

**THE WILD LIFE OF
PROFESSOR WOLFE |**
FEATURES, P. 4

**ZUMBA: FITNESS
MADE FUN |**
FEATURES, P. 5

**MARGINALIZATION,
DISCRIMINATION,
& RECONILIATION |**
OPINIONS, P. 6

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR |
OPINIONS, P. 7

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
OLIVIA GRAZIANO**
FEATURES, P. 8

Sports Teams Go To Post- Season

ALICIA NEEDHAM

Up until the second or last week of the season, all fall sports teams had a chance at post-season in the Empire 8 conference. However, only men's soccer, seeded third and women's soccer, seeded fourth, have qualified to compete in the Empire 8 playoffs. Today, the men's soccer team will play Stevens Institute of Technology at Ithaca and the women's soccer team plays Stevens at Stevens. Last weekend, Houghton hosted the Empire 8 Championships for cross country where 17 of the 21 Highlanders who competed ran their fastest races. Head Cross Country Coach Patrick Hager said, "They did all they

See **SPORTS** page 3

Students to Spend Holy Week in Vienna

RACHEL BELLEROSE

From March 16-30 of 2016 a group of 15-18 students will travel to Vienna, one of the Western world's oldest and most historically influential cities. Professor Peter Meilaender, who has traveled to Vienna several times and speaks fluent German, stated that he is excited to lead students through the Innenstadt (the oldest and most central part of Vienna which was once occupied by the Roman Empire). He said, "The old part of the city is really very compact, so you could walk across it on foot in under an hour. Around every corner there's some new, remarkable building...there are churches everywhere." The compact nature of the central city will provide a good opportunity to see its most crucial landmarks within a relatively constricted amount of time.

The timeframe of the trip will allow students to experience Vienna during one of its most significant festi-



LEONA NEVEU

Professor Peter Meilaender will be taking a group of 15-18 students to Innenstadt, Vienna for spring break from March 19-30, 2016.

vals: Holy Week, leading up to Easter Sunday. The vast number of Baroque churches will be filled with thousands of people celebrating

the Resurrection, which will provide insight into the importance that many European cities still place on these religious holidays. Meilaender

stated, "A high Catholic mass in a great cathedral on a major festival is an experi-

See **VIENNA** page 3

Resident Life Babies: Growing the Community



AVA BURGEN

Benjamin Craton, Kaleb Stephens, and Lawson Miller (pictured left to right) were all due to be born within a week of each other.

SARAH VANDE BRAKE

Life can be crazy and wonderful for Resident Directors (RDs) who become parents while working and living in Houghton's residence halls. The

consensus among the RDs who have taken on the challenge of juggling responsibilities as an RD and as a parent, however, is overwhelmingly positive.

At the beginning of the semester, three RDs had babies due within a week of each oth-

er, according to assistant dean of students for residence life and programs, Marc Smithers. "Houghton is such a supportive place for families," said Smith-

See **BABIES** page 5

Students Attend Notable Author's Lecture at EU

MARY CRONIN

"When we refer to 'the biblical approach to economics' or the biblical response to politics' or 'biblical womanhood,' we're using the Bible as a weapon disguised as an adjective," writes author Rachel Held Evans in her book, *Faith Unraveled: How A Girl Who Knew All The Answers Learned To Ask The Questions*. Evans, following the release of her third book, *Searching for Sunday*, recently traveled from her hometown in Dayton, Tennessee to Eastern University (EU) in St. Davids, PA to deliver two lectures on October 29 and 30. Three Houghton students, Annetta Snell '18, Mary Cronin '17, and Melissa Bell '17 trekked to the Philadelphia suburb to attend. The trio was hosted by sophomore Resident

Assistant Alyssa Welty.

Held Evan's invitation was prompted by the university's ongoing conversation regarding human sexuality and gender, according to Amy Perez, EU's Director of Advising and First-Year Programs. Perez added that she pushed for this year's freshman class to read *Faith Unraveled*, which details Held Evans' encounter with doubts regarding conservative evangelicalism. This struggle resonates with many Christians in their thirties or younger. Welty said that when she read *Faith Unraveled*, she "felt right at home." Describing herself as a Christian often "stuck at the crossroads," she stated that she felt privileged to hear Held Evans speak.

The Thursday evening lec-

See **EVANS** page 3

International // Russian Flight Crashes in Egypt



ANTHONY BURDO

MARY CRONIN

Last Saturday, Russian Flight 9268 broke apart in the air and crashed in a remote location in Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula, reported CNN. Of the 224 passengers and crew on board, none survived.

Suspicion of terrorist involvement grew early in the week, due to statements from the Deputy Director for Aviation of the airline, Kogalymavia. Director Alexander Smirnov said to a press conference in Moscow, “[the] only reason that could explain the plane’s breaking up in the mid-air can be a certain impact, purely mechanical (and/or) physical impact on (the) flying vessel.” Though some translators advised CNN that the statement was vague and difficult to translate, other news outlets such as the Wall Street Journal interpreted Smirnov’s statement to mean that “only an impact on the plane in flight could have caused the tragedy.” According to CNN, Smirnov was quick to rule out technical failure of the aircraft, noting he had recently flew the plane himself and it was in “pristine” condition. The aircraft landed in pieces in Hasana, Egypt, which the

New York Times reports to be a military zone closed to the public due to the presence of a local branch of ISIS. United States and European air-safety officials have warned in the past of the potential existence of anti-aircraft technology in the area, yet Russian aviation experts informed the New York Times that they believed the plane was flying high enough to avoid such dangers. Other aviation experts are concerned, with expert Les Abend reporting to CNN that the data showing the aircraft’s dramatic altitude changes and significant increase in ground speed disturbed him, yet he advised caution as the data is still preliminary. Peter Golez, a former managing director of US National Transportation Safety Board noted that terrorism had not been ruled out as of Monday, but there are multiple other factors to consider first. While ISIS claimed re-

sponsibility for the crash on Twitter and other online venues, the New York Times reports Russian and Egyptian officials dismissing the claims, citing little to no evidence of a terrorist attack as well as ISIS possessing anti-aircraft weaponry. Further, the Russian Federal Air Transport Agency dismissed Smirnov’s ruling out of technical failure or pilot error in favor of an external factor, calling his comments “completely premature.” Still, anonymous aviation experts reported to the Russian newspaper Kommersant that the damage to the plane “suggests explosive decompression to the fuselage.” The UK based news source, The Telegraph, stated that according to experts, this damage could be caused by some kind of on board explosion, stress cracks in the fuselage, or an external impact. Nonetheless, the Egyptian Civil Aviation Minister Hos-

sam Kamel urged those observing the unfolding events to avoid hasty conclusions, saying, “There was nothing abnormal before the plane crash...It suddenly disappeared from the radar,” according to CNN. CNN reports Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a state commission on Monday to investigate the crash. Putin expressed his condolences and solidarity with the families of the victims of “this terrible tragedy.” Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi promised Putin that he would extend the “broadest possible” inclusion of Russian officials in the ongoing investigation.★
Mary is a junior theology major.

EVANS from page 1

ture was titled “The Misuse of Power in Gender Relations”, and focused on patriarchal movements within evangelicalism that have silenced movements. During her lecture, Held Evans described an occurrence in her childhood, when she was told it was too bad she was a girl,

as she could have been a good preacher. Held Evans deconstructed this and other claims, focusing on biblical heroines like Ruth and Deborah who “broke rules”. She also focused on Proverbs chapter 31, which is used by many evangelicals to define “biblical womanhood,” of which, according to Held Evans, there is no such thing. The second lecture on Fri-

day morning was attended by community members as well as the entire EU class of 2019. This lecture focused on Held Evan’s broader experience with doubt, and asked the question of whether doubt is good for a Christian, or the first step down a slippery slope. Bell said after hearing the lecture, “Held Evans emphasized that it was okay to doubt. Her writing and lectures really

resonated with me, because as a theology major I am presented with different thoughts on God and theology all the time. It was comforting to hear from one of my role models that doubting is not just allowed, but beneficial to my spiritual growth.” Snell, a longtime fan of Held Evans’ work, first “stumbled onto” her writing in high school. Snell said she held doubts simi-

lar to Evans,’ and found it “incredible to find someone who was honest and brave enough to talk about her journey, welcoming other people to join her in conversation about life and Christianity.” Snell would encourage all who have the chance to read her books or her blog (rachelheld-evans.com). “Just do it,” she urges.★

Students to Hold Amazing Race Event

NAOMI PRENTICE

Tomorrow afternoon, the Program Planning class will host a first time event, The Amazing Race. The Amazing Race is a student-led event planned by the Program Planning class this semester. Professor Laura Alexeichik has challenged her students to bring plans on paper

to life by creating their own event here on campus. She said, “It’s tough to see what you’re learning in the classroom, like how that applies . . . my hope is that this is a way to do that.” Alexeichik wanted not just hypothetical programs, but ideas that could become reality and events students could participate in. The event is student-led

and will give students the opportunity to participate in the event, which largely mirrors much of the show, The Amazing Race. The show is essentially a large scavenger hunt that involves solving clues and following said clues to a multitude of locations. The afternoon will include initiative-type activities, a Frisbee toss, and a canoe portage challenge.

Students are allowed to enter in teams of up to five people and must pay either a team fee of \$8 or an individual fee of \$2. Individuals will be placed in teams at registration, which will take place in the Kerr-Pegula Field House at 1:00, tomorrow afternoon. Both the students and Alexeichik have high hopes for the event, as pre-registration has been taking place

at mealtimes in the Campus Center the past two weeks. As she helps to observe and run the event, Alexeichik reflected on the upcoming event, “This should be something fun for students to participate in, I wish I could participate.” The Amazing Race will challenge students to not only solve the clues, but to know the campus.★

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

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

SPORTS from page 1

could do. They performed their best and the results take care of themselves.”

Unfortunately, women’s field hockey, women’s volleyball, and women’s tennis didn’t make it to the playoff round, which cut their successful seasons short. Women’s tennis were 6-7 overall and had started their season undefeated. Field Hockey finished 8-9 overall, better than last year, and were in contention until the last weekend. They needed to win their game against Washington Jefferson College and for Utica College to lose in order to get seeded fourth

in their conference. Reflecting on the season, junior Kelsie Ashley said, “We had a really great season” and that “[She’s] excited to see what next year holds.” Volleyball (20-11 overall) lost a couple keys matches against Elmira and Stevens. Although they had the same conference record (5-3) as Elmira and Stevens, they were unable to make it into the playoffs. Senior Captain Hattie Burgher said, “Our team has finished in the top four of the conference for the past three years and this year we beat rivals that haven’t been beat for four or five years.” Burgher said, “Although we aren’t continuing on, I am still extremely proud of what our

team has accomplished this year and years past.”

The only team that qualified for the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) championship is men’s and women’s cross country. Houghton will be hosting the national championships in two weeks where both the men’s and women’s team will each have seven runners competing.

The NCCAA has put several new qualifications in place to determine whether a team can make it to the National Christian Tournament for their sport. Previously, a team had to have a .500 record, meaning they had the same number of wins and losses to qualify. Execu-

tive director of athletics, Harold “Skip” Lord, said, “Part of the reason for applying to NCCAA was to have post season opportunities for our teams.”

Essentially, if a team finishes in first place for Empire 8 or makes it to Empire 8 playoffs and wins it, then they qualify for the NCCAA. However, if a team doesn’t satisfy any of these requirements, Houghton decided that they will determine a team’s “national caliber” through other criteria. Some of these criteria include if the team has a 55% win loss record, if they make it to the finals of the Empire 8 conference tournament, or if the team was in the top 10 final National Christian college pool.

If a team has a strong season, but doesn’t qualify for Empire 8 playoffs, they are still able to continue their season if they satisfy two of the three previous guidelines.

This is the second year Houghton has been able to compete in the Empire 8 playoffs. Athletic Director “Skip” Lord said, “This was the best overall start for the year since we made the move to NCAA.” Houghton is in its fourth year of provisional status from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) and is hoping to have full membership in NCAA next year.★

Want to write? Email us at editor@houghtonstar.com

VIENNA from page 1

ence not to be missed.”

Students will certainly be getting a great deal out of the two credits which the course requires. In addition to staying in one of the West’s most beautiful cit-

ies for two weeks, students will be studying the art, history, literature, and architecture which make Vienna so unique. The crux of the course will focus on the period leading up to World War One, which was extremely tumultuous for all of Europe. However, Meilaender said that out of this culture breakdown arose an “outburst in

creativity” which accounts for much of the artistic traditions that came from Vienna during this time. Artists such as Gustav Klimt, most famous for his painting “The Kiss,” lived and worked in the city during the early 1900s, and are upheld as the originators of the modern style of art.

While in Vienna, students

will be expected to attend class for three hours in the morning after which they will be free to roam the city for as long as they like. Vienna has a wide variety of coffee shops, museums, and churches, all of which are world renowned. Navigating the city should not prove too difficult because of its compactness and communicating

with the locals should be equally promising as many people speak English. Meilaender said, “You can just wander around and constantly see amazing things, more than we could possibly fit into two weeks.” Perhaps, then, this Spring’s trip to Vienna will lead to a love for the city which will bring students back again. ★

SGA Update: 8th Excutive Council Meeting Held

On Monday, November 2 the SGA held their eighth Executive Council Meeting of the semester. The meeting began with Dr. Pool, Vice President for Student Life, addressing the LGBT discussion currently taking place on campus.

Pool began, “As an educational ministry of the Wesleyan Church, Houghton College supports and affirms the Church’s traditional perspective on human sexuality and marriage. So, while we understand the scriptural and historical basis for this perspective, we agree that we must talk about this and better. That includes drawing the discussion out of the shadows and expanding dialogue to more clearly understand the implications of those hurt in the process.” With this in mind, Pool continued, mentioning that though complaints and concerns have been circulating around campus regarding this discussion, administration supports respectful dialogue on campus surrounding the issue.

Pool also mentioned referenced the community’s Pastoral Perspective letter, which encourages the community to follow a healthy, Christ-like approach when handling LGBT discussion on campus. Within this letter, it is mentioned that, “Same-sex attraction is experienced by 12% of students attending Christian colleges [1].” (p. 2) These issues are widespread and important; therefore they must no longer be placed to the side.

Pool went on to remind students that thoughtful dialogue is welcomed through use of the STAR, The Drawing Board, social media, and of course, direct contact with other students and administrative leaders such as himself. Additionally, Pool noted that though “[People] don’t have perfect clarity,” students should “be open to influence” and “be willing to learn.”

As he concluded his remarks multiple students were able to ask follow up questions regarding how to begin healthy dialogue on campus.

Merging Science and Spirituality

Professor Ransom Poythress

CRYSTAL ZUVER

On the whiteboard in Professor Ransom Poythress's office, there is a quote that says "Be unwavering in the things that matter." On the wall above his desk, there are superheroes which cling to it, and a Captain America figure on a motorcycle. Christmas lights hung over his bulletin board unlit. Barnyard animals cover the remaining wall space. Poythress explained that when he first arrived at Houghton, his office was so empty that some of the students decorated it for him. This explains the variety of decorations.

Poythress is a new professor to Houghton and this fall marks the beginning of his second year. With classes such as Biology Senior Seminar, Molecular/Cell Biology, Comparative Animal Physiology, and General Biology, he has the opportunity to teach a wide range of classes that he is passionate about. Though the semester is really busy for him, he is enjoying it nonetheless.

During his classes, he likes to take a break to do something called "soapboxes." Soapboxes generally refer to a speaker who has a point they are trying to get across. Poythress calls them "mid-class devotions." While biting into his sesame seed PB&J bagel, he explains that Christian world view and sciences have influence on every-



ANTHONY BURDO

Professor Poythress enjoys getting to know his students and loves the opportunities to interact with them on a more personal level outside of class.

thing and Christ is preeminent in everything. He says that there is usually a disconnection between school and spiritual life and he does these devotionals to connect the two. For example, when discussing water molecules in science, he will talk about how water plays a role in the Bible.

Mainly with the upper level classes, he likes to present his students with a "skeleton" for a project and they need to make something that fits it, such as an experiment or technique that excites them. He says it gives the students ownership of the project,

and it is interesting to see what they come up with. In the upcoming spring, Poythress would like to start a project to find out whether or not it is possible to convert by mutation one protein into another functional protein.

Poythress didn't always want to be a teacher though. He grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, and during his time in high school he thought about doing research or zoology. However, he really thought bioinformatics, or the science of collecting and analyzing complex biological data, would be what he wanted to do

because it "sounded cool."

After graduating high school, he went to California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. From there, he went on to Boston University where he received his PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry. One of the requirements in his first year at Boston University was to teach two semesters in an intro level biology class. Poythress enjoyed it so much he decided to pursue it further. A short time later, he went to Westminster Theological

Seminary of Philadelphia where he received his Master's degree in counseling. "I always say, if you don't know what to do with your life, just keep going to school until you figure it out," Poythress said of his extensive education.

After graduating college and during his schooling at Westminster Theological Seminary, he worked simultaneously at UPS and CVS loading and unloading boxes from trucks, mainly overnight. It definitely wasn't his "dream job," but he said "you gotta do what you gotta do to survive."

Poythress enjoys getting to know his students and loves the opportunities to interact with them on a more personal level outside of class. This may include just praying for them, inviting them to dinner, dessert, or a movie at he and his wife Lisbeth's house. Poythress said that it means a lot to him that he and his students can get acquainted on a different level in the terms of friendship because it helps in the way of learning and improves involvement in the classroom.

The Poythress's recently got married towards the end of June. As he looked at his watch to check the date, he proudly says, "Four months and one week" to be exact. In the future he said he would like to add to their family, but maybe start out with a pet first.★

The Wild Life of Professor Wolfe

ALEXIS LAMB

A gray wolf stares out into the distance with a calm but intent gaze that betrays its predatory nature. Farther to the right, an entire pack of canines gather around each other, playfully nipping at one another's heels.

Wolfe joined Houghton's ranks in 1988 as a professor of biology. Wolfe, who had never heard of Houghton before, was at once drawn to Houghton's woodland location. He stated that his passion for nature was "very strange for a kid who grew up in suburbia and parents from New York City." The North east has been his home for the majority of his life, having been born in New York City but growing up in Norwalk, Connecticut. Wolfe received a B.A. in biology from Gordon College, his M.S. in botany at Oklahoma University, and finally his Ph.D. in biology at the University of Rhode Island.

Having accumulated over twenty-five years of teaching experience at Houghton, Wolfe has taught a large variety of classes ranging from genetics in the classroom to

field courses out in the Alaskan wilderness.

"Dr. Wolfe is definitely one of my favorite professors at Houghton," said sophomore Vivian Chappell '18, a student from his Alaskan field course. "He is incredibly knowledgeable about the earth and the environment."

Besides instructing students, he displays his passion for nature through his ongoing research on lake and stream ecosystems in Allegany County and in the Adirondacks, which has been his focus over the last ten years.

Wolfe has new plans for the upcoming semesters. During an interview with him, Wolfe sketched out a study of coyotes he will be conducting in the upcoming months. Sitting in his office chair, he scooped up a gray collar off the floor by his feet. The collar, he explained, fastens around the coyote's neck and transmits a signal to a GPS system whereby Wolfe can monitor the animal's movements. Pointing to a knob that protrudes from the collar, Wolfe explained how the knob will "pop" out and sever the collar after a set period of time.

Wolfe's love for these four-legged creatures can be seen in



ANTHONY BURDO

Dr. Wolfe shows his passion and knowledge about the earth and the environment through teaching biology.

the pictures posted about his office space. Right now, Wolfe has two Alaskan Malamutes which he said much resemble wolves, each weighing over a 100 pounds with long fluffy coats.

Over his years at Houghton, he has had four dogs. His first dog, Wolfe, was actually a stray some students had found. The

students asked him to adopt the "puppy" as they called it (leaving out the fact that the dog was already full grown). The professor hemmed and hawed for two weeks before accepting.

"It became a sort of tradition," Wolfe said. After Wolfe died, he adopted another stray called Ranger, and finally the two Alaskan Malamutes he has

presently, Kiska and Kenai.

His dogs are a large part of his life, which is evident to his students. Chappell remarked that he "shows his passion for God's creation through the love he has for his dogs." Dr. Wolfe loves the opportunity to introduce them to his students. "Many of my students have met my dogs," Wolfe said.★

Zumba: Fitness Made Fun

ANNA WRIGHT

Though it’s technically the room meant for rock-climbers, the auxiliary gym in Nielsen is filled with dancers twice a week. The first image that pops into mind might be ballet, but no, these are Zumba dancers that shimmy, sway, and sweat it out twice a week under the instruction of sophomore Kingsley Kolek.

Kolek, who has been doing Zumba for seven years, started classes at Houghton last spring. “When I took my tour as an incoming student, someone had said that a senior did it, and obviously, they were graduating. I had already applied to get my certification, and thought that would be a great opportunity for me to step in.” She now leads classes on Tuesday and Thursday nights, each an hour and a half long.

Zumba is a dance workout phenomenon which started in the mid-90s by dance instructor and choreographer Alberto Perez. Perez forgot his dance music one day, and instead had

to use whatever was playing on the radio - salsa and reggae music. With this non-traditional exercise music, he improvised an aerobics class combined with dance, and Zumba was born. Since 2001, when Zumba was first registered as a trademark under Zumba Fitness, more than 10 million workout DVDs have been sold. It is enjoyed in 180 countries around the world, with over 15 million people reaping the benefits of the workout, according to their website. Zumba also founded the Zumba Dance Academy in 2005, which licenses instructors to teach classes.

Kolek is one of those certified instructors. “I went to an eight hour class, and learned all the different ways of teaching Zumba. It sounds like I just went to an eight hour Zumba class, but you actually have a classroom setting and learn all the psychological benefits of it, too.”

Zumba is one of the most effective workouts there is, psychologically as well as physically, because “people view it as going to dance rather than going to work out,” said Kolek.

Houghton students seem to



Zumba instructor Kingsley Kolek sweats it out though dancing every Tuesday and Thursday night in the auxiliary gym in the Nielson Center.

enjoy it, too. “The first class, I actually thought to myself – if I had about 5 more people come, we would have had to take the class to a different room,” Kolek recounts. “It’s been a little low recently, because it’s getting to the end of the semester and people have exams, but

I had about 20 – 25 people consistently.”

The only problem the Zumba classes seem to face is the ever-present “Houghton ratio”. So far, the classes here at Houghton have been made up primarily of women.

“That’s the one thing about

Zumba,” Kolek explains. “Guys hear ‘dance’, and they automatically think that they’re not going to get anything out of it. But actually in the Zumba company, there are many male instructors. It’s definitely a workout for both genders.”★

BABIES from page 1

whose daughter Greta was born when he was the RD of Rothenbuhler Hall in 2011. The new arrivals are Lawson Miller, Caleb Stephens, and Benjamin Craton.

Smithers said that when his daughter was born he was in graduate school in addition to his responsibilities as an RD and as a father. He smiled as he looked back on that time, emphasizing that he felt the experience had been great for students and for his family. “Greta grew up with this assumption that

everyone knew her name ... everyone on campus knew her name,” he said. Smithers said he is grateful for the opportunity that Residence Life gave him to raise a family in a community that cares for his daughter.

Smithers also said that he learned how to balance his life and work during these early years. This is uniquely crucial for RDs, whose workplace and home are the same place.

JL Miller, RD of the Townhouses, now has four children. The youngest two were born during Miller’s residency in the townhouses —Lawson Town Miller was born September 28, 2015. Lawson’s middle name, Town, is a nod to the significance that the community of the Townhouses has

to the Miller family, according to an email that the Millers sent to Townhouse residents. Miller added, “Raising children in student housing is a bit of an experiment; we think it’s a great thing, but won’t know for sure until they are grown!”

“The kids tell us they plan to attend Houghton and just stay in their same townhouse,” Miller said. “We look forward to reminding them of this when their college search begins!” The call to live and serve at Houghton has brought unique blessing to the family—Miller talked about the ways in which students provide role models for his children. His kids invite students to their birthday parties, have playdates together, and sometimes remain penpals after the

students graduate.

“The most noticeable difficulty is the transient nature of our little neighborhood,” Miller said. “Each year, my kids dread the week of commencement and shed more than a few tears as they say goodbye to their friends who are graduating.”

Jason Stephens, RD of Shenawana Hall, and his wife Kendra had their first child Caleb just a few weeks ago. Stephens said that the residents of Shen love having a baby around, and that they are respectful of Caleb’s naptime. “With the baseball games going on right now, people go crazy, but they’ve started to go outside to do that rather than being in the lobby where they could wake up my son.”

Stephens was enthusiastic about being able to raise Caleb with the influence of the students in Shen.

He described the students’ excitement about Caleb, who they have dubbed “Shenanababy.” Stephens said, “I’ve been getting great responses from people who live in Shen. I feel that people are really excited for my son. I would love to find a little outfit to take him to Shen Block once he gets a little older, and have him with me when I go and do rounds, awnd just have him be a part of the Shen life.”★

Photo
of the
Week

WINNER //
Sissi Lu ‘18



Grace: The Beauty of the Unfair



ANTHONY BURDO

IAN DEHAAS

Grace is a very Christian word. It is something that God gives to all of humankind and it can never be earned. It's like a priceless gift. Grace is a virtue and an act borne of God's great love for us. It is in his grace that the Son came to earth to become human and die. It is in his grace that the Holy Spirit has

been left as our advocate and guide. It is by his unmerited grace that we can be saved and reconciled to him. That reconciliation is something that we are entirely incapable of earning for ourselves. Once we have received grace, Christ does not say this is enough. We are to give this grace to others as freely as God does to us.

The songwriter Matthew Thiessen once penned these lyrics: "...the beauty of grace is that it makes life not fair." We hear the second half of that phrase all the time. Life's not fair. That message comes from all kinds of places; for example, people talking about a situation in their lives, or perhaps from a cynical person who likes to tell that to those less weathered.

“Yes, life is unfair, and thank God for that.”

Regardless of the source, problems arise when we look at life like this. Everything becomes checks and balances. We keep track of what we do in terms of positive and negative. We evaluate people to see if they are positive or negative contributors to our lives and we make decisions accordingly. When someone hurts us, we tell them that they need to shape up or we cut them out of our lives. When someone is good to us they become closer to us. This is just how things work.

When we look at life like

this it's so easy to do good deeds merely for the sake of besting another person. And when we allow ourselves to embrace this view, we also allow ourselves to be comfortable in self-pity when the world doesn't work in our favor. These are the problems that come from a purely worldly perspective of unfairness. Quite simply, a worldly perspective can stunt our growth and our flourishing as human beings and people of God.

Now here is where we add the entire lyric, "the beauty of grace is that it makes life not fair". Suddenly, the picture of cynicism and self-pity disappears. In its place, we are left with a picture where undeserving people get what they don't deserve. How does this happen? It's all because of the grace of God that unfairness can be beautiful.

If life was without grace we would all be condemned because there is nothing we can do to attain salvation on our own. It would be fair for us, because of our sins, to be separated from God forever. It would be fair for us when we are struck by someone to reply with a closed fist, but that's not what God thinks. He chose the unfair route and sent his Son to show us ultimate grace. Once we partake in that grace, the rules all change. Unfair becomes our livelihood and our standard. Just as grace was bestowed on us, we are to bestow it on the others around us, who are as undeserving of it as we are. Grace invites us to think of how our unfair response to somebody can be beautiful. Yes, life is unfair, and thank God for that. ★

Ian is a junior theology and communication double major.

“It's all because of the grace of God that unfairness can be beautiful.”

Marginalization, Discrimination & Reconciliation



ANTHONY BURDO

JIWAN DHALIWAL

My good friend, Mary Cronin, wrote a letter to the editor about the church fair. In it she wrote, "We need hymns that nurture us and church families that embrace us as we are. We need liturgy that tells a story we can find a space in, not meta-narratives that always exclude someone." These words have influenced me; specifically when I think of my own relationship with the LGBT community.

I do not think conservative Christians are aware of how deeply they have ostracized the LGBT community from the "Christian meta-narrative". We elevate traditional

marriage as the highest ideal and define it in ways that the LGBT community simply cannot identify. Furthermore, we idealize marriage; church culture has offered no viable alternative lifestyles for individuals who were excluded for its definition and has no language to talk about any sexualities out of this context. Thus, we marginalize the LGBT community. We actively write them out of the Christian narrative and we apathetically respond(ed) to their protests. This predominant attitude in Conservative circles is wrong and needs to be acknowledged.

To my LGBT friends—I am sorry.

Please, forgive us.

I ask that you hear my apology and yet I am aware that it is insufficient for complete reconciliation. I know this—because although I am deeply repentant of conservative attitudes towards the LGBT community, I still interpret the biblical view of sexuality in ways that liberal interpreters do not accept; in ways that the LGBT community may find difficult. These differences shape my ideal narrative differently from others. We disagree—and that can make

“Whether it be inside or outside of the church, we cannot afford any more insensitive dialogue with those whom we disagree.”

reconciliation difficult—but not impossible.

People have a tendency to assume complete understanding of another to be synonymous with genuine love. This is why they have difficulty relating to people who are different from themselves, because they do not understand them. But, the reality is that you and I will never completely understand or agree with anybody. Disagreement and, at times, intense conflict is simply an inextricable part of the human experience. In many ways I will not understand or agree with everything my LGBT friends share with me—not just because of their philosophical and theological conclusions—but because they are different people; they

are not me.

Nobody intrinsically and completely understands anybody, it takes time and we have to stop using it as the only measure of love. Mutual understanding is a measure of intimacy, but the definition of love is broader. It is not only the foundation of intimacy, but the root of all meaningful interaction. Therefore, when I relate to another person, specifically one with whom I disagree, I should engage with an active love: a love that wishes to bless my dialogue partner, even in the presence of intense disagreement. This element of relationship is not always easy, but it is the only way people can remain true to their personal convictions and yet exist in relationship amidst plurality. I plead for members of both sides of the argument

to embrace such an attitude. We cannot keep seeing one another as obstacles to our own narrations. It is very likely that we may never agree—but regardless, we must use the attitude of love. Besides, it is the only language in which the Gospels were ever written.

There is so much I wish I could say regarding this issue, but I want to end with a cautious warning to my readers. This concept of engagement is greater than issues of gender and sexuality. The world is becoming more diverse and pluralistic—in this diversity the Church needs individuals who are actively and thoughtfully relating with it. We cannot afford anymore insensitive dialogue with those we disagree; both inside and outside of the Church. You are mistaken if you think you there is no relational dimension to philosophical and theological ideas. An insistent preference of ideas over people will create a schism so deep that even a Christian embrace will leave the world untouched. Be motivated by love—this is not the time for clanging cymbals.★

Jiwan is a junior philosophy and theology double major with a minor in world religions.

“I should engage with an active love: a love that wishes to bless my dialogue partner, even in the presence of intense disagreement.”

Letters to the Editor

LGBT Discussion Appreciation

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let you know how much I have enjoyed the Being Queer at Houghton series you are running. Though The Star has had many articles advocating either for or against issues surrounding homosexuality, it is nice to see something more personal

– a story about someone’s life, and the way they have felt and experienced this topic. Though I have heard countless people heatedly argue about homosexuality, I have only actually known one person who openly experienced same-sex romantic feelings and had a homosexual lifestyle. I really appreciate how these testimonies are humanizing

the issue for me instead of it being only an objective debate that we analyze the crap out of.

Mary Cronin’s comment: “I hope that soon the Houghton community will be ready to embrace the humanity of same-sex couples, without feeling the need to sexualize them,” completely took

me by surprise. I never considered that when talking about “homosexuality,” we are utterly sexualizing and dehumanizing the people behind the issue by reducing them to only one of their characteristics. While I may not agree with a change to the Community Covenant, these articles have been invaluable as I struggle every day with

realizing that the stereotypes in my mind are not only inaccurate, but deprive me of appreciating the complexity of each person as a being created in the image of God.

Regards,
Raisa Dibble ‘18

Responses to Last Week’s Word on the Street

Dear Editor,

While maybe this is not what a letter to the editor is usually about, I still wanted to address those on the Word on the Street section who disagreed with the sexual assault survey.

To those who found it annoying or thought that it came at the wrong time: I understand. I agree that the timing was poorly placed. I won’t lie, when I saw it I

knew that the training would be viewed as another stressor. But I’ll also tell the hard truth, as someone who has dealt with sexual assault both on and off campus - I was ecstatic.

Was it annoying? I’m sure. Was it something to make the campus safer? Yessir. Would I take making the campus safer of not having something that I viewed as annoying? Most definitely.

To those who find that this training won’t change

anything: I need you to hear that sometimes it’s not just a matter of the heart. Sometimes it’s a lack of education on the topic. I know of several instances that could have been prevented if only the perpetrator was more educated. So maybe this wasn’t the best implementation of educating Houghton, but people do need to be educated.

To those who questioned its usefulness: was it as effective as it should be? No. But it was a step in the right direction.

I am trying to give you the benefit of the doubt, that you don’t hear about what goes on within the Houghton Bubble. I hear about a lot of stories, but maybe you’ve heard of none to one. However if you’ve heard of just one, that shouldn’t matter. Whether it’s one instance or ten, shouldn’t we be doing something to stop and prevent it? As someone who has dealt with sexual assault at the college I feel like asking if the campus needed

to be educated devalued any singular instance. Does it need to be a multitude? Isn’t one instance enough? Shouldn’t we stop and prevent it before that happens?

Houghton is safer than most campuses - but it is not safe. No matter what there’s always room for improvement so I commend Houghton for taking a step in the right direction.

Bethany Schoonover ‘18

Dear Editor,

People generally don’t like being required to do things they haven’t signed up for. That’s no surprise to any of us. I’ll admit, when I first received the email about the required “Every Choice” training, I wasn’t excited about it. However, after completing the training,

I felt empowered to take a stand on issues of bystander intervention, stalking, and more. After all, as the training showed us, most of us don’t intervene because we ‘aren’t sure how to respond.’ Not knowing how to respond isn’t a valid excuse for non-action.

When reading the “Word on the Street,” I realized that many students may not


have gotten the point of the training. Yes, it DID need to be campus wide because all of us (regardless of if we admit it publicly or not) are affected by issues of sexual harassment or assault. If you think you aren’t affected - then honestly, you haven’t been listening enough.

Sexual assault, harassment, and stalking are NOT matters

of the heart. They require having the knowledge and skills to handle these situations WHEN, not IF, they come up. Training DOES matter - it empowered me and I am confident that it empowered others as well. The “Every Choice” training was an hour of your life that may save a life one day - maybe your own, possibly a friend’s life,

perchance a stranger’s life. And remember: we won’t be in this Houghton Bubble forever.

Lauren Bechtel ‘16



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.

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO
editor@houghtonstar.com

You can comment on articles online at www.houghtonstar.com



[/THEHOUGHTONSTAR](https://www.facebook.com/thehoughtonstar)
[@HOUGHTONSTAR](https://www.instagram.com/houghtonstar)
EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM
[@HOUGHTONSTAR](https://twitter.com/HOUGHTONSTAR)

Artist of the Week

Olivia Graziano

// senior communication major with biology and business minors



“There are ways of understanding people which do not require words,”
– R.M. Drake



Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Canon Beach Sunset, *digital photography*

Glacier Point Road, *digital photography*

McWay Falls, *digital photography*

Bixby Bridge, *digital photography*

