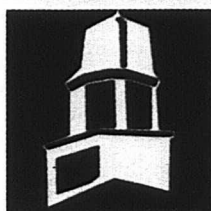


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THE HOUGHTON STAR

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Praxis: Think Reconciliation, Practice Reconciliation

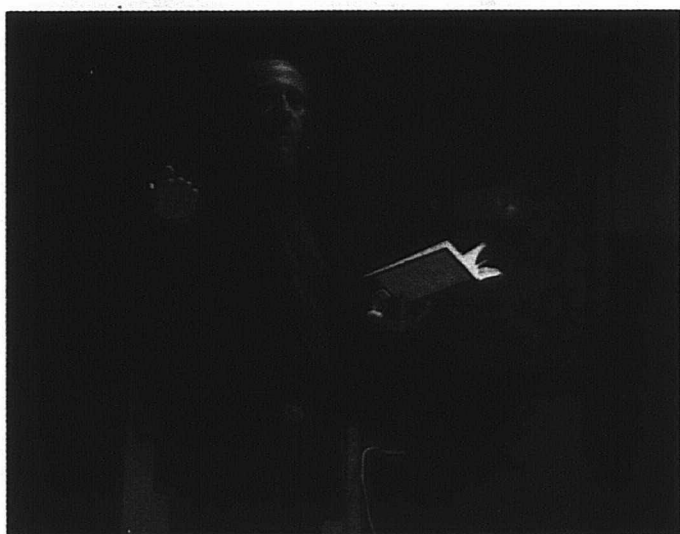


photo by Jessica Hozjan

Tom Dewolf discussed his book and racism and slavery in history.

Anna Matejova

This week marked the second annual Praxis week, an event aimed at uniting the students, faculty, and community members of Houghton

College in a discussion of a particular aspect of Christian theology that is relevant to Christian life and practice.

This year's theme was "Reconciliation." Starting with a specially-themed Koinonia service on Sunday

evening, the events of Praxis week also included lectures by guest speakers and faculty, a variety of workshops, a coffee house, and a one-act play performed by the acting troupe Encore. According to Professor Lori Huth, reconciliation was chosen as the focus for this week because it is "a concept commonly known and spoken about in Christian circles but which is also complex...and which people might not automatically understand how to apply."

The plans for this year's Praxis week began taking shape almost a year ago under the leadership of a committee of students convened by Huth and Professor Benjamin Lipscomb, who pioneered Praxis as a variation on the traditional structure of the Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW) previously held during this time of the year. As reconciliation is a broad topic with a wide range of applications, one of the goals of the

Praxis cont'd on page 2

Chapel Enforcement Increases Student Attendance

by Rebekah Miller

It has been a full semester since the Office of Student Life began to more fully implement its disciplinary procedures regarding chapel. Before the fall semester of 2009, student discipline regarding chapel attendance, or lack thereof, was lax and somewhat unpredictable. This past semester, however, the Office of Student Life began its regimented implementation of the consequences of missing more than one third of chapel—consequences "ranging from disciplinary probation to suspension" as it is stated in the Student Guide this year.

How have students reacted to this change? Statistically there is much enthusiasm in the ranks of chapel goers. According to Brian Webb, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Chapel, changes have been implemented "very successfully." There were, on average, 80 more students who attended chapel in this past fall semester as compared to Fall 2008, and far fewer students with deficient chapel attendance—12 students deficient this past fall semester as compared to the 45 students who were deficient last fall.

As the Dean of the Chapel's assistant, Webb monitors the chapel attendance recording system and says that, while there was a "little bit of fuss" in the beginning of the semester because of Student Life's decision regarding chapel, most of the complaints had more to do with the process by which the decision was made and not necessarily with the decision itself. In fact, Webb reported that some students responded very enthusiastically with a more strictly enforced attendance policy, saying, "it's about time." One student responded saying that he actually had incentive to go to chapel now that "you actually put accountability into it."

This "accountability" has received mixed vocal responses from students. When asked, some students were oblivious to the change in implementation and purported that

Chapel cont'd on page 3

Keith Horn, New Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

by Amanda Wilgus

In November 2009, alumnus Dr. Keith Horn joined Houghton as the Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. After his time at Houghton he earned his PhD in organic chemistry and went on to teach at Tufts University. In the last twenty years he has worked in industry at Allied Signal/Honeywell and Corning Incorporated and most recently has chaired President Mullen's Science Advisory Council.

In his new role as Associate Dean he is responsible for the oversight of the Natural Science and Mathematics Division, including the programs, faculty, and facilities. At this time, the Houghton administration and Board of Directors have made the mathematics and science division a priority. Horn states that the goal is to make the science program one characterized by "excellence in technology, breadth of education,



photo by Alyson Mazza

Keith Horn, Associate Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and his wife Valerie pose with lemurs in Madagascar this December

critical thinking, global awareness, and service for Christ," with several changes already being planned.

The most immediate implementation is the search to fill

three new faculty positions for the 2010-2011 academic year. The first would add a professor to the computer science faculty which currently

Keith Horn cont'd on page 2

THE WORLD IS THERE

by Derek Schwabe

Scott Brown wins Crucial MA Senate Seat

Republican Massachusetts state legislator, Scott Brown won the long contested race for one of his state's two seats in the United States Senate on Tuesday. In a tremendous upset thought impossible by most critics, Brown duly defeated his favored opponent, democrat Martha Coakley, with a close, yet decisive 52 to 47 percent vote margin. Independent candidate, Joseph Kennedy, drew 1% of the vote. The particular seat contested in this election was left vacant by the death of the legendary democrat, Ted Kennedy, who held the position for 47 years until his death. Political analysts report that the addition of Brown to the senate may have the potential to obstruct the advancement of many goals of president Obama's agenda—including his plan for Health Care reform. Once sworn in, Brown will strategically break a 60 vote filibuster-proof majority in Washington. Following the victory, Brown stated "This Senate seat belongs to no one person, no one political party. ... This is the people's seat."

China seeks to Censor Texting

China increased its national censorship this week, mandating that its largest cell phone carriers begin a policy of screening the billions of texts sent within the country each day. This mandate was made as part of a greater movement to intensify an already ongoing effort to limit the exchange of illicit and explicit content. The effort is essentially focused on the goal of preventing the spread of the pornography industry in China—a goal that has

been gaining greater intensity each year. Chinese law enforcement officials have recently initiated a large crack down on the industry, making 5,000 arrests last year alone. According to Chinese news sources, the country has ordered carriers to disable cellular phones that are found to be sending or receiving banned content. According to Computer Science experts, the screening limits will be more possible than most critics believe, given China's technical capabilities. The imposed censorship orders have been met with some opposition, including American company, Google, which threatened to leave the Chinese market rather than comply with the country's censorship demands.

House Provides National Incentive for Aid to Haiti

The House of Representatives unanimously approved a bill that would allow taxpayers to claim a charitable deduction on their 2009 tax returns for donations made to the Haiti earthquake relief effort. The change comes at a vital time in the relief effort in the nation which was hit by a record breaking earthquake last week that destroyed 1/3 of its capital city. The tax incentive follows a similar format to one enacted in early 2005 for donations to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami that occurred late in 2004. The Senate also introduced a similar bill on Wednesday. Representative Charles Rangel, chairman of the House Ways and Means committee made the following comment regarding the urgently passed bill: "We all witnessed the horrendous event that took place in our hemisphere last week and have united in a bipartisan way to do what we can to ease the pain of those who are suffering in Haiti."

Keith Horn cont'd from page 1

consists exclusively of Dr. Wei Hu. So far, an offer has been made to a candidate and the administration is waiting for a response. The other openings are for a biology faculty member to teach animal physiology, developmental biology, and/or neuroscience as well as a

physics professor so that the physics department can offer general physics, astronomy, upper level courses, and courses that would satisfy integrated studies requirements for non-science majors. Horn said that the chemistry department is also in need of additional faculty, but this need will be addressed at a later time.

One of the other plans for the science division is the renovation

Praxis cont'd from page 1

Praxis committee this year was to organize the week in a way that addressed the theme of reconciliation from multiple perspectives.

In chapel on Monday, Grace Fabian shared her compelling story of personal reconciliation with the family of the man who killed her husband while serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea.

Tom Dewolf, on the other hand, brought a perspective on the need for reconciliation in the face of historical racism and slavery through a discussion of his book, *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts Its Legacy as the Largest Slave-Trading Dynasty in U.S. History*.

Other outside speakers on campus during the week were Sue Klassen, President of Partners in Restorative Initiatives, who conducted a workshop on restorative justice, and the group of friars from St. Bonaventure University invited to speak about interpersonal reconciliation from a Franciscan point of view. One of the goals in choosing speakers for both workshops and lectures, according to Praxis planning committee member John Brittain, Dean of the Chapel, was to seek out "persons from a different kind of Christian community."

Another goal was to draw on Houghton faculty members from a variety of departments, such as Psychology, Art, History, and Religion to lead workshops on the practical applications of reconciliation as seen through their various disciplines. For example, professor of psychology Michael Lastoria conducted a work-

shop on how this theme is lived out in family relationships, while Old Testament professor Kelvin Friebe spoke about its Biblical foundations. According to Huth, the smaller-scale setting of such workshops was meant to facilitate dialogue between faculty and students about the difficult issues involved in reconciliation. "One of the first important steps toward reconciliation," Huth reflected, "is to encourage people to talk about it."

Senior Naomi Woolsey communicated the Praxis committee's desire to plan events that would move students beyond dialogue to action, while at the same time recognizing that something as difficult as reconciliation cannot be forced.

Following Meic Pearce's talk on forgiveness on Monday evening, members of MercySeat led a worship service aimed at facilitating opportunities for students to receive prayer as they reflected on areas in their own lives in which they were in need of giving or receiving forgiveness. Brittain described his hope that events like this would serve as a first step, prompting participants to get together and seek reconciliation with someone from whom they have been alienated.

Junior Olivia Butz also expressed her hope that the events of Praxis week would generate more than just discussion and dialogue. "[I'm hoping] for the Spirit to leave these conversations in the hearts and minds of students, that they might better understand what it means to need forgiveness in the first place, to need to reconcile, and the power of the blood of Christ reconciling us to God and to each other." ★

of and addition to the Stephen Paine Science and Mathematics Center. According to Horn, an architect has drawn up "very exciting plans and layouts for the building" that would add approximately 20,000 square feet to the existing building. Several million dollars have already been donated for this project but more funds are needed before construction can start. Horn hopes the college will have the ability to start an early phase of the master plan that will begin within a year. This, of course, depends on funding as well as approval from the Board of Trustees.

The final goal the administration has for the science division is to be more interdisciplinary. A big step in this direction was taken in the fall with the start of the science honors program. Horn commented that the program was "very good" but as is common of newly started programs it "had some glitches." He went on to highlight the strengths of the program: problem-centered curriculum, a hands-on approach, and integration of science disciplines with writing and communication skills.

This approach parallels types of interdisciplinary science experiences that students will encounter in their careers in industry, academics, and the health professions. The program currently has 21 students and starting in February, 75 prospective students are expected to interview for 25 slots available for next academic year. Horn anticipates that other interdisciplinary courses will arise in the future. Such courses might integrate physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science to calculate how physics affects biochemistry or other similar cross-discipline problems and issues.

Horn's arrival signals a very exciting time for the math and science departments. There will be several changes including new faculty and changes to the Paine Center as well as new courses and programs. It is expected that by using resources efficiently to develop these areas, the college on a whole will grow stronger and will attract more students who can be Christian leaders in the realm of science. ★

Sodexo Wins Food Services Contract

by Joel VanderWeele

On January 14, the President's Staff approved a recommendation from the Food Services Selection Committee (FSSC) to give Houghton's food services contract to Sodexo, an international food and facilities management company. Pioneer's contract is due to expire in May and Sodexo will take over full services in the fall semester of 2010.

Sodexo stood out from the other bidders because of their unique ability to tailor their program based on student feedback, their plan to offer continuous service in the cafeteria, and their willingness to work with the college to meet its creation care goals. They also put a focus on fresh food and "batch cooking," rather than re-heated meals. "I saw a total of one can," said Dean of Students Dennis Stack after touring the preparation facilities at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, one of Sodexo's customers. "They make virtually everything from scratch."

Sodexo will also be able to draw on the resources of several colleges and restaurants in the area that are currently operated by Sodexo.

According to Executive Director of Human Resources Dale Wright, Sodexo will also offer years-of-service credits for Pioneer employees who continue to work in Houghton food service after the transition.

"I'm pretty sure the students will

be happy with our recommendation" said Joshua Mertzluft, student representative on the FSSC.

The FSSC, formed in response to a recommendation from the Organizational Sustainability Taskforce, has been working since September to decide the future of Houghton's food services. In addition to finding a new food services contract, "the college is interested in creating a culture of bidding and periodic review for all contracted services," according to a written statement from Sharra Hynes, Vice President of Student Life. "This was not about Pioneer being sub-standard" said committee member Dennis Stack. "1980 was the last time Houghton accepted bids for food services."

In early October, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent to Aramark, Bon Appetit, Sodexo, as well as Pioneer, the college's current food services partner whose contract is slated to come to a close in May. Bon Appetit, Sodexo, and Pioneer responded to the RFP with proposals, and the committee reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of each.

"The process we went through was very thorough," said committee member Dale Wright, Executive

Director of Human Resources. The committee reviewed each company's proposal, met with their management teams, and visited college campuses where the companies currently provide the food service. Mike Varriale, one of two student representatives on the

Mertzluft. Hynes asked each committee member to rank the three vendors in order of preference and Sodexo received the most votes. "They didn't necessarily finish first in every area," said Stack, "but were overall the strongest candidate."

According to a report given to the Student Government Association by Mertzluft on Tuesday night, Bon Appetit ranked higher in both food quality and environmental concerns, but their meal plans would be between \$150-200 more expensive per year and their management team was less impressive. Pioneer was unanimously voted third out of the three providers. "Sodexo's presentation blew the others away" said Mertzluft.

The final costs for the new meal plans will be decided by the Board of Trustees.

Committee member Rebecca Crouch, Director of Camps and Conferences, said "We

have all enjoyed working with Fred and his team and appreciate all the work they have done for us. We will miss working with them." At the same time, she is "excited about Sodexo and the level of food services that they will bring to Houghton College." ★



photo courtesy of sudexousa.com

committee, was "surprised by how objective the committee members were... it was pretty intense."

The last committee meeting, when the final recommendation was decided, was "supposed to be an hour-long meeting, but it ended up being four hours," because the decision was so difficult, said

Chapel Attendance Summary					Num. of Credits Required
Regular Chapels	Bonus Chapels	Exemptions	Total Credit		
6	0	0	6		27
Date	Description	Credit	Type	Attended	
01/11/2010	President Mullen	1		✓	
01/13/2010	Dean John Brittain	1		✓	
01/15/2010	Professor Jillian Sokso	1		✓	
01/18/2010	PRAXIS - Grace Fabian	1		✓	
01/20/2010	PRAXIS - Professor Kristina LaCelle-Peterson	1		✓	
01/22/2010	PRAXIS - Deacon's Planned Service	1		✓	
01/25/2010	Bay Forrest	1		X	
01/27/2010	Professor Richard Halberg	1		X	
01/29/2010	Jillian Parsons	1		X	
02/01/2010	Professor Paul Shea	1		X	
02/03/2010	Coach Bob & Dr. Laurie Smalley	1		X	
02/05/2010	President Mullen	1		X	
02/08/2010	Connie Foster	1		X	

image from I.Q. Webwait until the end of

This new score sheet accompanies the more consistently enforced attendance policy the semester to ask for an exemption

Chapel cont'd from page 1

they would go to chapel regardless of stricter disciplinary procedures or implementations. "I see the value of having the community get together regularly," said Michael Blankenship, a senior who recently transferred from Calvin College,

which, notably, does not require chapel attendance. Amanda Wilgus, also a senior, always made the 2/3 requirement and still continues to do so, though she said that she has "been more bothered by disruptive people." A third senior reported that last semester was the first semester that he met the 2/3

from chapel will be too late.

When John Brittain was asked about exemptions, he responded that his response to those who seek exemptions from chapel will be the same as those who seek exemptions from general education classes, like Biblical Literature or Lifetime Wellness. He excuses

non-traditional students, like commuters or those who live off campus, but has little to say to those who disagree with required chapel attendance. He continued, saying that students know what they're getting into when they decide to attend Houghton. "I don't understand if someone says, 'I had no idea I had to go to chapel.' That's unimaginable to me." He suggests that those who do not wish to be in chapel come anyway and use that time "to read some devotional classics."

Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes declined to comment. ★

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Praxis 2010: Grace Fabian on Reconciliation

by Jessica Lehsten

This week I had the privilege of sitting down to talk with Grace Fabian, a guest speaker for Praxis 2010. As Fabian shared on Monday in chapel, she and her husband Edmund were Bible translators in a remote village with the Nabak people of Papua New Guinea. After three tedious but fruitful decades living among the Nabak, the Fabians and their Nabak friends found themselves close to finishing the New Testament translation. However, tragedy struck in 1993 when Fabian's husband Edmund was murdered in their home by one of the Nabak men who had been helping with the translation work.

Instead of leaving Papua New Guinea and her translating, Fabian remained in Papua New Guinea. She stayed with the Nabak to complete the work. Not only so, but she also demonstrated great love by shaking the hand of the man who killed her husband, saying, "I forgive you."

I asked Fabian where she found the strength to do such a thing. She paused for a few moments then said, "We learn from others. I learned from my father." Her father often chose forgiveness when others would have sought revenge. Fabian's mother died after she was misdiagnosed and sent home from the hospital with tuberculosis. Not long thereafter, a police officer was speeding in a school zone and killed Fabian's sister. And later in Fabian's life, her older sister was given the wrong blood type in an emergency transfusion; she too passed away. Three accidental and devastating deaths. Yet through it all, Fabian's father was loving, and willing to reconcile with those he could have blamed.

As for her own tragedy, Fabian says, "My children were already suffering...What example would I have been to them if I had held a grudge? And as a Translator – do I just translate or do I also obey the Word?" I commented on how difficult that must have been and she didn't deny it; but, as she had told me earlier, "Forgiveness is a message we all need. I think you will come to a moment – it won't be the same as mine – but there will come a moment when you will have to decide to choose forgiveness. It's one of the most important things a Christian can do. Human love naturally runs out – but God's love within us never

does ...Forgiveness is the result of love, it's a lifestyle of love."

Five years after Edmund's death, the Nabak New Testament was completed and Fabian and her four children were invited to a ceremony to celebrate it. On the fifth day, as the entire party was hiking up to the highlands, Fabian says she was surprised by one of the male leaders who tied a beautiful strand of seashells and animal teeth around her head. He said, "I have started the ceremony with you; they will finish it up there." She didn't know what he meant.

As Fabian and her children continued to hike, the Nabak women lined up on each side of them and tossed flower petals on their pathway, singing beautiful songs. Soon they had come to the village, and people began placing necklaces and other "lovely things" around her neck. They said to the Fabians, "We were so ashamed we couldn't come to the funeral. So we are crying with you now." Fabian noticed they were dressed in their mourning clothes, and she watched as each one of the Nabak knelt down and placed their faces to the ground, wailing and weeping for Fabian's loss.

Later, Fabian was met by the wife of her husband's murderer. They stood before all the people and the wife said, "I say it plainly – it was my husband who killed your husband. Now you are a widow and I am a widow too." Then, as she recounted in chapel on Monday, Fabian and her family were asked to be a part of their clan. They humbly accepted.

Fabian thinks it's a shame that Americans don't have such elaborate reconciliation ceremonies. She wonders why we don't spend more of our time "throwing flower petals" on each others' paths: "Why don't we spend more time spreading kind words or encouragement or affirmation instead of gossip or slander?" She wonders too, why we find it so difficult to own up to our mistakes. "Instead of saying, 'you took it the wrong way,' or 'I didn't mean it like that,' why not say, 'yes, I did that, and it was wrong of me. As a sign of my remorse, I baked you an apple pie.'" I smiled. She laughed and said, "Why not?!"

I asked Fabian what that sort of thing might look like here. She said, "You know, I think it's okay to say to someone, 'you hurt me, you were wrong.' But follow that

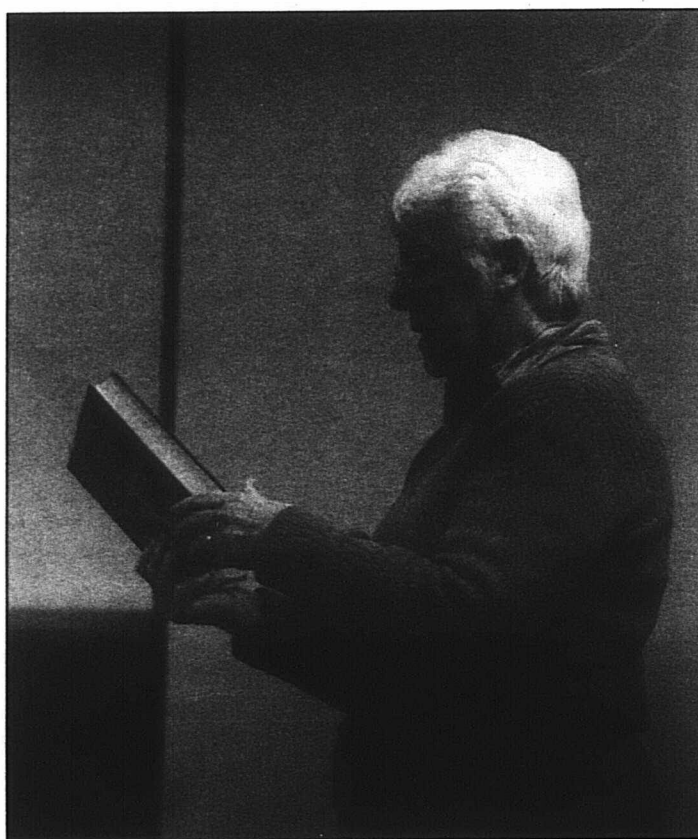


photo by Wesley Dean

Grace Fabian speaks on Reconciliation at two Praxis 2010 Sessions.

up with, 'But God is asking us to make things right. Let's be friends, let's fix this, let's rebuild.'

"Remember Hebrews [12:14]? 'Make every effort to live in

peace with all men...' It won't always be perfect; we live in a broken world. But you do what you can. And God honors it." ★

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Faculty Recital: Johnson's Music by Two Performs

by Micah Warf

This past Wednesday, January 13th, Wesley Chapel hosted Music by Two, a piano duo featuring Houghton College's own Sharon Johnson, assistant professor of piano and collaborative piano, and Nancy Davis, a member of the piano faculty at Salem Community College music school.

In past years, the duo has done extensive performing and traveling (averaging 50 concerts per year), and has premiered works by composers such as Eric Ewazen and Lowell Liebermann, among others. In addition, both members of the duo have had varied and impressive professional careers as pianists in the solo and collaborative fields.

The concert began with a wonderful presentation of the Aria and Toccata by Italian-American composer Norman Dello Joio, a broad and rhythmically complex piece with energy to spare. This contrasted with the Rondo alla Burlesca by Britten which followed. This piece was full of Britten's characteristic musical gaiety and spontaneity, which the performers brought out with panache and excitement.

The first half of the performance ended with



photo by Wesley Dean

Sharon Johnson and Nancy Davis performed on Wednesday, Jan 13.

Poulenc's Sonata for Two Pianos, a piece masterfully composed and brilliantly executed by the duo. Full of spirit and emotion, the piece remained graceful throughout, with close attention paid to the delicate phrasings.

The second half opened with two pieces by Mendelssohn, the Rondo Capriccioso and the

Scherzo from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Both were well-played, and were chosen, according to the program notes, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the composers. The concert was capped by a suite of pieces from the American composer Amy Beach, named

Suite for Two Pianos, founded upon Old Irish Melodies. The suite was fascinating and alternated between slow and fast movements with strong melodies, interesting technical facets, and broad harmonies.

It was obvious throughout the concert that Davis and Johnson have collaborated extensively in the past. Their musical presence was smooth and practiced, and their cues were subtle, yet clearly understood. The only disappointing facet of their musicality (and of the concert as a whole) was their rhythm, which suffered, especially during more complex pieces and movements. At times it seemed as though the performers were playing at different tempos, and the time it took for the duo to rearticulate their musical pulse was frustrating, detracting from the otherwise engaging music.

On the whole, however, the concert was both well-received and enjoyed by the audience. Several students commented on the high caliber of the music, and the variety of the program, and expressed hope that another concert featuring Music by Two would be gracing the campus again soon.★

Women's Basketball Climbs the Rankings

by Colleen Jennings

The Preseason Coaches' Poll ranked the Women Houghton Highlander basketball team 12th out of the fourteen teams in their Conference, but at 10-5 they are currently in ranked 7th. Faced with a tough schedule, the Women Highlanders have won five of their eight Conference games including wins against teams ranked eighth, fourth, and number one in the nation. According to Coach Lord, the team is "cautiously optimistic" about where the season is headed. With the American Midwest Conference Playoffs in reach, junior captain Shannon Daugherty thinks that "this year we are an experienced team and with that comes higher expectations but also higher potential."

Although the Highlanders have already played against some of the best teams in the nation, the rest of the season won't be any easier. "The American Midwest Conference is one of the top two in the NAIA," explained

Coach Lord. The Conference games that the Highlanders have left are against teams that are either in the Top Ten or receiving votes, a formidable line-up.

Because the team is made up of mostly upperclassmen, Coach Lord is confident in the experience and maturity that is leading the team forward. Starting all five starters from last season means the girls are stronger emotionally and more confident in their own abilities. According to Daugherty, "we have the potential to be successful if you consider our talent level, experience, [and] mental composure." For example, in a recent game against Wilberforce University, the Highlanders had a slow start and were losing at half time. But because of the overall strength they had gained from the year before, they were able to chip away a basket at a time to win the game.

But Coach Lord was quick to clarify that the team's success came not only from the ability of the juniors and seniors to lead

but also from the willingness of the sophomores and freshmen to follow. Each player on the team works hard, contributes, and is willing to play any role necessary for the team to do well. "The girls are all about team success, not individual numbers," stated Lord, "and that's not true of most teams."

"Essentially our goal is to play each game to our potential and improve for the next game," said Daugherty. Although this is necessary to achieve their goal of making it to the Conference playoffs and then going as far as possible, that is only a fraction of what this team is really about.★

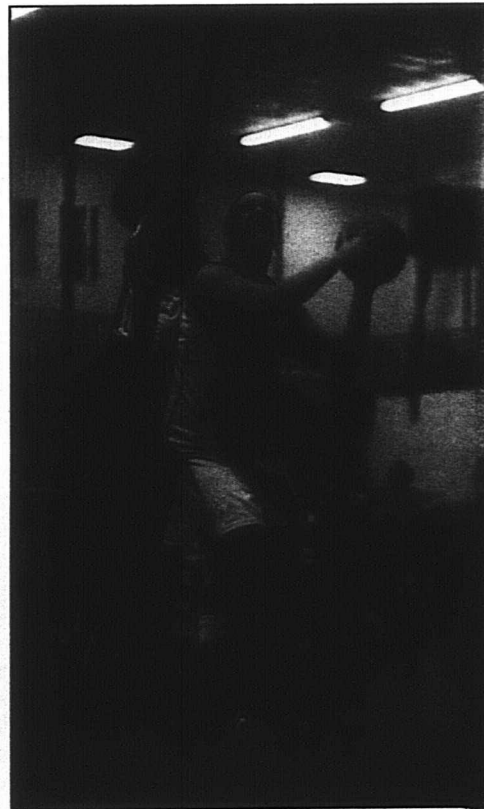


photo by Wesley Dean

Junior Ashely Dupler posts up.

Alumnus on Homosexuality: Determined or Free?

by J.M. Kane

The recent article in the Houghton Star, "What is it like to be Gay at Houghton?" sheds light on the complex nature of the moral controversy surrounding homosexuality. Clearly, there are two tracks on which one can engage the issue: the intellectual and the existential. Gabriel Marcel, in distinguishing between a problem and a mystery wrote, "A problem is something which I meet, which I find completely before me, but which I can therefore lay siege to and reduce. But a mystery is something in which I find myself involved, and it can therefore only be thought of as a sphere where the distinction between what is in me and what is before me loses its meaning and initial validity." In other words, achieving flight is a problem while sexuality is a mystery because you become a very part of the issues you are trying to resolve. For this reason, it is the existential track that defines the moral controversy surrounding homosexual behaviors and lifestyles.

The arguments in favor of same-sex lifestyle are primarily existential in nature, summed up in the idea, "how can something that feels so good and that I find myself irresistibly drawn to be so bad." This is the reason the crux of the controversy hinges on created identity. When engaged with a Christian response to same-sex lifestyles, practicing gays may often feel insulted, demonized, and misunderstood because of the very real existential struggle that they face. The platitudes or intellectual arguments will often seem so far away from the reality of their struggle. Yet these intellectual

answers have their legitimate place in clearing the haze surrounding the moral viability of homosexual behavior.

Same-sex attraction is actually a very normal fringe issue of the sinful human's struggle with sexuality. The pull that we feel, either to the same-sex, illicit sex, commercial sex, pornography, and the like are all part of our fallen sinful identity. In our own strength, we find ourselves irresistibly drawn to these deviant behaviors. They feel good and seem so natural.

As the church, we have sought to forge purity in our own image. We have lost sight of our brokenness and sinfulness before the Lord, leading to a culture where we demonize those who appear more fallen or less righteous than we are. Purity is not something any of us are ever capable of achieving in our own strength. Purity is bestowed on us by Christ and the ability to walk in it comes from his strength. The present culture of false purity intimidates people into pretending that their struggle with sins ended when they became a Christian. Out of it pour the fruit of the lies that have become us as we see men and women fall into all kinds of immorality and faithlessness.

The confessing Church must become a safe place, not to embrace the sin lifestyle, but to be able to openly face and overcome the very real struggles that both Christian and pagan men and women face in dealing with their sexuality. The

The confessing Church must become a safe place, not to embrace the sin lifestyle, but to be able to openly face and overcome the very real struggles that men and women face in dealing with their sexuality.

Church must also become aware of the significant connections between sexual abuse and sexual deviancy from its created intent. It is the first step in learning how to help men, women, and children heal their sexual brokenness and experience Christ's redemption of their sexuality.

Leanne Payne, in her book, "The Broken Image," addresses the deep connections between severe trauma and abuse and homosexual behavior and practice. While not by any means an exhaustive explanation for homosexual behavior, it is one of many contributing factors that lead people into the gay lifestyle. It needs to be given its due attention.

While Christians clearly need to demonstrate compassion and understanding, gay people and proponents of the homosexual lifestyle need to be able to maintain a self-awareness of their own inner angst surrounding the controversy so that they can engage meaningfully in the intellectual track of the controversy. The definitive work by renowned Psychiatrist and scholar, Jeffrey Satinover, that shows homosexuality is changeable and not biologically determined is called, "Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth." Of this book, one openly gay man who has been living the lifestyle for twelve years wrote, "This book will challenge the perspective of openly gay people—whether atheist, agnostic, or persons of faith—who honestly answer the questions it poses in

their lives."

As real as these existential struggles are, we cannot put them into perspective without understanding the reasons behind them. As old fashioned as it may seem, the doctrine of sin remains the most exhaustive and complete explanation of the human condition. In the words of famed Psychologist and one time President of the American Psychological Association, Hobart Mowrer:

"For several decades we psychologists looked upon the whole matter of sin and moral accountability as a great incubus and acclaimed our liberation from it as epoch making. But at length we have discovered that to be free in this sense, that is, to have the excuse of being sick rather than sinful is to court the danger of becoming lost...in becoming amoral, ethically neutral, and free, we have cut the very roots of our being, lost our deepest sense of selfhood and identity, and with neurotics themselves, we find ourselves asking, 'Who am I?, What is my deepest destiny?, What does living really mean?'"

Even the famed literary homosexual, Oscar Wilde could not escape the consequences of his sin. "The Picture of Dorian Gray" is a phenomenal piece of artistic work testifying that giving free license to sensuality and pleasure produces no lasting fulfillment or pleasure and leads to misery. Meaninglessness comes from weariness of pleasure. In his letter, *Des Profundis*, Wilde wrote, "Terrible as it was what the world did to me, what I did to myself was far more terrible still."

J.M. Kane is a 2005 Houghton graduate

Why Transformational Living Does Not Require Living Abroad

by Jordan Smith

As current Houghton students, I am sure you are all well versed with the many opportunities Houghton has to study abroad. The school's catchphrase "Not all classrooms are the same" is plastered on everything from t-shirts to admissions pamphlets. We all know that Houghton has the opportunities, but have we ever stopped to ask ourselves what the point is in studying abroad? Is there something more to be gained other than getting out of Houghton and traveling to someplace new?

Studying abroad taught me something so much more important than any of the actual courses I took dur-

ing the semesters. It taught me how to live a transformed life, no matter where I am. I earnestly believe that each and every one of us, no matter what we plan on doing for a career, is meant for great things. Some of you may go to Africa, Asia, South America, etc and do amazing stuff; on the other hand, some of you may never leave America. I think focusing on what we do as a job and where we do it is missing the point. We are called to live for Christ and strive

to see his Kingdom come to earth. Maybe that means working with sex trafficking in Thailand or child soldiers in Africa, or maybe that means working at Starbucks in Buffalo and volunteering after work and on weekends with an inner city program. I can guarantee you that there are people making more of an impact on the lives around them working a "normal" job and volunteering than people who are in full-time development work.

Studying abroad taught me something so much more important than any of the actual courses I took during the semesters. It taught me how to live a transformed life, no matter where I am.

So my question to all of you is: What is keeping us from living transformed lives with meaning and purpose? I ask myself this, because I am in a position right now where I don't feel a lot of purpose. I honestly thought I would only find purpose in leaving the US, but I can tell you that I was flat out wrong. I have been working in Thailand for about three months now, and I have a huge hole in my life that will not leave me alone. It keeps me awake at night and is the first thing that greets me in the morning. I think the reason for this is I am lacking the one thing I had in Africa: community. Yes, I

Smith cont'd on pg 7

From the Editor's Desk...

Prescient or Presumptuous - 10 Predictions for the Next Ten Years

by Editorial Staff

At the beginning of each year or political term, it's common for economists, journalists, analysts, and bloggers to go out on a limb and make their predictions for the next moment in history. Not to fly in the face of convention, the editorial staff of *The Houghton Star* humbly submits these ten predictions for the next ten years of Houghton College's history.

1. Faculty Governance - Houghton will slowly move away from its tradition of heavy faculty involvement in the governance process. This move will be brought about by burned out veterans and young professors who both prefer to spend their time in the classroom and on professional development then in faculty meetings.

2. Streamlining/Standardization - There are two possibilities here. (1) The "standardization" Dean Mahurin talked so much about during the State of the College series was meant as a reset button. After leveling everything out, the administration will make dramatic new investments in particular programs/departments. This will, of course, make some departments upset, but it is really the only way to create the marketable "distinctives" that Houghton is currently lacking. (2) This recent round of standardizations represents a new era of fiscal equality, where all investment is proportional. If this is case, the administration will learn that this is a mistake and will find itself

with nothing to advertise but well-roundedness and predictable financial returns.

3. Faculty Hirings - As Dean Ron Mahurin explained during the Organizational Sustainability process, faculty openings in the next ten years will provide many exciting opportunities for "strategic hires." Consistent with the current focus on revitalizing the sciences, there are three open science faculty positions advertised on the Academic Dean's website. Look for these hires to reveal a more pronounced commitment to interdisciplinary study. Rather than specialists, the school will seek professors with expertise in multiple disciplines who can draw connections between previously disconnected departments.

4. Sciences - The new science wing will be built, but not before 2015. Hopefully the new wing will give Houghton the kind of reputation that will make it a candidate for conferences and conventions about environmental sustainability and technology in Western New York.

5. Conversation Topics - Chapel requirements, drinking, and smoking will continue to be annual sources of conversation. Of the three, the chapel requirement is the least likely to be relaxed (excluding the possibility

of moving to a Tuesday-Thursday chapel schedule).

6. The Color Green - Environmental and Economic commitments will create tension. Because money is and probably always will be tight, the school will have to be creative about its environmental commitments. Although it won't become a marketable "distinctive" until the money is there to fund dramatic investments in environmental technology, Houghton will, for the time being, focus on smaller scale environmental sustainability. Look for local food production, the Science Honors program, and partnerships between Recreation & Leisure, Sociology, and the Sciences to provide exciting ideas.

7. First Year Honors Programs - Science Honors and EMW will remain the same while London will either be dropped entirely or replaced by another Mayterm-model program. Enough people at Houghton are suspicious of Honors study that attempts to start a new Honors program will face an uphill battle all the way.

8. Foreign Languages - All foreign language majors will be completely cut and will move to an entirely minor/concentration based program. However, other languages that are rising in frequency and practicality

(Mandarin Chinese, Arabic) will be added.

9. Technology - As can already be observed in some classes, required readings will increasingly come in the form of internet links and digital copies, rather than expensive book lists. SmartBerries and iReaders will continue to take over our daily routines. In response, Houghton will follow the example of Stephens College and establish a tradition of tech-free vespers services and/or continue efforts like last year's simplicity initiative.

10. With the now-complete implementation of the four-credit system, and the increased time investment this system requires within one's specific field, students who become unsure of their degree track in their second or third year will be unable to change majors without a significant amount of rescheduling, and possibly extra semesters and tuition costs incurred. One of the negative effects of this will be to create students who are dissatisfied with their majors, unenthusiastic about their departments, and to increase the amount of transfers to other schools.

Prescient or presumptuous, we hope this list sparks conversations about what will, can, and should happen in the next 10 years of Houghton's history. As always, we welcome readers to contribute their own thoughts in the form of letters to the editor and online comments.

Written by the editorial staff

Smith cont'd from pg 6

know the word has been uttered so many times in Houghton that it has moved beyond cliché, but I am not talking about some false sense of us all being one big happy Christian family. I am talking about real community, one in which its members not only live together but they experience every aspect of life together. I don't think I ever realized how essential it was until I came to Thailand. We are taught in the US that we should be able to "make it on our own" and be independent, this is a false reality. We are not meant to do life alone, there is a reason God surrounded us with friends and family, we need them! It seems obvious, but how many times do we ignore this simple fact in our lives? We NEED each other. I have met a lot of development workers that did not realize this until they had already burned out

and given up on their work. As individuals there is only so much we can do, but as a community the possibilities are endless. So go to Indonesia or Bolivia and work in development, or work at Tim Horton's and volunteer on the weekend. You want to see this in action? Drive down Rt. 19 to Angelica and visit Wellspring Ministries. The people volunteering there are a perfect example of living transformed lives in the midst of everyday America.

To my Go-ED family, I love you all. To everyone else, I encourage you, no matter your major, to consider studying abroad. I hope that you too will be able to find the life-changing experience that I discovered. It is something that no number of courses or chapel speeches can ever teach you.

Jordan Smith is a 2009 Houghton graduate

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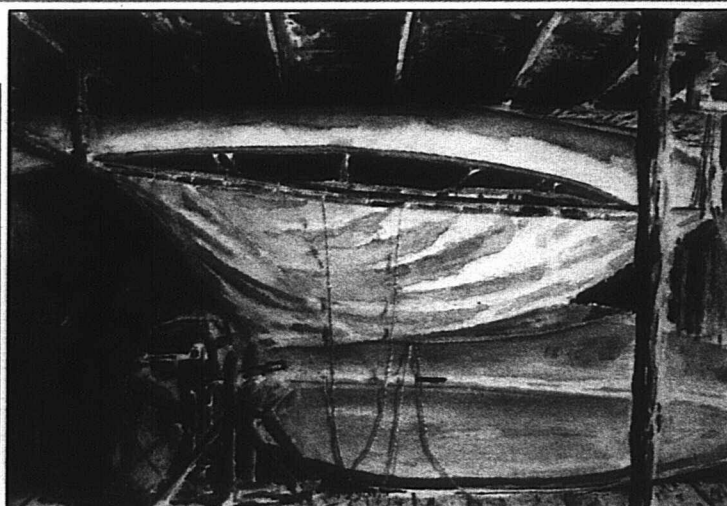
artist OF THE WEEK



Ben, Oil



Herick, Watercolor



The Boat House, Watercolor

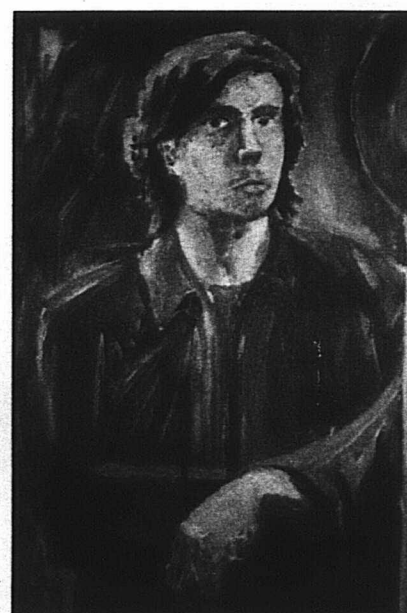
MARC LEMAIRE

A Note from the Artist: Painting is a very challenging medium to me, because it offers the chance to explore questions or environments I often don't tackle. I tend to begin a painting with ideas in mind such as compositions, styles, and especially ideas from painters (Matisse, Soutine, Cezanne, Rembrandt). Often these influences become ideas that take grasp of me. This is when the tables are turned and I finish the painting with more questions than when I began. I am left to grapple with the world view that these painters were experiencing (such as life after WWI for Soutine) but suddenly I begin to understand it in the world today and in the way these ideas have influenced us all. So I am left to wonder.

To see additional work from Marc, visit www.houghton.edu or <http://llemairepottery.weebly.com>



Morning Yellow, Watercolor



Self Portrait with Hat, Oil

Congratulations to Caitlin Cleland et al, Last issue's Crossword Challenge Winners!
Stop by the Star office to retrieve your prize

sudoku CHALLENGE

Bring your finished sudoku puzzles to the STAR office clearly marked with FULL NAME.

THIS SUDOKU IS
EASY

1		4	2	9			8	3
9	7	2			6	1		
6	4	3			8	2		
8		7	3	2			1	4
4		5		1			7	
	9							
7		1		6			2	

The Star will only accept ONE puzzle per semester from each student.

Prize: Leroy Townes and the Lone Stars' album!

THIS SUDOKU IS
HARD

						1		
	6	3			4			
	5			8			7	
	3			4			5	
2	7					9		
					6			
3						8	6	1
				1			3	
		1	2	3	9			