system. Rand demonstrates how a mixed economy ushered in by Roosevelt’s New Deal would become like the system she fled.

In *Atlas Shrugged*, John Galt is an inventor of a self-sustainable engine that can run without fuel. Galt knows his new invention will either be confiscated by the government for the “good

of society” (because no man should profit off of his ideas) or possibly the invention will be heavily regulated (because it would displace workers at engine factories and energy producers).

Rather than subjugate his invention to the will of the bureaucrats, Galt scraps it. Then he secretly plans a strike against the government with an unlikely group of people consisting of innovators, entrepreneurs, inventors, talented professors, upper management, and gifted college students. Instead of demonstrating or rioting, Galt simply makes these people “shrug” by vanishing, while the government levies a war against the innovators by coercion of excessive taxes and regulations.

These policies enable the bureaucrats to confiscate wealth, seize control of companies and compel innovators to give up their intellectual property rights. As the government takes control of industries it becomes incapable of running complex organizations in a safe and efficient way. The economy collapses and society

slips into anarchy.

Today, John Galt seems to lurk inside the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) participation rate numbers; in the last decade we have seen disturbing job participation rates. People not participating in the labor force have hit a record 93 million high. The BLS has shown that men’s participation rate has dropped from 87% in 1948 to 70% in 2013. Women, who have made great strides in the participation rate since 1948, have also faced participation rate declines. In 1999, the participation rate of women reached its high of 60% now it is 57%.

While the retirement of the baby boomers accounts for some participation losses, the vast majority of age appropriate workers go unaccounted for. Also blue-collar work has dropped significantly in the two decades, but the number of Americans collecting disability benefits due to injury has more than doubled since 1995. According to Scott Winship of the Manhattan Institute, the government “passed

new reforms in 1984 that in time made it much easier to receive SSDI (Social Security Disability) benefits and keep receiving them until retirement.”

Workers seem to disappear and, at an alarming rate, businesses do as well. New business startups have dropped significantly due to burdensome regulations. The number of young firms going under within the first few years has increased. Consequently, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, for the first time in 30 years, business failures now outnumber business startups. The federal government has many outdated and contradictory regulations that hurt the entrepreneurial spirit.

Jonathan Ortman of the Kauffman Foundation noted that “as new regulations are enacted on top of existing rules, businesses are faced with the challenge of navigating an increasingly complex regulatory regime.” Complex taxes have weakened the entrepreneurial spirit also. Ortman said, “Tax complexity and uncertainty, like regulatory complexity and uncertainty, divert the time, attention, and energy of entrepreneurs away from the essential tasks required to successfully launch and grow their businesses amount to mortal threats to new businesses, particularly in the critical early years.” Regulations stifle startups in banking. For instance, there

has only been one new bank created since the passing of Dodd-Frank--a bank regulation bill--in 2010.

When our current political leaders, such as our President, tell entrepreneurs that “you didn’t build that, somebody else made that happen”, one must question if Ayn Rand’s writings were a warning. Lawmakers and regulators should remember government is funded by tax revenues from workers, owners, and companies. Not the other way around. American innovation and industrial strength were built by entrepreneurs who carry the weight of American job expansion upon their shoulders.

We need to stop passing laws, regulations, fees and taxes that injure our enterprise system. If we do not stop, we are doomed to a similar plot found on the pages of *Atlas Shrugged*. In 1942, to encourage hard work for the war effort, the Westinghouse Corporation created a poster later called “Rosie the Riveter.” In the illustration, Rosie rolls up her arm sleeves, flexes her muscles and says, “We Can Do It”. We need that can-do; we can build that, American spirit in our own vocation and in our political leadership once again. ★

*Joe is a sophomore business and accounting double major.*

“The federal government has many outdated and contradictory regulations that hurt the entrepreneurial spirit.”



# Approaching the Foreign Entity



ANTHONY BURDO

THOMAS ECKERT

Samuel P. Huntington’s thesis on the “Clash of Civilizations” is a seminal work in political science. The work describes a post-Cold War theory of conflict that occurs between groups of nations, monolithically bound together by their ideologies. No longer were individual states warring against each other; the industrialized and post-colonial countries now warred over cultural differences, not for the pursuit of territories or economic properties.

Huntington’s thesis was countered by Edward Said in his “Myth of the Clash of Civilizations”. Said’s primary criticism of the thesis was that it grouped cultures too homogeneously. In his speech, Said outlined his criticism

thusly, “Huntington defines Islamic civilization reductively, as if what most matters about it is its supposed anti-Westernism. I mean it doesn’t matter to him that Muslims have other things to do than to think about the West with hatred. But you get the impression that that’s all they are thinking about is how to destroy the West, bomb it and destroy the whole world really.” The myth that Said makes reference to ought to be broken by examining the more nuanced and individualistic qualities of cultures. One must break a culture into sub-cultures and further break this sub-culture into sub-sub-cultures ad infinitum.

Although, as academics, Huntington and Said would be repulsed by the suggestion that a proper approach to the foreign entity might be found in the middle-ground between the two philosophies, that is exactly what I would suggest.

When one begins to address a foreign entity – sex, race, political philosophy, country, city, town, club, group, team, major, etc. – one must begin as Huntington suggests, defining a culture by its known tropes and

“Every culture, no matter how violent, intolerant, or dull it appears to be, is worth a deeper examination.”

stereotypes. Truly, there is no alternative. We cannot separate our deeper prejudices, whether good or bad, without complete emotional reservation. Where we must differ from Huntington is in how we treat our judgements.

Firstly, we must not allow any prejudice to keep us from pursuing a meditation and understanding of the entity. Every culture, no matter how violent, intolerant, or dull it appears to be, is worth a deeper examination. There are always motivations for every aspect of a society. One can rarely be too granular in dividing a culture into parts. Even the motivations of individuals may be subdivided at least once or twice.

Secondly, we must allow for the possibility that our judgements will change. One must admit that one’s

understanding can, at any point in the process, be wrong. Perhaps you think physics majors give their opinion pieces pretentious titles. Here you would have some evidence in your hands, but in order to understand that culture properly, you must be open to the idea that next week another physics major will publish an opinion piece with a non-pretentious title. It is a definite possibility.

Through these steps, we apply Said’s thesis, breaking a culture down into sub-cultures. However, these subcultures cannot be understood without some application of generalization. Therefore we are required to take Huntington’s approach of stereotyping again. This is then followed by Said’s in a cycle that breaks and constructs new deeper cultural understanding with every iteration. This approach is applicable to any foreign entity, even to an individual.


In practice, you select a group, let us say “people who hang out in the coffee shop”. Look at what assumptions you can make about the group: they drink coffee, they are college students, they listen to music on headphones, they use laptops, etc. Don’t let any

of these assumptions keep you averse from getting to know “people who hang out in the coffee shop”. Dive into learning about this group. Find that not all of them use laptops. Develop two categories: “people who hang out in the coffee shop who use laptops” and “people who hang out in the coffee shop who don’t use laptops”. You begin the process again, splitting these groups even more until you reach the absolute limit perhaps, “woman who hangs out in the coffeeshop who uses a laptop, listens to Arcade Fire, drinks black coffee, wears jean jackets, runs every now and then, has read Camus, etc. etc. etc.”

You might be able to see a few problems with this. The perspective is wholly superficial. Despite this, there isn’t enough time in the universe to fully analyze everyone in the coffee shop in this way. The finished description is non-plastic; it can’t contain the person’s changes throughout their life, only those that are present at a precise moment.

Despite these known limits, a moderated application of this Huntington-Said cycle works against prejudice and toward a better understanding of the foreign other. It is this understanding that must always be sought. It brings a greater peace between people and cultures. ★

Thomas is a junior physics 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.

## Letter to the Editor

### A Reaction to Inclusive Language: A Linguistic Perspective

Dear Editor:

Inclusion is a dangerous game. It is easy to seek to include some group at the expense of another. I think this is particularly dangerous as to how we understand God.

While female terms are sometimes used to describe parts of God’s

nature, male language is used more frequently. Jesus tells us to call God our Father (as opposed to Mother, or Parent, or maybe Pleterion) because the characteristics of a father are apparently are well suited for describing something about God’s nature.

The human mind organizes information through linguistic

categories. English has two categories for gender: male and female; him and her. No widespread neutered terms exist. Everyone is fitted into a category. We need some way to speak about God, so we are reduced to fitting Him into a gender category. If we cannot use a gender then we are forced to call Him an “it”, which in

English, reduces God to the status of an animal or inanimate object. English lacks the ability to talk about a personal entity without putting that entity into some gendered category.

So instead of being mad that male language is used to talk about God, it seems much more useful to think about what it means to

attribute gendered attributes to God. How do male terms enhance our understanding of who God is? How do the female terms do the same? Who are we to try to neuter God?

- Alison Emry  
Class of ‘15

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | FACEBOOK.COM/THEHOUGHTONSTAR | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

2014



2015

LUKE LAUER // Editor-in-Chief  
DANI EATON // News Editor  
HOLLY CHAISSON // Features Editor

ALLYSON MURPHY // Opinions Editor  
TYLER ASHLEY // Web Editor  
ANTHONY BURDO // Photo Editor

NATHAN SIRCY // Business Manager  
HATTIE BURGHER // Intern  
SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB // Faculty Adviser



# Artist of the Week

## Luke Lauer

//senior art and communication major

I consider myself an artist among a plethora of other things. I love the STAR, photography, traveling, *Game of Thrones*, and take *pride* in the fact that I am not a peasant.



ANTHONY BURDO

### Titles & Media

left to right descending

The Louvre  
Prospective Highlander  
Suspended Tension  
These Unconscious Words (series)  
all works are digital photography

