

## PURPLE AND GOLD WEEK

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# Three Houghton Faculty Receive Tenure



ANTHONY BURDO

Professor Jamie Potter is an Assistant Professor of Biology and is also Director of Pre-Health Professions.



ANTHONY BURDO

Professor John Rowley is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry, as well as a member of the Science Honors Faculty.



LUKE LAUER

Professor Lori Huth is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, in addition to teaching courses in English.

## HATTIE BURGHER

This past week, the announcement was made that Professors Lori Huth, Dr. John Rowley, and Dr. Jamie Potter would be receiving tenure. Tenure provides

job security for the faculty member, who has typically served six years, subject to the guidelines of Houghton's Statement of Community Responsibility and Doctrinal Statement. Specifically for Houghton, tenured faculty members need to have an earned degree in a field relat-

ed to their teaching and show strength in integration of faith with learning and practice, teaching, scholarship and service to the college.

Despite popular belief, tenure is not job security for life no matter what the faculty member does, but a guarantee of full due process in evalua-

tions of performance and behavior.

The process to attain tenure is a lengthy one. Over the course of the six years served, multiple people and committees review the faculty members' applications, teachings, scholarship and service. Everyone from faculty peers to

President Mullen is involved in the process.

Relief that the strenuous and rigorous process is over is the general consensus of the three professors. "The application process itself is a lot

See **TENURE** page 3

## Obama Proposes Free Community College

## SYLVIA MORROW

Last week in the State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama outlined America's College Promise, a plan to "lower the cost of community college -- to zero."

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, the proposal aims to waive tuition for community college students who maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA and "make steady progress toward completing their program." The plan applies to both half-time and full-time students and includes certificate, associate, and bachelor's degrees. The plan would cost the federal government an estimated \$60-billion over ten years, which would cover 75% of projected costs, while participating states would be asked to fund the other 25%.

Dr. Linda Mills Woolsey, Dean of the College, who said she has "mixed feelings" about the plan, described it as a "well-intentioned" attempt to "meet a projected education gap" and to "make sure that there's access to education for people from all economic backgrounds." Woolsey said doing this solely through the

community college system, however, encourages the mass-production of education, "we're imagining a kind of Henry Ford type way to get students through their first couple years of education."

Eric Currie, Vice President for Enrollment Management, said while initially the plan might "create a challenging moment" for Houghton, the already existing "great transfer processes" Houghton has with community colleges will be an important asset. Currie said Houghton is likely to continue to prioritize the continued development of online programs and of the Buffalo campus of Houghton, both of which more closely meet the needs of the demographic of students primarily targeted by America's College Promise.

President Shirley Mullen said her primary concern is the current prominence of cost in the dialogue about higher education would make it "easy for the idea of a free two-year college to just be too tempting for students for whom that really isn't the best option and not the only option," and usually the

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## Houghton First in Nation to Offer Liberal Arts Data Science Class

## LUKE LAUER

This semester, Houghton became the first liberal arts college in the country to offer an undergraduate class in data science. It is also the first Christian liberal arts college to offer any class in data science according to Carmen, McKell, cofounder of *BaseMetrics*.

"Data Science is the art of turning data into actions," says the to *The Field Guide for Data Science*.

Seminar in Data Science hosted guest speaker Paul Yacci, data scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton and co-author of *The Field Guide for Data Science*, on Jan. 21, marking the first official class of the semester. Yacci said, "It will certainly will be interesting to see what comes

out of liberal arts background towards data science." He said he was "excited to kick off the series" and is the first of many guest speakers to be part of the weekly seminar.

According to course coordinator and technology librarian, Glen Avery, the course has weekly guest speakers from the field of data science

See **DATA** page 3



COURTESY OF CARMEN MCKELL

Paul Yacci, Booz Allen Hamilton data scientist, guest lectured on Jan. 21, 2014 for the Seminar in Data Science class which is the first class offered to seniors for the pending new data science major.



# INTERNATIONAL // Boko Haram Attacks in Nigeria



ANTHONY BURDO

LUKE LAUER

The Boko Hararm, a militant terrorist group in Nigeria, attacked and took

control of Monguno,Nigeria on Sunday. The town hosts a large military barracks and is home to 100,000 people. The group also launched an attack on the Borno State capital city of Maiduguri, 85 miles from Monguno, but did not take control. All this after the Baga Massacre earlier this year, in which over 2,000 people were killed. Survivors of the recent attacks reported the rebels came through villages, slitting throats, looting and burning homes, and abducting women and children. Officials said these attack were a significant advance in a campaign to encircle Maiduguri that started last summer, as reported by The New York Times. More than 200 combatants died in the fighting,

mainly insurgents, according to The Guardian. The town of Monguno, with its military barracks, previously acted as an important protection for Maiduguri. Now, with the fall of Monguno, the Boko Haram are in a better position to advance on Maiduguri. The two cities are in a strategic position in the northeast, near the neighboring countries of Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, has expressed intentions of expanding the attacks to nearby Niger and Cameroon. According to The Wall Street Journal, Chad is presently spared from threats because of the French anti-Islamist military group, Operation

Barkhane. Headquartered in Chad’s capital, Operation Barkhane has 3,000 French forces. The Boko Haram killed an estimated 11,245 people in 2014, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. The Wall Street Journal reported these recent ruthless events by the Boko Haram, including the Baga Massacre, are due to a shift from insurgency tactics to governance. Following similar tactics of Islamic State of Iraq and Syrica (ISIS), Boko Haram is employing a warlord model for governance in the areas that take control. These recent attacks come before Nigeria’s upcoming elections on Feb. 14. John Kerry, the U.S. secretary of state, visited Lagos,

the nation’s commercial capital, at the same time of these attacks. He was there to encourage peaceful elections next month. The New York Times reported, “Mr. Kerry said the United States was prepared to do more to help the faltering Nigerian Military.” However, “He warned that the level of American support would be influenced by the determination of Nigeria’s politicians to carry out a fair and peaceful election.”★

*Luke is a senior communication and art major.*

## COLLEGE from page 1

rhetoric about cost “underestimates the impact of [four year] education on even one’s financial resources over the long haul.” She described a sadness in the potential loss, not just for Houghton, but for all students pursuing higher education if the proposal draws students away from four-year learning com-

munities that in general provide “a more coherent education overall.” However, Mullen also said, “we would like to have more transfer students” as they often bring a greater appreciation for Houghton and a more focused drive. Currently, transfer students make up 18% of incoming students and 15% of the student body. Currie said while he supports anything that will bring education to more people, he would have liked to see the gov-

ernment offer to pay two years of tuition for eligible students at any college that was able to meet a given price cap. “I would say challenge us all to rise to the occasion. Not just community colleges,” said Currie. “Challenge whoever is willing to go and make it happen...I think that that edifies some of the best things about our society which is innovation, entrepreneurship...and the kind of take charge personality, and yet still meeting people’s needs.”

The needs of the people are not just financial. Woolsey said she embraces the social good of widely-available free education, but is not sure “it will do what we want it to do if in the process we lose the richness and variety of higher education.” Woolsey said, “These small private colleges and even some of the midsized, private Christian colleges offer an education that’s more varied, sometimes more creative, and certainly more focused on the individual.”

Though at this point it seems highly unlikely that the proposal will make it through congress any time soon, Currie said, “Whether it’s President Obama or the next President or the President after that, I think that something like this is going to come through...it’s on the radar in the federal government and in the state governments that they feel that they really want to have an impact on this issue, and I think they feel it’s important.”★

# Lack of Theatre Life on Campus Draws Attention

THOMAS ECKERT

There are no plays planned for this semester at Houghton. The school’s theater clubs have experienced a dearth of interest from the student body. This loss of momentum is a result of several factors, yet there is movement on the part of the faculty to breathe life into Houghton theater. Wynn Horton, ’15, has been deeply involved with theater in his time at Houghton. He expressed his concern, “2014-2015 is the first of several years at Houghton in which there has been no theatre. We have had a plethora of plays and musicals over the last 4 years and now hit a drought.” There are two active theater groups on campus: Encore and Houghton Musical Theater Players. Formerly, the Shakespeare Players put on works by their namesake before being subsumed into Encore. These groups have faced an economic challenge over the past few years as the cost of copyright has become greater than net revenue from

the production. With the reduction of the student body, there are fewer students participating in productions though the overall percentage of students interested in the performing arts may not have changed. Encore president Sarah Wright views the problem as a, “vicious circle.” As a result of fewer students participating in productions, other students know less about the productions because they don’t permeate as much of the campus population, thus even fewer students participate in later productions. This cycle runs parallel to another. The lack of funding for the plays means that they cannot have as high a quality as they would otherwise. This results in a lack of attendance, and therefore a lack of funding for further performance ventures. The solution might be to change ticket prices, however, if they are raised, the audience will shrink. If they are lowered, the overall revenue might shrink as well. It is difficult to find a clear answer to breaking this cycle. It may not be able to raise itself up from its current status without outside help. Encore has made several efforts to increase its appeal to students. They have held an

activity themed workshop on stage make-up that they had hoped would be joined by other theater-centric workshops. The low attendance of the first workshop cancelled any further plans of this kind. They have also looked into performing smaller plays, such as one-acts. Professor Wardwell suggested they participate in a 72-hour “Theater Blitz” wherein a play is written, cast, and performed in 3 days. The size of these productions make them a better fit for the present interest and funding. Their short term involvement means students aren’t required to commit as much time to them. These efforts have been matched by further challenges. Theater groups have had trouble renting spaces to practice and even perform plays, relegating them to classrooms until opening night. The Encore Theater Group recently had to relocate their props and equipment from the building now occupied by Addie’s Ice Cream. The group understands the need for the move, but found the replacement location provided by the college meant having to throw away half of their props due to size constraints. There is a chance

that the dry spell of theater interest could be part of a larger cycle. Horton thinks that it parallels other Houghton activities, “It makes sense that one group of students had the momentum to pull off large theatre productions while others don’t. In the same way, other student organizations or campus events go through similar ebb and flow patterns. For example, the student government’s presence and interest in it comes and goes, SPOT and its talent/entertainment value comes and goes, and clubs like the Pro-life Club or Math Clubs come and go depending on whether or not there are students to lead them.” Horton said, “Theatre clubs are the same, if no one steps up or there’s no interest, then there’s no theatre. The only difference is, when musicals and plays have become almost habitual - people notice when they’re missing. I’d love to see someone make theatre happen again.” Professor Susan Lipscomb wants to encourage a rekindled interest in Houghton productions through faculty intervention. She, along with professors Gaerte and Wardwell are working towards bringing a director as resident on campus for the

upcoming three years. The director would come and spend four weeks working solely on producing a play alongside Houghton students. The cost of this residency would be paid for by an application of the Van Gorden Fund, which is dedicated to nurturing English, theater, and the arts. The three-year pilot will be vetted for a continuation of the program in subsequent years. Professor Wardwell sees theater as an important component to life on a college campus. In his view, theater serves a human, not just educational, benefit. Horton agrees, “The stage is a medium that can truly be used as a platform or arena for conversations of all kinds and of all temperatures - perhaps even some of the edgy conversations Houghton has been avoiding over the last few years? Acting also encourages those on stage to truly put themselves in the shoes of others, and sometimes even legitimize estranged people groups or taboo topics. Regardless of theatre’s social value, it is entertaining, and we all know Houghton can never have enough of that during the cold winter months.”★



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of work,” says Huth. She said achieving tenure “requires many years of working hard on all components of being a good faculty member.” Linda Mills Woolsey, Dean of the College, praised the creative writing professor stating “Ms.

Huth brings high standards to writing teaching and some of her students have been winning national awards.” Rowley, Professor of Chemistry, feels receiving tenure validates his vocation, which is to “teach students to be excellent scientists in a Christian context.” Woolsey said Rowley has “provided leadership for Science

Honors and strong service to the Chemistry program.” Although he feels now he does not need to worry about proving himself, Rowley wants to debunk the popular myth that professors become lazy after receiving tenure. “I think tenure results in greater responsibility on the part of faculty,” said Rowley. For Potter, she

doesn’t want her position to make her complacent. “There are a lot of things I want to achieve in the department,” stated the biology professor. She feels having tenure will give her more confidence to “take the advancements” that she wants to take. Along with Rowley, Potter has made contributions to Science Honors and “has done a great deal to

build and support Pre-Health Professions,” says Woolsey. Both the Rank and Tenure Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Boards were “Impressed by the achievements of these faculty,” according to Woolsey. Huth, Rowley, and Potter “Have shown a strong commitment to teaching and to serving students.” ★



Stefan Heeke, the executive director of SumAll.org, guest lectured to the Seminar and Data Science class via a Skype call on Wednesday, Jan. 29.



Students in the Seminar and Data Science class listen to guest lecturer, Stefan Heeke.

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lined up. McKell, also course coordinator and Houghton alumna is connecting with data scientists to speak at the seminar. Stefan Heeke, executive director of SumAll.org, was the second speaker, via Skype, last Wednesday. Some other future speakers include Amanda Stent, principal research scientist at Yahoo Labs; Michael Lyons, director of analytics for the Buffalo Bills; and Philip Martin,

SumAll.org data scientist. Avery is also trying to get in contact with a digital historian in Australia. As part of the seminar, McKell said students will, “have a great opportunity to connect with some of the top Data Scientists in many areas including sports analytics, healthcare, business etc.” Grace Baleno, senior and class participant, said “it is good exposure to the field [data science] and making good connections.” In addition to connections, Martin will become a mentor for students, according to Avery. Martin will advise stu-

dents on their final project of data evaluation, analysis, and visualization. “Students will get a chance to work with real datasets as part of this course to tell their stories with data,” said McKell. The semester will end with students giving a presentation on their project. Sarah Slater, senior and class participant, said the class has already “been really interesting because the teachers are people who are in the industry. I think this is an opportunity you don’t have in a lot of classes.” “Glen Avery and I are very impressed with the diversity

of students in the class,” said McKell. “They come from a variety of backgrounds, including psychology, computer science, business, biology, math, accounting, communications, and international development.” Concerning students of the class and discussion during his presentation, Yacci said, “Bringing all those people together really fostered an interesting discussion surrounding some of the topics. One of the things I find is working with someone from a different field often makes you have to force yourself to really think outside the box a little bit.”

McKell said, “At the end of the course it is our hope that these students will have a better understanding of the basics behind data science, and see how it fits in with their future careers.” “I think the area of using data science for social good is a lot more interesting and intriguing to me,” said Baleno. Yacci said, “I think Houghton has a real interesting opportunity here to do a lot of good in the social good arena. I think there is still a lot that could be done as far as social good problems. I think the liberal arts perspective really would bring a lot from their end.” ★

Across

1. Severe

6. Alfred E. Neuman magazine

9. Couple

12. Came to

13. Dined

14. Youngster

15. TV, radio, etc.

16. Big load

17. “\_\_ moment please”

18. Fires

21. Spoke loudly

25. Understand

26. Went around

28. One ful of 2 down

32. AKA Alecia Beth More

33. Goal

35. Not yours

36. Catch some shuteye

38. Points in time

40. Depressed

42. Youtube offerings

43. Recesses at schol for instance

47. “Col!”

48. King Kong, for example

49. Get up

54. Finish

5. Mark of perfection

56. Avid

57. “Amen!”

58. Koky

59. \_ owl (Hedwig, for one)

3. Rel’s partner

4. Hit he slopes

5. Pig- (obstinate)

6. They might say “Welcome”

7. Itsy-bitsy bits

8. Turned down

9. Boxing match decisions, maybe

10. Burgundy, e.g.

1. Lyric poems

19. It comes to mind

20. Apeared to be

21. Chihuahua chater

2. Bad

23. “The \_\_ Ranger”

24. Probable

27. Faint

29. You ned this to make 10 down

30. Captivated by

31. More oposite

34. Relocate

37. Kind of chip

39. Longs for

41. Squeged

43. Quarry

4. Narow stret

45. Combines

46. Fix

50. Brown

51. Before now

52. Fresh

53. \_ run (test)

Down

1. \_ and chese

2. Amazement



PURPLE

HOUGHTON COLLEGE  
PURPLE & GOLD WEEK 2015

&

GOLD

HOUGHTON COLLEGE  
PURPLE & GOLD WEEK 2015

## Sunday, Feb. 1st

Super Bowl and Wings  
Special at Big Als

Give-A-Ways  
-Kindle E-Reader  
-Mini Jambox  
-Football Charcoal Grill

## Monday, Feb. 2nd

T-Shirt Give-A-Way in Van  
Dyk Lounge after Chapel

## Tuesday, Feb. 3rd

Coffee House in Campus  
Center Basement at 8-10pm

## Wednesday, Feb. 4th

Wii Tournament

Purple and Gold Rock Candy  
at Welcome Desk

## Thursday, Feb. 5th

Minute to Win It Game Show  
in Recital Hall at 8pm

## Friday, Feb. 6th

Women’s Basket Ball at 6pm  
Men’s Basket Ball at 8pm  
with CAB Couch and Half  
Time Events With Faculty

Dodgeball Tournament in the  
Nielsen Center at 8pm

## Saturday, Feb. 7th

**SPOT** Hosted by Matt  
Dean and Connor Vogan  
in the Chapel at 10pm  
Doors Open at 9:30



### Gold Football...

... The Gold football team won two straight games from the Purple, to annex the color championship for the year. Both games were hard-fought contests, but the Gold combined power, speed and deception to confirm the prediction of their victory. The first game score was 7-6, the second 32-7, proving that they were the rightful champions.

**GOLD FOOTBALL**  
First Row: K. MacPherson, R. Morgan, J. Giacovelli, G. Tropf, J. Rossa  
Second Row: D. Flint, R. Nast, P. Nast, O. Donnell, M. Trautman, D. Gallagher, Manager



Gold Girls Basket Ball Team  
Winners of the Purple-Gold Series

“They called the gold team the “Gladiators” and they called the purple team the “Pharaohs.” At least that was during the late 50s and early 60s. There is still, among alumni, strong loyalty to the color you were assigned when you came. We have alumni who don’t like, at a banquet, to sit next to a purple napkin if they were gold. We still have purple and gold competitions at the 50 year reunion, whether it’s trivia or something else.,,

- Dan Noyse, Executive Director of Alumni Relations



Gold Baseball Team  
Winners of the Purple-Gold Series

“1920 was when they started assigning students purple or gold when they first came to campus. Kind of like the Harry Potter sorting hat. And I guess if you were legacy, like your brother or sister was purple or gold, then you could be placed into that or you could choose. For the most part it wasn’t like you got to pick the shirt that went best with your complexion, which is the way it is now, you just got assigned a color and that’s what you were for all four years. ,,

- Dan Noyse, Executive Director of Alumni Relations



PURPLE MEN—First Row: Keith Greer, James Parks, Verlee Dunham, Jonathan Angell, Gardner Cronk. Second Row: Daniel Smith, Paul Shea, Philip Chase, Alvin McCarty, Philip Stockin, Coach Burke.

“ In 2007, the Student Government Association, the Campus Activities Board, and the Student Programs Office partnered together to bring back a time-honored Houghton tradition – PURPLE vs. GOLD! Much of Houghton’s first century featured an intense intramural struggle between students divided into purple and gold teams. In an effort to bring back some of the excitement a full schedule is planned each Spring semester by the Director of Student Programs and the CAB staff. The week is filled with team and campus events. Everyone is encouraged to join a team by picking-up your FREE PURPLE or GOLD t-shirt (while supplies last!) and participate – students, staff, and faculty! ,,

- Greg Bish, Director of Student Programs



# Murphy's Recommended Reads

## The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony

TED MURPHY

One of the proposals for my sabbatical was to further read in areas of interest in my interdisciplinary work in film and art. I would like to share a few thoughts on one particular book that has had a lasting impression. Roberto Calasso is one of the great polymaths writing today. He writes on literature, art, culture, and philosophy. His books are difficult to define. The book that made him famous is *The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony*.

The book is a rhapsody on the origins of Greek mythology. But rather than offer another attempt to retell the myths, such as classics like Robert Graves' *The Greek Myths*, Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, or Gustav Schwab's *Gods and Heroes of Ancient Greece*, Calasso's book is more of a work of art. He begins with where the myths begin... with the abduction of a beautiful young woman. From there his tale weaves together strands of Homer, Hesiod, Herodotus, Plutarch, Pliny, Sophocles, Euripides...etc. He moves through the permutations of the narratives as one might have heard them spoken in the oral tradition. The endnotes explain the matrix of sources. Many familiar - many not available in any English translation. Calasso's idea is that the history of myth is as Joseph Campbell once described it - a

grand narrative of our social values and truths.

Some of the best moments for me are those parts of the book where he enters in and comments or questions the nature and interpretations of those stories. For instance, the alternate narrative of Helen who was never even in Troy. The woman who precipitated the Trojan/Greek war was actually a double... a phantom. One reference in Herodotus says she was kept in Egypt. Calasso muses about why Homer decided to give us the other story? This raises the ante on what it is exactly we care about most...ideas or realities?

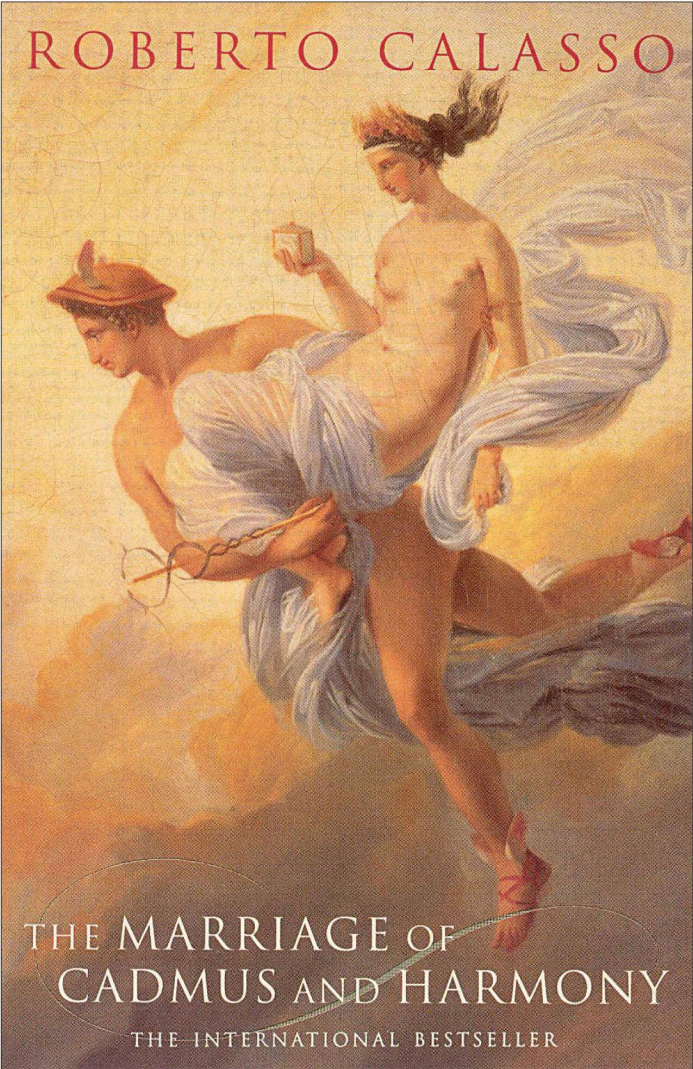
The book is composed of 12 chapters. It covers the enormous range of what Graves called the "disorganized corpses of Greek mythology." The final chapter gets you into the title of the book. It tells the story of the tragic fate and aftermath of the marriage of Cadmus and Harmony. It ends with Cadmus' gift - letters..."those fly's feet" that became the Phoenician language in written form, essentially the transition of oral to written text.

It is a pleasure to teach art history to Houghton students. I seldom have to pause to explain who Jacob is or why Absalom is hanging by his hair in a tree. They know the stories of the Hebrew Bible (what we call the Old Testament) and it's companion, the New. Sometimes I prod them into interpretation or to ponder the interconnectedness of the sto-

ries. How Adam and Jesus are mirrored ideas in the text as Paul expounds on the significance in a kind of literary criticism of the text. It is great to teach students who know the stories. Houghton students read well as "moral readers"...getting what the text is trying to teach... but not always as "experiential readers." Some of the stories are there to makes us feel things.

Calasso's book is a remarkable work that will generate new ideas about familiar and not so familiar stories. I recommend this to anyone looking for a highly crafted rich narrative on these foundational stories to western culture. Read him after you have read Ovid. The Myths of Greece (and the Roman counterparts) form the other half of what all those magnificent paintings in the Louvre, the Prado and the Met are largely about. Who was Pelops? Why is that peninsula call the Peloponnese? Calasso has a great story to relate on that theme. Learn about the curse upon the house of Atreus or the meaning of the oracles. Read the heart breaking investigation that Plutarch took to discover who Charila in Delphi was. These and so many more are the reason this is such a wise, erudite investigation into these sometimes familiar and often times obscure stories.

Did the Greeks believe in their myths? Yes and no. Most of these stories existed to explain the forces of life and fate. On the one



Calasso's book looks at the ge old Greek myths in a new light.

hand they are a way to address the season, the mystery of attraction and the reason why a bronze spear misses the foe at whom it was thrown. Calasso has a very

refined sense of the balance between story and meaning. It is a book not quite like any you are going to encounter on this old subject. ★

# The Theory of Everything

## Part Biopic, Part Love Story

HATTIE BURGER

The life and times of astrophysicist Stephen Hawking and his wife Jane are portrayed in the new British film, *The Theory of Everything*. Inspired by Jane Hawking's memoir *Travelling to Infinity: My Life With Stephen*, the film tells the remarkable story of one of the most successful living physicists.

The film picks up when Stephen Hawking is attending graduate school at the University of Cambridge and meets Jane, a fellow student whom he falls quickly and deeply in love with. The brilliant, active, and somewhat brash Stephen appears to have a bright future, until he receives a life-altering diagnosis at age 21.

As he is given a life expectancy of two years, Stephen has to now navigate through school, relationships, and life with motor neuron disease. The film follows Jane as she devotedly takes care of Stephen, and Stephen's determined effort to make new discoveries in science.

Hawking's scientific research was focused on the nature of time, a theme that the film in



Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones star in this Oscar nominated film.

turn focuses on. Throughout the film, it is shown how time tests the bonds between two people, and how it is unknown how much of it we really have.

The film comes from the beautiful vision of director James Marsh who creates an emotional and affectionate trib-

ute to Hawking. He takes a true love story and doesn't portray it in the conventional, sappy way. Marsh wants to be honest about Stephen and Jane's relationship, and doesn't hold back from putting the audience through the emotional and tumultuous journey of it.

Eddie Redmayne, who portrays Stephen Hawking, delivers a nuanced performance having to act out Hawking's disease. Redmayne is a convincing and compelling Hawking, so much so that I almost forgot that I was watching a movie. He isn't afraid to look pathetic and helpless,

and that allows him to give an exceptionally poignant performance. Whether he is dragging himself up a flight of stairs or is unable to pick up a fork to feed himself, Redmayne moves the audience to feel an immense amount of sympathy for not only Hawking, but for his family as well. Redmayne does an exceptional job at making the audience forget that he is not the real Hawking.

Jane Hawking is portrayed by Felicity Jones, and she too delivers a very captivating performance. As the wife to a physically helpless man, Jones captures the indefatigable position of taking care of Stephen. Jones embodies the pain that grows over time in Jane's heart from not being in a normal relationship.

The Theory of Everything is a celebration of life in all of its beauty and sadness. The film is not so much about physics and Hawking's monumental scientific discoveries, but rather is a tribute to relationships, love, and life itself. It is a film that goes beyond just being a biopic; it is a story that can resonate with people of all ages. ★



# How Houghton Handles Racism

EMMA BRITTAIN

Racism is a problem in America, throughout the world, and yes in Houghton as well. Racism, as I want to simply define it here, is a systemic and sometimes very unintentional devaluing of the lives of people of color. It is not limited to rude remarks; it's most damaging roots lie in institutions which destroy lives through denying people of jobs, housing, and freedom. Houghton graduates will have the chance to fight against this sort of racism as they go out into their fields of work- but to do that they must first be educated on it.

Houghton has tried to be more intentional when talking about racism in organized discussions. As a student of color, attending these discussions has shown me that even my peers who truly care about racial issues do not know how to approach the discussion. I believe without education everyone is a racist. We are shaped by our society and human nature to believe certain stereotypes. Unless we educate ourselves and try to break harmful patterns of

conduct, we will be ensnared by racism.

Frequently in regards to racial issues, I hear Houghton students say “There are no races, I don’t see race.” But if we are not sensitive to race we can’t be intentional about combating racism. Sensitivity is a huge problem for discussions about racism, particularly when the majority of the participants are white.

When I was in high school multiple times everyday I was referred to as “Black Emma” or other things that made me constantly aware that as a mixed (Black and White) girl I was an unwanted minority. Not seeing color was a privilege I was unable to have. Both fortunately and unfortunately this isn’t true for the “average Houghton student”; it is good that not everyone experiences racism even though it makes it harder for them to understand

I hope that in the future, race can be a continued conversation at Houghton.

the issue.

For instance, when people at Houghton who lead discussions about race are not themselves people of color, discussion is, once again, difficult. These facilitators are incredibly gracious and they truly care about people of color, yet they lack the experience of racism and thus lack the high sensitivity toward it. Sometimes as a student of color, I have wished that there was a person of color in administration that I could go talk to about racism. It is uncomfortable for me to

go to a white male and try to explain my experiences. Also, when there are deep pains in the Black community at large, the white males in Houghton aren’t entirely tuned in to this.

Last school year the student body was told that regular chapel discussions about race would take place. However, I was personally upset this past semester when no such discussion became a reality. I checked on the planning process a few times and I was told they were trying to find a better time to hold them, however, I felt that discussions still should have been held while the future plans were in the works.

The lack of discussion makes racism seem like something we only talk about when racial incidents take place, rather than presenting racism in its true light as being a constant problem. When we

finally had a campus event to talk about Ferguson I felt like this just furthered the idea that if we talk about these topics a few times, then they will disappear. In reality, these topics impact the daily lives of people across the nation and around the world. When I explained these thoughts to the discussion organizers, they were immediately regretful that their efforts had appeared that way to me. I hope that in the future, race can be a continued conversation at Houghton.

Houghton has done a good job opening these conversations so perhaps someday soon we can have a person of color lead them and white students listen. I say white students in particular because I know many white students feel uncomfortable going to talks about racism, especially with the fear of being called racists. This is something we, as a community, can easily get over to move forward in changing the world- one Houghton graduate at a time.

*Emma Brittain is a junior art and theology major and is currently studying abroad in Tanzania.*

If we are not sensitive to race we can’t be intentional about combating racism.

# Thoughts on the Theory of Evolution



ANTHONY BURDO

EMILY MORROW

Last semester I began considering whether science could answer traditionally philosophical questions. I think this is a common thought for many atheists trying to explain the nature of reality without the use of a god-function. On the other hand, monotheists whose primary ideologies rest on theological ideas readily incorporate the concept of a god into their world view. While these two states of mind appear as though they could be radically contrary, I would argue that there is an essential

middle ground at which people of different religious orientations can gather. The middle ground depends primarily on an individual’s willingness to accept the possibility that their ideas about reality may be wrong. Both a theist and an atheist can hold tightly to their beliefs in a way that may hinder them from considering ideas which they think may be contrary to their own. The most fundamental issue with the discussion of evolution is the strong religious and anti-religious bias of particular biological theories when interpreting data (also known as presuppositions).

The nature of theory is commonly misunderstood. A theory is means of interpreting data in order to formulate an over arching explanation and relationship between the facts. A fact or data comes from an observable aspect of

However, truth is never determined by majority vote.

nature which is repeatable and verifiable. As a young physicist, I usually think of facts as data-direct measurements from scientific experiments. Major issues arise when a person elevates the status of a theory to that of a fact. Remember that a theory, although supported by data, can at any time be discarded or replaced when confronted by contrary data or a theory with more explanatory power. Theories are essential for the progression of science. When developing a theory, a scientist attempts to explain data in the fullest possible way. Having a theory as a foundation

Major issues arise when a person elevates the status of a theory to that of a fact.

to work off of is important because it often highlights specific unanswered questions- a scientist’s primary driving force in an individual’s research. Currently, the theory of evolution is the prominent theory in the biological paradigm since it not only explains phenomenon, but because it also raises many questions. Therefore, it is important for scientists to appreciate the questions which evolution asks and answers, but at the same time recognize its limitations and be willing to entertain alternative explanatory theories if they prove to have greater explanatory power.

This raises yet another consideration; how much authority should we give the scientific community to determine the current paradigm? I respect biologists as a group of scientists who have devoted their lives to studying this world. If the majority of this group of people agree about one idea, who I am to say that I would

know better (as a non-biologist). However, truth is never determined by majority vote. If a theist or atheist who has little to no background in biology makes sweeping conclusions about the reliability of the theory of evolution, I would urge them to have the humility to admit what they do not know and learn about the perspectives of scientists and make conclusions with assistance of others.

Hopefully these ideas spark some of your own thoughts about this topic. Some of the mistakes described above often come from people who hold religious biases towards scientific ideas. Therefore, we, as the Christian community, must not let our religious ideals keep us from respectively viewing scientific ideas.

I hold uncertainty in concepts, from evolution to the existence of God, and yet I appreciate both possibilities these ideas posit. Though evolution comes with religious conclusions for many, everyone can try to approach the issue in ways that may initially seem contrary to their beliefs, but in the end, may not.

*Emily is a senior physics major.*



# Why I Pray Daily About a Pipeline



BRIAN WEBB

I have a friend named Art Tanderup. Talkative and friendly with the kind of laugh that exemplifies a down-home joie de vivre, Art is a normal Nebraska farmer. I met Art last April in Washington DC where we both arrived to protest the Keystone XL pipeline. I came as part of a Facebook prayer band called #PrayNoKXL. Art came because the pipeline route literally runs through his backyard.

I met another friend in DC named Greg Greycloud. Greg lives in South Dakota and is a member of the Lakota Sioux Nation. Intelligent and witty with a kind and compassionate heart, Greg leads a ministry

encouraging Lakota men to embrace their roles as responsible husbands, fathers, and leaders. Greg came to DC because the pipeline route illegally crosses land that belongs by treaty to his people.

What the three of us share in common is a deep conviction that the Keystone XL pipeline is a morally and ethically wrong decision. Here's why:

The Tar Sands. The purpose of the Keystone pipeline is to transport bitumen (a thick sludge-like mixture of sand, oil, clay, and chemicals) from Alberta to the Gulf Coast for refining and export. The highly intensive process of extracting bitumen turns once lush boreal forests into alien landscapes largely devoid of life with chemical laden tailing ponds so large they can be seen from space. This devastation is not only destroying an entire ecosystem, but has also resulted in significant health impacts to Native communities living downstream.

The Ogallala Aquifer. The Keystone pipeline runs directly over the Ogallala Aquifer—at

Keystone is not a political issue. It's a common sense one.

174,000 square miles, North America's largest. In many places the aquifer sits just a few meters below the surface of the ground. In spite of all the modern safeguards pipelines do leak. Just last week a pipeline in Montana spilled 50,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River. A leak in an Arkansas suburb spilled five times that amount in 2013, and in 2010 more than 1 million gallons of bitumen spilled into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. The Kalamazoo leak was so devastating that 5 years and \$700 million later it still hasn't been completely cleaned up. What happens when the primary water source for our nation's breadbasket Great Plains states becomes polluted?

Native Treaties. Despite their protests, the pipeline route in South Dakota crosses over land

legally granted to the Rosebud Sioux Nation by United States treaty. Sioux President, Cyril Scott went so far as to call Keystone "an act of war against our people." With our country's shameful treatment of Native Americans going back hundreds of years, shouldn't it be time to stop breaking our treaties and start showing respect and honor to those whose land we have already taken away?

Eminent Domain. TransCanada, the foreign private corporation who owns the pipeline, is now using eminent domain to take away the land of ordinary Americans who don't want the pipeline to run across their property. Shouldn't private property rights be a concern of all Americans, and particularly for ideological conservatives? Shouldn't my friend Art have the

right to refuse 900,000 barrels a day of toxic bitumen running across his farm (his livelihood)? Climate Change. Because of the highly energy intensive processes associated with their extraction, transportation, and refining, the tar sands have a much larger impact on the global climate system than does conventional oil. While oil continues to form an important part of our economy, it's time to modernize our infrastructure by forgoing antiquated fossil energy and focusing on clean energy sources, such as wind and solar, that will always create domestic jobs, that are endlessly renewable, and that don't harm God's creation or his people.

Proponents of the pipeline spout all kinds of claims about jobs, but the reality is that it will only create 35 permanent jobs. 35 jobs in exchange for more broken Indian treaties, unethically enforced eminent domain, pipeline spills of toxic tar sludge, possible contamination of our country's largest aquifer, environmental destruction, and a bleaker outlook for the global climate system. Keystone is not a political issue. It's a common sense one.

Brian is the sustainability coordinator and the intercultural student programs coordinator.

Shouldn't private property rights be a concern of all Americans, and particularly for ideological conservatives?



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

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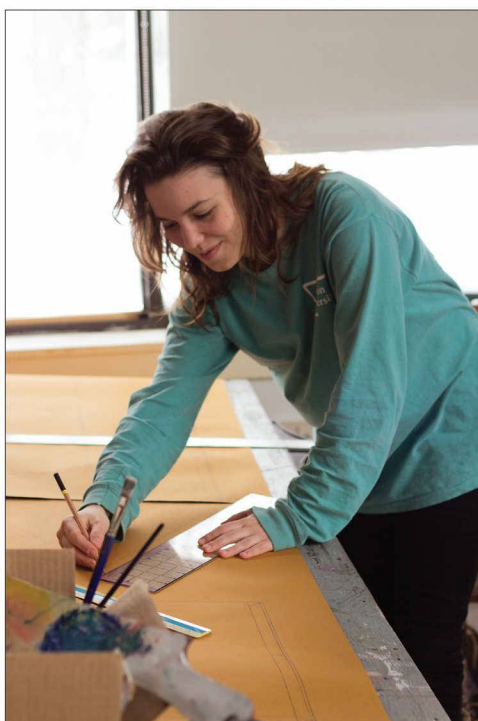
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# Artist of the Week

## Jane Stairs

//senior art education major



ANTHONY BURDO

### Titles & Media

*from left to right descending*

"Topsy Cups", *ceramics*

"Topsy Cups", *ceramics*

"Beyond the Borken Fence", *mixed media*

"Restaurante Churreria." *mixed media*

"Roasting Peaches", *mixed media*



“Use all the time you’ve got. From the awkward ten minutes between classes to the five hour blocks in the middle of the day. You’ve only got so much time.”

