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September 20, 2013 Vol. 110, No. 2

College Golf Teams Eliminated



Members of the former men's golf team head out on the field

LUKE LAUER

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Due to the enrollment shortfall this year, many Houghton departments and programs have had to trim their budgets significantly. One of the cuts directly impacting students is the elimination of both the men's and women's golf teams.

The golf teams were informed on September 10 that their teams had been eliminated from the athletics program. "I showed up for practice on Tuesday and our coaches were

waiting there... I thought that maybe a tournament had been canceled - but it was actually the entire team," said the women's captain Hannah Fink, junior.

The decision "came out of the blue," according to the men's captain, Evan Castle, junior, "Basically we had two matches and were completely into our season - nobody knew that this was going to happen - and we showed up to our practice on Tuesday and we get the news from our coach."

According to Dr. Robert Pool, Vice President for Student Life, the reason that the teams were informed in the middle of their season was due to the unexpected drop in enrollment in the beginning of the school year. "We thought - up until the end of July - that we would have been higher [in enrollment] than what we actually came in at. So it was, to many of us, a big surprise when we got to August and realized where we were with enrollment in terms of deposits." This required the college to make emergency cuts for this fiscal year. "We had to cut somewhere," said Pool, "A small piece of that was in athletics."

The elimination of the golf teams is part of a larger amount of cuts that Athletics are being asked to make. In total, Athletics were asked to cut \$60,000 out of their budget this year - the golf team taking a significant percentage of that number. According to Athletics Director, Skip Lord, "In a nutshell, every area on campus has had to make hard decisions relative to budgets this fall. That included athletics. This decision, along with other significant, but less visible cuts in athletics, were carefully weighed to accomplish the goal."

One of the factors leading Student Life and Athletics to cut golf particularly is the relatively small number

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Co-op Faces Uncertain Future

GRETCHEN REEVES

After a recent annual board meeting, the Allegany Harvest Co-op appears to be at a crossroads. This past Wednesday, board president Sunshine Sullivan, along with other board members, met with member-owners to address questions regarding the future sustainability of the community organization. Presenting financial data, membership information, and volunteer availability, the board and other co-op members are attempting to secure enough income to hire a manager in the near future, a task which proves to be difficult.

"We did a lot of research to figure out if [the co-op] was something that [was] actually possible in this small rural area," stated Sullivan. Although emphasizing community development through contact and transactions with local farmers and businesses, the board also recognized a need for a balance between fair prices for farmers and fair

See CO-OP page 3



ALLEGANYHARVEST.COOP

Current logo of the co-op

International Students Participate in Intensive English Program

DAVID SMITH

Houghton College inaugurated the Intensive Academic English Program (IAEP), this fall semester, helping international students improve their English language skills as they began their college careers. Seven international students, one man and six women, are currently enrolled in the program and hail from countries including Mali, Barbados, and Burma.

Dr. Mark Hunter, director of CASA (Center for Academic Success and Advisement), said the college selected these first-years as "students of non-traditional background... [who have] shown motivation, desire, and potential" but also need some assistance with English. He also stated the lessons are "distinguished from ESL, which is about conversation" whereas the program's aim is "improving reading and writing abilities to what is expected at Houghton." The students take classes in reading, writing, speaking, and listening instruction in addition to Biblical Literature and College Study Methods.

The listening and speaking por-

tions of the IAEP are presented by Prof. Colleen Ahland who teaches "how to listen to a lecture [and] take notes," using methods such as video lectures and going "over strategies for note taking and presenting." Her instruction is "mainly practice" and she stated that, "I want them to be functional in an academic English setting."

Likewise, Prof. Michael Ahland, Assistant Professor of Linguistics and TESOL, teaches the reading portion. He says his classes involve a "great deal of talking and interaction," and the lessons are "highly practical," providing his students with the "skills needed to be a good reader, writer, presenter." During one class, Michael Ahland focused on formulating inferences, or assumptions, about a text while reading. After teacher assistants acted out dialogues, the students studied the written text and discussed in small groups the inferences they had made. While Michael Ahland said "I try to keep it lively," he also said that what thrills him about the IAEP is that "these are students that are really excited to be here."

See IAEP page 2

Panel of Experts Discuss Immigration Reform

JESSICA NIEDERLANDER

On September 12, Houghton hosted a panel discussion revolving around the subject of immigration reform in the Center for the Fine Arts building. Panel speakers included two leaders of national organizations, Galen Carey of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) and Daniel Watts of G92; a Houghton political science professor, Professor Peter Meilaender; and Jeff True, a local dairy farmer.

All panelists agreed that immigration laws are being broken and that illegal immigration remains a problem in the United States. True spoke of his personal experience of hiring of immigrants to work at his farm and said, "I have to choose which law to break . . . I hate it." All that is required to hire a worker on his farm is the proper documentation and they have to be able to fill out the I9 form. He cannot know whether the documentation is real or not and he cannot discriminate against them, so it often happens that True does not know whether or not the people he hires are legal immigrants or not.

A common complaint against

immigration is that there are many unemployed Americans who cannot find jobs, and could otherwise take the jobs that immigrants do. However, farm work, such as at True's dairy farm, requires people to work long hours with hard labor each day and, as the panel explained, most Americans do not want those kind of jobs anymore. Carey said that they want jobs that utilize the skill set that they have learned from school. Meilaender and Watts agreed and spoke of how the American society is not a very active one anymore with its emphasis on technology, so many do not want to work the long hours and hard labor necessary for some agricultural jobs.

One of the themes touched upon at the panel was the revitalization immigrants often bring to the culture into which they move. According to the panelists, those who come to America illegally are motivated to survive and succeed because of what they have endured to get here. Carey spoke briefly of the pattern of refugees seeking asylum: the first generation will struggle but the second generation will thrive, knowing

See IMMIGRATION PANEL page 3

NATIONAL // Government Faces Imminent Shutdown



ANDREA PACHECO

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Stop the presses - Congress is, yet again, at an impasse about the national budget and it appears as if this time it will consequently shut down the federal government unless lawmakers can come to an agreement by September 30.

There are two main issues at hand. Funding for the government

for the 2014 fiscal year (beginning on October 1, 2013) must be decided by Congress by September 30. However, lawmakers have had a difficult time passing the appropriations bills required. Adding to this complication is the fact that the government is about to hit the debt ceiling (the debt ceiling is the legal limit on how much total debt that the government can assume) and the decision to raise or lower it, and thus let the Treasury borrow more or less, is highly contested between Republicans and Democrats. The debt ceiling debacle, though, is far more consequential because it has the potential to affect world markets negatively.

Agreements between Republicans and Democrats seem unlikely at the moment. House Republicans in particular have taken the hard line in the past few days and it looks like their demands will not find an easy compromise among Democrats. According to the Washington Post, House Republicans are taking on a “risky, double-barreled attack on President Obama’s healthcare law” and making it the center of the budget debate. In effect, Republican leaders--particularly Speaker John Boehner--told the media that they would put forward a stopgap government funding bill that

would block funding to Obamacare. This is in response to many conservatives who are still demanding that Obamacare be halted. This stopgap bill will be put to a vote on Friday, but it is likely to be met unfavorably with Democrats.

Another initiative by Republicans, this time regarding the debt ceiling, will also target Obamacare directly. In order to lift the debt ceiling, Republicans are demanding that the healthcare law be delayed, as well demanding as other measures such as an overhaul of the tax code and an approval of an energy pipeline.

Needless to say, Democrats are aghast at what Republicans are demanding and the issues seem to point to a battle of wills that will force a government shutdown. In addition to Republican demands making compromise between the two parties highly unlikely, it seems doubtful that Democrats will extend an arm to help as they know that public opinion is strongly against Republicans in this matter. According to a poll taken by CNN, most Americans (51%) would blame the GOP should a government shutdown occur, thus strengthening Democrat popularity and electoral prospects. According to the poll, only a third would blame Democrats.

At the moment, the best possibility to avoid government shutdown by the deadline is if Senator Reid sends back the stopgap bill to the House, stripped of its demands to defund Obamacare. Then the hot potato would be placed again in Speaker Boehner’s hands to either approve the measure with Democratic votes or else to shutdown the government. This, however, does not seem likely.

Recently, congressional budget decisions have taken a pattern most familiar to college students: wait until the last minute before the due date and then patch together a final document. In this instance, it looks like Congress’ current debacle is no different. ★

Sarah is a senior political science major.

Townhouse Composting!

Composting has come to the townhouses. All townhouse students are welcome to use the new compost tumblers located by the dumpsters, but please follow a few key guidelines:



1. **PLANTS ONLY.** Vegetables, fruit, grains and small amounts of paper products are good. NO meat, dairy, oils/fats, or plastics!
2. **ADD THE "BROWNS".** There will soon be a bin of "brown material" (shredded paper, sawdust, leaves, etc.) beside the tumblers. Add one scoop/handful of "brown" material every time you add food scraps.
3. **READ THE SIGNS.** One tumbler will be for "*new compost*" and the other for "*active compost*." Active compost must sit undisturbed for a few weeks. New stuff should always be placed in the "*new compost*" bin (note that the bins will switch every month or so).

IAEP from page 1

While the IAEP was formed to provide students in need with higher-level English classes, its creation is also linked to Houghton’s global mission. Dr. Hunter expressed that the program is part of Houghton’s focus on global engagement, stating, “I think the diverse backgrounds of the students is exciting.” The participants of the IAEP have roots in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, allowing for the spread of world cultures and languages on campus. Colleen Ahland said “diversity leads to better ideas which better the academic setting.”

When asked about something that excited her about the program, Colleen Ahland cited “getting students interacting with others from other countries. That’s education itself.” ★

GOLF from page 1

of students that it will affect. Both teams have about a dozen players combined, though this number varies between the fall and spring due to several players already involved in other seasonal sports teams. Another factor influencing the decision to cut the teams is that both the coach, Thomas Kettelkamp, and the assistant coach, Richard Halberg, are already employed as faculty members - so no jobs will be cut as a result of this decision.

Houghton introduced the golf teams last year when it made the move into the Empire 8 Athletic Conference, along with introducing other sports teams such as lacrosse, tennis, and baseball. The elimination of the golf teams should not impact Houghton’s NCAA D-III or Empire 8 standing.

Coach Thomas Kettelkamp and Coach Richard Halberg both expressed their dismay at the elimina-

tion of the teams.

“Personally I am a full time faculty and will not be impacted by the decision to cut the golf program but it was very, very difficult to tell the players that we are done,” said Coach Kettelkamp. Coach Halberg echoed Kettelkamp’s statement and said that he felt, “badly about ending our relationship with a great group of stu-



ATHLETICS.HOUGHTON.EDU

Junior and former women’s golf captain Hannah Fink in spring 2013

dents.”

According to Kettelkamp, there were three prospective students looking into enrolling at Houghton to join the college’s golf teams, but he had to write to inform them that they should “look elsewhere for a college golf program.” Additionally, he believes that no one on the golf teams is currently intending to transfer as a result of this decision, but he said “if they ask me to help facilitate transferring to another college, I will certainly do so.”

Fink and Castle both lamented that they had not been able to complete the season as captains, the first time in these positions of leadership. “I had hoped to improve our record from last year. Individually, we all wanted to get better. Basically, improve,” said Fink. Castle said, “It’s a big bummer because I spent a lot of time with my teammates and my entire summer planning for this year. And it’s gone.” ★

IMMIGRATION PANEL *from page 1*

the struggles it took to survive in this world. Watts, however, made sure to emphasize that these were broad generalizations being made and that what was said was not true for every person.

Dr. Peter Meilaender, chair of political science, emphasized, however, that people’s responsibilities were first to those in their community. “Immigration control is ethically justified,” Meilaender said. By refusing to open the borders to anyone who wanted to come in, the government is protecting people’s jobs, families, and their way of life.

But the immigrants who have made America their home also carry weight in this issue. Jessica Vaughn, a sophomore who attended the panel, shared a relevant experience with her bilingual home church, adding, “One of the assistant pastors is undocumented.” She continued to say that although she knows that not all Christians will agree on what needs to be done, one should nevertheless act towards the immigrants in a manner worthy of Christ. She sees it as a struggle with what to do with the immigrants who have made America their home but have done so without proper documentation.

“We want workable laws that meet our nation’s needs and that can be enforced and respected by all,” Carey wrote in his August 2013 article for The Washington Post titled “Evangelicals Keep the Faith with Those Working for Immigration Reform.” In it, he commented specifically on what was needed in the immigration laws that are being rewritten. Though he wants his family safe from dangerous people who may cross the border, he also desires to see families reunited and protected from the long separations they have had to endure. “We want to offer undocumented immigrants the opportunity to acknowledge their wrongs, make themselves right with the law, pay appropriate fines and penalties, get in line, and begin the long process of earning legal status and eventually, if they qualify,

citizenship.” Though these guidelines to how Carey envisions immigration control will not be agreed upon by all citizens, they do address some of the key issues that will be discussed and addressed while forming new laws.

Though immigration laws may be broken now, hope that the situation will improve still remains and discussion about possible solutions continues. Vaughn said, “People who think the answers are clear cut and straightforward don’t know enough about the issue.” The intent of the panel was not to solve the problem of immigration reform; instead, it aimed to revive the exchange of ideas which may gradually bring the current situation to a less volatile point. ★

Want to write for the Houghton Star?



Send an e-mail to:
editor@houghtonstar.com



As part of the Faith & Justice Symposium,
we are collecting the top 5 items needed by local organizations
who provide free hot meals.

WHAT

- 1 CANNED FRUIT
(Peaches, Pears, or Pineapple)
- 2 SALAD DRESSING
(Ranch or Italian)
- 3 Creamed Soups
(Cream of Chicken or Mushroom)
- 4 Canned Tuna
- 5 Gelatin
(orange, strawberry, or raspberry)

Also: any NGM seeds or garden tools for a Buffalo
Community Garden (with Food for All)

CAFFEINATED
CREATIVE STUDIO

CO-OP *from page 1*

prices for consumers in order to maintain a regular consumer base.

However, membership in the co-op has continued to be lower than expected, with the number of regular shoppers even lower as most residents in the area continue to opt for more distant but larger supermarket chains.

According to Peter Meilaender, vice president of the board for the co-op, original targets for membership were around 200 to 250 members. Sullivan cites a current figure of around 100 actual members, 75 to 80 of which Meilaender estimates to be regular shoppers.

Co-op member-owners had originally prepared to operate at a loss, but not at the loss that has shown up in sales figures. A lack of growth in membership and purchases in this case translates to low sales, undermining the co-op’s goals. “With the initial plan, it was assumed that the co-op would lose money for about the first three years before it started to break even,” explained Meilaender. “We have in fact lost money more rapidly than we were supposed to, primarily because sales have been much under where they need to be.” Sullivan cited some figures, adding, “For our budget that we’ve outlined in our business plan to work, we actually need to have \$4400 in sales every week. Not only to get our fixed costs taken care of,

but also to be positioned to actually hire a new manager,” explained Sullivan. “Our best week has been \$2400, but in reality, in the summer it was hovering between \$900 and \$1500.” As community members, faculty, and students leave to travel or return home during the summer and as residents begin to rely more on their personal gardens, sales tend to go down.

In addition to struggles with raising membership and sales, the co-op faces difficulties after running into unexpected expenses. After the first

manager stepped down for medical reasons, the co-op decided to take on a new manager, one who was eventually let go due to mishandling of finances. “We realized our finances weren’t being handled in the way it was reported to us,” explained Sullivan, a situation which resulted in several outstanding debts, many of which the co-op is still working to fulfill.

Recently all of the board members decided to serve as different facets of management, saving the co-op a projected \$10,000 through December. Bal-

ancing what amounts to about 15 volunteer hours per week can be difficult, though, especially for those working outside the co-op. Several of the board members are full-time professors at Houghton College, some undertaking research as well. “That’s quite a bit to hold onto as a volunteer,” said Sullivan.

“We’re trying to transition from that to a place where we can hire someone to do that job again,” added Dani Johnson, volunteer coordinator and board member. The viability of this transition will be seen at the end of next month. “We’ll see how sales go in October and, based on that, we will decide if we are going to have enough money to start looking for a manager,” Sullivan stated. “If not, we’ll be making plans to start closing at the end of the fall semester,” she explained.

For now, outlook amongst board members remains mixed but hopeful. “I’m cautiously optimistic about it continuing,” stated Johnson. “If you look at co-ops on a national level, co-ops are doing really well.”

Said Sullivan, “With all of these businesses that are connected with us, they are invested in us succeeding because they need business in this area. It’s amazing the community that is really supporting [the co-op]—we just need more people to shop there.” ★



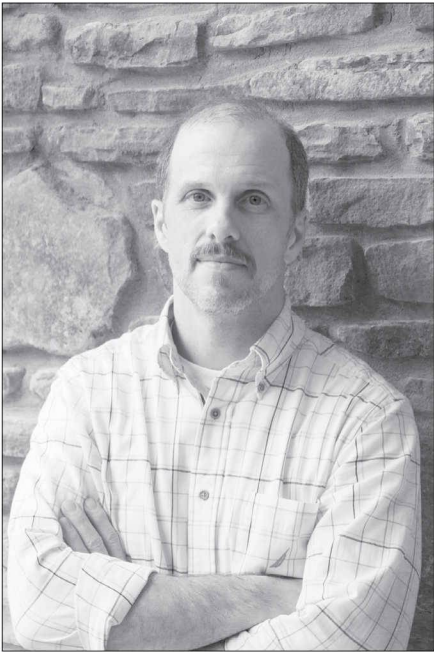
Allegany Harvest Co-op on Route 19

Houghton Hires New Photography Professor

HOLLY CHAISSON

Houghton welcomed 11 new faculty members this year, including new photography and digital imaging professor, Ryann Cooley. Professor Cooley comes to Houghton after several stints as a photographer in both the advertising and missionary fields. However, before pursuing his career in photography, Cooley worked as a financial planner. In the late 80s, on what is known as Black Monday, the stock market crashed and Cooley marks this as the start of a series of events that happened in his life where he said God started speaking in his life, “convicting [him] of [his] motivations for being in the financial sector.” After the revelation that money was his “primary motivation”, Cooley said that he realized he could “only serve one master”, something which “shook [his] world.”

Eventually Cooley stepped away from the financial sector and said that this time in his life was one without “a sense of direction, motivation, or drive.” The next six months were spent in prayer, Cooley said, almost “like [he] was in a monastery.” This intense period of prayer ultimately left Cooley with a dream in which he was “a photographer for missionaries, traveling the world to document various missions” as a graduate of Brooks Institute, a school he heard about in high school. Initially following his dream, Cooley contacted Brooks Institute and learned that both the tuition and admission requirements were out of reach. Dismayed, he began to look elsewhere. Yet a month later he received a call from Brooks offering him admission and scholarship. After being accepted into the undergraduate program at the Brooks Institute under the Alumni Scholarship Program, Cooley immediately enrolled and successfully completed his degree. Following his graduation, he began to contact missionaries to see if he could come along on their missions and take photos. When Cooley was denied these opportunities, he said his next step was to “go and make a name for [himself] as a photographer,” so he moved to New



LUKE LAUER
New professor Ryann Cooley

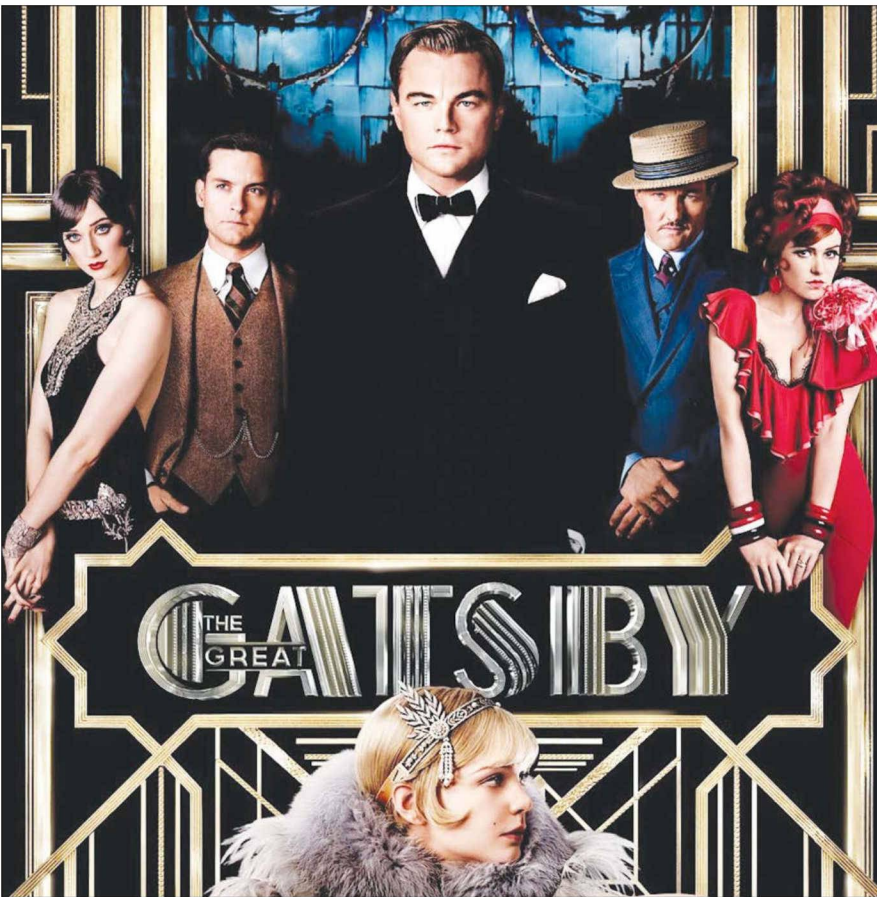
York City, “the hub of photography”, in order to do so. In NYC, Cooley worked as an assistant photographer for several years with his first client being Levi’s. His work in advertising gradually grew and was followed by an opportunity to shoot for a Presbyterian mission organization while they were on a mission in Mexico for three weeks, an opportunity Cooley said he “jumped at.” His work with missions organizations continued with groups like the Arab World Missions in Morocco and the International Bible Society based in Colorado Springs. Following the birth of his son and the start of his family, Cooley said that his career direction changed. “My dream had come true,” he said, and it was now time to return to the advertising world, which Cooley said he sees as “much [of] a mission field” as those he had worked in before, calling advertising a “foreign country itself.” In 2012, after a reasonable stint in advertising, Cooley pursued and received his MFA in Photography, Video, and Related Media from the School of Visual Arts in NYC so that he could teach.

See **COOLEY** on page 5



Ryann Cooley
Glass

Movie Review: The Great Gatsby



THE GREAT GATSBY film poster

ALLYSON MURPHY

“[Nick] ventured, ‘You can’t repeat the past.’ ‘Can’t repeat the past?’ he cried incredulously. ‘Why of course you can!’” Unlike Jay Gatsby’s attempt to repeat the past, director Baz Luhrmann’s endeavor to bring The Great Gatsby to the screen yet again was the refreshing and unique spin that this acclaimed American story needed. In 1926, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s, The Great Gatsby, made its screen debut in a silent film production directed by Herbert Brenon. Following in 1949, Elliot Nugget directed a black and white “talkie” version. Yet a third version was created with a screenplay by Francis Ford Coppola and direction by Jack Clayton in 1974. That most recent version starred actors still known today, such as Robert Redford and Mia Farrow, but many critics, such as Roger Ebert, were unimpressed. All this to say this classic story needed a fresh spin to redeem it from some of its less than impressive predecessors. Luhrmann’s adaptation was created in conjunction with musical genius Jay-Z, who also served as executive producer for both the film and album. The duo was joined by composer Craig Armstrong, whom Luhrmann had worked with in previous projects, such as Moulin Rouge.

The acting and cinematography of the film were stylistically unique and fairly well received, but the soundtrack was perhaps most notable. The soundtrack, a composition of upbeat brash hip-hop combined with traditional jazz melodies and other contemporary sounds, was a means to bring the Roaring Twenties to the modern era. Luhrmann said, “The question for me in approaching Gatsby was how to elicit from our audience the same level of excitement and pop cultural immediacy toward the world that Fitzgerald did for his audience. And in our age, the energy of jazz is caught in the energy of hip-hop.” Jay-Z’s \$100 Bill carries an electro-rap beat that bluntly chops in and out of Nick’s wistful recount of Gatsby’s woes. The hard beat and pointed lyrics serve as a description of Gatsby’s life of luxury and “decade of decadence, ill reverence, irreverence.” Later, Lana del Ray’s haunting, Young and Beautiful, rises

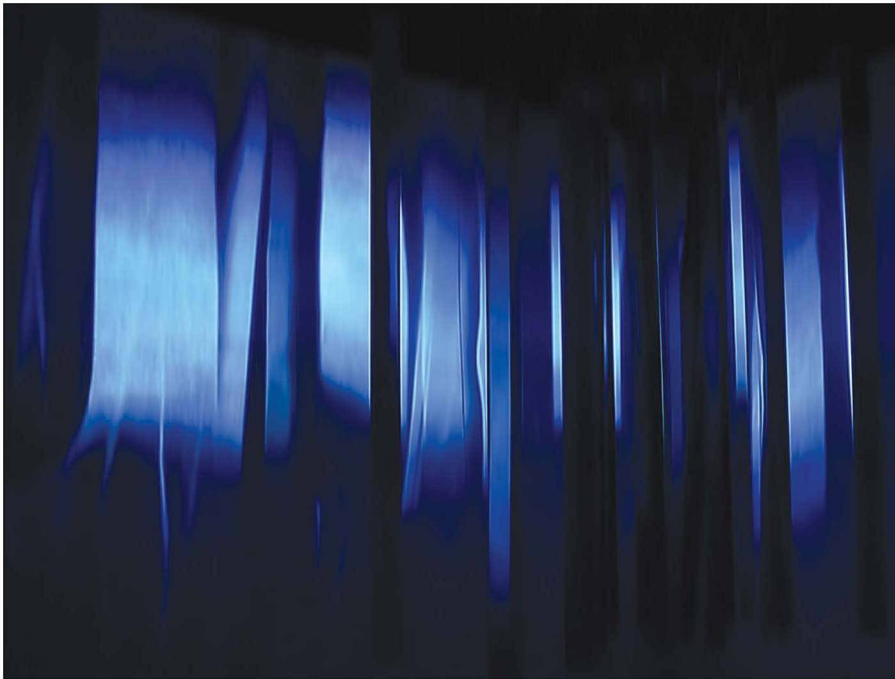
and falls, as Gatsby and Daisy’s intimate relationship climaxes within the Gatsby estate. To name a few other contributors, Florence and the Machine, The xx, and Gotye all add key elements necessary to bring back to life the vibe of the Roaring 20’s. In terms of acting, DiCaprio stepped up to the role of nouveau riche and mysterious Gatsby himself. Throughout the film his, “Old Sports,” get repetitive, but they do the job to stress his tiresome and affluent lifestyle. However, Tobey Maguire’s performance in the role of the young and naïve Nick Caraway who quickly gets caught up in Gatsby’s bourgeoisie living is weak. Though Maguire’s character is meant to get lost in the decadence of Gatsby’s spendthrift life, his performance is much overshadowed by DiCaprio. Lastly, Carey Mulligan struggles to balance and convey the love triangle she has been caught in, yet her sub-par performance is overall acceptable. Perhaps the harshest criticism of the film should be directed at what is also considered it’s greatest strength--its unabashed and garishly over-the-top ostentatious storytelling. Luhrmann’s riots of color and extravagant party scenes take away from Fitzgerald’s intimate and personal story of self worth and the struggle to mend relationships. Gatsby’s doomed romance is repeatedly overshadowed and shoved to the side, due to unapologetically excessive depictions of the leisure class. Some critics point to the films of Quentin Tarantino as having the feel Luhrmann was ultimately striving to achieve, yet failed to accomplish. However, this flaw seems minor when compared to the broader scope of success that Luhrmann’s stylistic technique accomplished. Overall, the film dives in from the start and relentlessly brings the Roaring Twenties back to life. At times it is too much, but more often than not there are sparks of brilliance delivered not only from Gatsby’s fireworks, but also from the adaptation itself. Ultimately the film’s somber ending captures the essence of Gatsby’s fallen empire with Fitzgerald’s harrowing words, “So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.” And so, maybe Gatsby was right; the past can be repeated, but only ever so often. ★

COOLEY *from Page 4*

Before coming to Houghton, Cooley looked into and interviewed at several schools, but he said it was the students at Houghton that stood out to him because they were “easy to talk to and articulate;” students he wanted the chance to work with. After receiving and accepting the position at Houghton, Cooley and his family moved from New York City to Angelica, and he said that the transition was big, but that he was “ready to move on from the city.”

When asked what he hopes to bring to Houghton, Cooley said that he wants to bring an “NYC edge,” and introduce

more conceptual art that will help in his goal of “pushing the boundaries of what people expect of art.” Additionally, he would like to see the number of photography classes grow to include more advanced classes that offer students the opportunity to specialize in areas such as lighting. Also important to Cooley is the relationship between the music and art departments. He hopes to help bring the departments together in combined performances, and said that there may be a collaboration with Professor Brian Johnson in the works for this year’s Christmas Prism. ★



RYANN COOLEY

Kinethesia

Women’s Soccer Team Gears Up for Fall Season

LAUREL WROBLICKY

The women’s soccer team has begun their second transitional year into NCAA Empire 8. This marks Coach David Lewis’s 22nd year coaching the lady Highlanders. Houghton alum, Katie Philips has returned as the team’s assistant coach along with Kevin Austin training the keepers.

Last year, the team was composed of 36 players. This high number was due in part to the termination of the JV soccer program. This year, the roster number remains high, but has dropped to 31. There are few overnight games this year, meaning that the whole team will travel for most of the games.

“I definitely think [having a couple less players] contributes to [doing better] because that is when we play as a team,” said junior Katherine Tomlinson, “It is a lot easier to be a team when there are less of us.”

“I like this year’s team chemistry. Not that last year’s was bad or anything, it is just really good this year,” said Lewis, “The overall team depth, the strength as we go deep into our line-up, is very good. It has improved.”

Coach Lewis highlighted senior captains, Alyssa Figueroa and Erin Miller’s play this season. The third captain, senior Amanda Zacchigna, has been injured from the start of the season, but is anticipated to contribute defensively with her recovery.

“Our bench was not as strong [last year], but our freshmen have come in and stepped it up. Our eleven seniors are holding their own on the field and giving us those wins,” said Tomlinson, “We are possessing well as a team and just working better as a team overall this season.”



LUKE LAUER

Women’s soccer practice.

“As a captain it is our job to...make sure the team is bonded on and off the field and also to continue pushing ourselves. Right now we are 3-0 and doing well, but we cannot afford to slack off,” said Miller, “So we have to maintain focus and also have fun on the field; not just be all serious all the time.”

Overall the team has a record of 4-0-0 thus far. Junior Danielle Lyndsley leads the team in total goals scored at three, while junior Stephany Ellison has the most points, shots, and assists, totaling seven, twenty-nine, and three,

respectively. Senior Atalie Fite has also contributed to the attack statistics as she has stepped into the forward position this season.

Figueroa and sophomore Sarah Gabriele are noted for their defensive contribution to the team. Opposing teams have not scored against the Houghton women due to the women’s strong defense and sophomore Shawna Sprout and senior Michelle Mahoney playing in goal.

“Obviously we are still not eligible for qualifications for Empire 8, but we

still want to compete with the top teams in the conference and finish with the top bracket,” said Lewis, “We want to finish with them as if it did count. We would also like to qualify for the national Christian tournament and...make a good run.”

“A goal, without a doubt, especially being a senior, is to go further than we ever have in nationals. I would love to win it,” said Miller, “Our next goal is to just continue going hard and winning each game. I would love to go undefeated this year.” ★

“Diary of Love” Recital

JIWAN DHALIWI AND
HOLLY CHAISSON

The recent faculty recital, Diary of Love Songs, featured Kelley Hijleh, voice, Sharon Johnson, piano, and Steven Thomas, violin. Martha Thomas, wife of Thomas, the violist, said that the recital was “a musical energy that has been birthed by love,” and according to Professor Kelly Hijleh- she has got it spot on.

Hijleh is the lead vocalist of Diary of Love Songs, and has been part of the Houghton faculty for 21 years. She said her hope for the recital was that to unite the campus through music. Hijleh said that this recital was more personal to her than previous recitals because it is, in effect, a story of her own relationship with her husband of 23 years. The recital featured two pieces written by her husband, Mark Hijleh. One, More Precious than Rubies, was first played at the couple’s wedding, and will be played once more, this time by Hannah Hijleh, the couple’s daughter. “Romantic love is a great gift from God” Hijleh said, “and I have attempted to share my life story.”

A member of the music faculty for 10 years, Johnson explained that this recital encompasses her relationships with dear friend Kelley Hijleh and her students. She said the recital was a special bond she was able to share with Kelley, and said the experience was one that enriched their friendship. Johnson also said that recitals help her to better communicate with her

students by helping her to bridge the gap between musician and teacher. “I am not just a teacher but also a learner and that creates a holistic environment for students,” she said, “and that can be seen clearly when I perform on stage.”

“Music is very present in our life and in worship,” Thomas said, “ and when we worship we are closest to God.” Thomas said that the recital was a very exciting event for him and a strong expression of his own spirituality as he said, “I am most intimate with God when I play music.”

The recital was unanimously described to be “all about love.” A theme that is reflected both in the repertoire and the participant’s back stories. To begin, Hijleh and Johnson performed four Italian love songs from the 17th and 18th centuries. The first two selections highlight the beloved, the third “depicts love that is faithful in the face of faithlessness” according to Hijleh’s program note, and the fourth piece reflects the “fiery passion...often depicted in love songs.” Following the Italian selections, is another series of four pieces by Johannes Brahms. The themes of passion, fire, and love are present throughout, and Hijleh’s performance mirrored these well. Also on the program was Hijleh’s performance of an aria from the French opera, Louise, entitled “Depuis le jour.” It was an “exuberant” piece that Hijleh said “[captured] for [her] better than anything the feeling of being in love.★

A Case for Chocolate and Coffee



LUKE LAUER

DANNY KIM

It doesn't matter how much faith you have or for how long you've been around Christian community. There is hardly anything that makes you feel more uncomfortable and thrown aback than a stranger or a mere acquaintance coming up to you and asking, "Do you love God?"

I realize that the uniquely warm and Christian environment of Houghton may give us the wrong impression that this is a completely normal small talk topic to demonstrate our love for one another; we call this sort of thing relating to our "brothers and sisters in Christ." Here's the catch though: siblings,

even the kind in Christ, are generally not classified as strangers or acquaintances. Asking these sorts of questions among friends is one thing, but can any of us honestly say that we'd appreciate it if a stranger approached and asked, "Do you love your girlfriend?", or "How's your relationship with your boyfriend?" Sometimes I don't even like my best friends asking me that, because I often don't know whether what I feel is really love or something else! I mean, at times, my spiritual life feels like a long distance relationship with a girlfriend from another planet; I am told to write letters and leave voice mails but never get a direct reply. What makes it even harder is, I am supposed to believe that my partner still loves me much more than I could ever love her, because her holy ghostwriter said so in letters to strangers from thousands of years ago. So please ask yourself: "Do I love God? Is my spiritual life filled with love?" Now, can you really answer a resounding Yes to those questions? If you can't, why would you ask a stranger?; or if you can, what are you trying to accomplish by asking a stranger?

My heart only mumbles when I hear those questions. I don't know how to love God, at least the way the Church says I should. There are too many unanswered questions. I want to

love my creator, and I desire to have a longing for Him, yet I do not think this means that I must become an unthinking disciple of culturally discordant Biblical statements. One of the Church issues I can't find peace with is whether God really is a homophobic, wrathful condemner. Can a loving God subject a powerless man to an eternal suffering, just because he wants to show kindness, gentleness, meekness, patience, and love to another man until death do them apart? Do Christians have to go against the cultural current? Are the words worldly and secular really antithetical to godly? As we do not

Isn't it important for us worldly beings to consume and appreciate our culture alongside our Christian tradition?

Can any of us honestly say that we'd appreciate it if a stranger approached and asked, "Do you love your girlfriend?"

dine on the Word of God alone, but also on coffee and chocolate for clarity and energy --and sometimes happiness-- isn't it important for us worldly beings to consume and appreciate our culture alongside our Christian tradition?

I have no doubt the church will have a pamphlet with scripture quotes and simple answers for all the questions I'm asking. But Christians have been adapting to contemporary culture, and reinterpreting and reteaching the

Bible since God-knows-when, and I really wish that this time, for once, the Church won't be caught lagging behind everybody else. Just as we frown and wince at the thought of past days Christians quoting scripture to justify slavery or to oppose women's rights, fifty years from now --or maybe even sooner-- people may feel embarrassed to know that the Church at one point

preached against homosexuality.

Way too often, during Christian youth seminars or camps, the keynote speakers preach about Christians setting themselves apart from the world; many of us have fooled ourselves into believing that Christians must stay immune to the effects of changing worldly values. I wish my opinionated 700 words could convey my hopes of bringing the Church and culture together. At the very least, I hope that my writing has made you feel agitated, because then you may be able to tell me what I'm missing. More than anything, though, I hope we all learn to be normal people living in 21st century America and keep our small talks, well, small.

So, reader, how's the weather today? ★

Danny is a senior biology major

Disce aut Discede / The Passion of Miley Cyrus



LUKE LAUER

LYDIA WILSON

I am very sure that you are tired of hearing people talk about Miley Cyrus. In the aftermath of the VMAs (the MTV Video Music Awards, a live performance in which Miley twerked on Robin Thicke (for the definition of twerking, please resort to your local Google machine (or not))), there was an outpouring of public response, both Christian and non-Christian. The Christian responses were comprised mainly of tender claims of tears on Miley's behalf, praying that she find her true self and cast off her sinful ways. Her "true self," they claim, can only be found in her eventual salvation. Blogger Rihanna Teixeira penned "A Letter to Miley Cyrus" that went viral soon after the VMAs. Teixeira felt "sad" for Miley, expressing concern for her continuing rebellion and encouraging her, "I know that there is something deeper

in that little heart of yours and that's what the world wants to see." The prevailing sentiment in Christian reactions has been that poor Miley clearly has no idea what she is doing, she is not being true to herself, and some kind of dark outside force is pressuring her to do the things that she is doing.

But, according to Miley, she has never been more herself than she is now. In interviews surrounding the release of her upcoming album, Bangerz, Miley has stated numerous times that she finally feels able to express herself artistically. She told Billboard Magazine, "I want to start as

a new artist... I actually found out more about who I am by making this music." Like it or not, Miley is not being anything but herself. It is surprisingly hard news to conceptualize for many. Miley used to be so innocent and no one can believe that she really turned out this way. Christians in particular want to believe that if she came to follow Jesus, she would become a different person.

When Saul became Paul, he was in the midst of a Christian-slaying rampage. He was angry, passionate, and stubborn. Christians everywhere had heard of his rage and spoke the name Saul with fear. He was a dangerous person and I am sure they all wished that his craze would cease. He was quite literally on the warpath when he was stopped in his tracks and spoken to by Jesus, and came to follow Christ. Thus he became the Paul that we know: prolific, articulate, confident, and, yes, angry, pas-

sionate, and stubborn. Paul, in essence, did not change. He stopped killing Christians. But he himself did not change.

Miley Cyrus does not need to be saved. That is, no more than anyone else. Her actions may be grandiose, but her motives are no more so than any other average human being. Saul did not need to be saved any more than anyone else either. Saul was and Miley is on the same level of meta-

Talking about coming to Christ as being completely changed devalues the strengths and passions that we were born with.

physical priority as every other soul. And I think it is safe to say that if Miley were to start following Jesus tomorrow, she would not change. She would stop twerking, and posing nude, and singing about

drugs, but she herself would not change. Her personality would remain very much the same.

We were created with unique personalities. The same characteristics that made Saul a great persecutor also made Paul a great evangelizer. He believed in himself. He had strong convictions. He was convincing and powerful and a hard worker. Those character traits were an intrinsic part of his self and his personality, and after he began following Jesus, those same traits that caused him to voraciously hunt Christians then caused him to be one of the greatest Christians in history, and the writer of a hefty chunk of the texts on which we base our faith.

Miley's empire spreads far and wide. Starting with Hannah Montana and continuing on through Party in the USA, her haircut, twerking, the VMAs, and Wrecking Ball, she has been one of the most talk-

ed-about celebrities in history. Her personality is a large part of what has made that possible. She is a workaholic; she told Sunday People, "I work so much, I'm always on the road so I eat healthily. I have to give my body what it needs to keep going." She's passionate about what she does. "I have just put this music first," she told Billboard Magazine, and to MTV News, "I have had to fight for what I want on this record." Hard working, passionate, ambitious, prolific--Miley's personality is something to be valued and not overlooked. It is thoughtless to assume that everything Miley has strived for and thrown her energy into is but a façade and some kind of leftover scrap of teenage rebellion. Yes, her actions are irresponsible and often in poor taste. Saul's actions could have been described as irresponsible (if slaughtering human beings can be described so lightly), but no one would ever doubt that he was doing them intentionally and of his own volition.

It is a fine distinction between thinking of being saved as a transformation and thinking of it as a repurposing, but it is an important distinction. Talking about coming to Christ as being completely changed devalues the strengths and passions that we were born with and probably sounds, to those who are hearing the message of salvation for the first time, as if we must give up being ourselves in order to know Christ. Salvation is not an erasure of the self. Salvation is an acknowledgement of self-worth, and a strengthening of the natural personalities and gifts that God blessed us with in a way that brings glory to God. ★

Lydia is a senior art and writing major

FEATURED EDITORIAL/

To Infinity and Beyond; Religious Plurality and Dialogue



LUKE LAUER

HOLLY CHAISSON

We live in a religiously pluralistic society. We see it in manifested in our own faith tradition with tens of thousands of Christian denominations, and also outside in the realm of world religions, spanning Hinduism and Buddhism in the East, to Islam, Judaism, and beyond. Even in the evangelical Christian milieu of Houghton there is still a reasonably large spectrum of beliefs and experience. For Houghton, as a Christian institution, does this plurality merely represent our extensive mission field? Or does it perhaps provide us with the opportunity to understand our faith—as individuals and a community—more deeply?

Practically speaking, it is necessary that we come to terms with our

religious differences, both across the spectrum of Christianity (which we experience on campus) and across the spectrum of religions we see as “others”. Though our respective traditions may be directly opposing one another, faith remains essentially a human trait, something solid to provide a basis for successful interfaith dialogue. But how are we to go about this dialogue?

Last fall in my Judaism class, I read an article by the rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, (known popularly as “The Rav”) which I found to provide solid guidelines for interfaith dialogue. He stipulates that a confrontation (dialogue) between two faith communities is only possible if it is accompanied by a “clear assurance that both parties will enjoy equal rights and full religious freedom.” Additionally, both parties must have an assurance that they will be upheld in high respect, and not dragged through the mud, so to speak, when difficult issues or severe disagreements arise. In other words, if we neglect to provide a safe environment for these discussions, it is inevitable that neither party will come away with anything constructive, rather both sides will probably emerge somewhat insulted or discouraged.

Granted for the majority of us on campus it will be far easier to approach different denominations rather than entirely different religions; engaging a Catholic is quite different than engaging a Hindu, whose vocabulary, beliefs, and traditions are completely foreign for most of us. That being said, it is vitally important that we as a Christian institution strive to engage

these very “other” communities. If we continue to avoid interacting with these other faiths, we risk allowing “monsters to grow in the silence,” as Dr. Case said, one of our world religions professors. I would define these “monsters” as our tendency to demonize or vilify any religion that opposes Christianity. This mindset only serves to further the disparity between our respective faith traditions, burning bridges rather than building them.

Thus these conversations should not be taken as opportunities to merely target non-Christians for conversion (or even to convert those outside the perimeters of our preferred denomination). In other words, our mission should not be to proselytize, but to establish relationships. These dialogues and relationships would help to destroy our unwarranted prejudices and misconceptions about other faiths, and aid us in being effective in a world that preaches tolerance. Constructive interfaith dialogue should force both sides to be open minded without requiring either side to sacrifice their beliefs to the other, helping foster conversations and relationships as opposed to mission fields.

This being said, we do have a “missionary mandate” as a Christian institution and church, and when all is said and done, even in these honest dialogues there remains an element of persuasion on each side. While conversion should not be our only aim, it is legitimate, but perhaps it is best pursued in the context of these relationships we establish through dialogue. After all, is our goal merely to increase

numbers for the church or is it to welcome new members into the body of Christ? It’s at least my experience that the most successful evangelism is done within the context of real relationships, and when it comes to people of other faiths, we cannot hope for true relationships unless we are willing to engage in open dialogue.

Houghton appears to be heading toward becoming a more welcoming campus when it comes to interfaith matters. Dean Michael Jordan has said that the administration is on-board with increasing the diversity of speakers both in and outside of chapel. He mentioned that the Franciscan friars will be back, along with a couple speakers representing the Catholic and Presbyterian churches in the coming spring semester. This is a step in the right direction, providing the campus an opportunity to learn from and engage faiths that may be foreign to our own. Jordan also said that he is open to, and hopes to welcome, speakers outside of the Christian tradition on campus for panel events and discussions in later semesters. Presented with these opportunities, we have the potential to become a community of believers who are open and willing to engage in dialogue with the religious diversity in our own community and outside it. ★

Holly is a sophomore religion major

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2013-2014

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

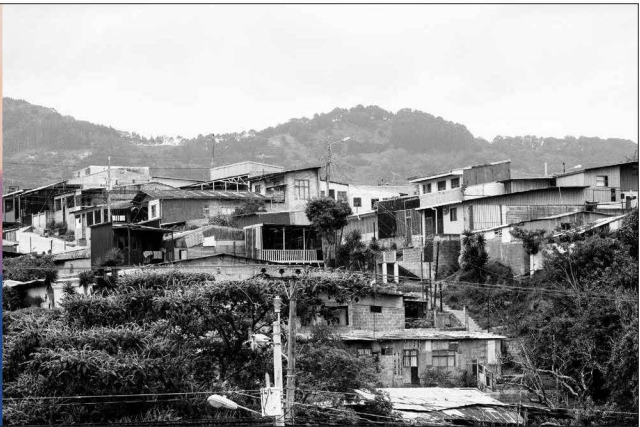
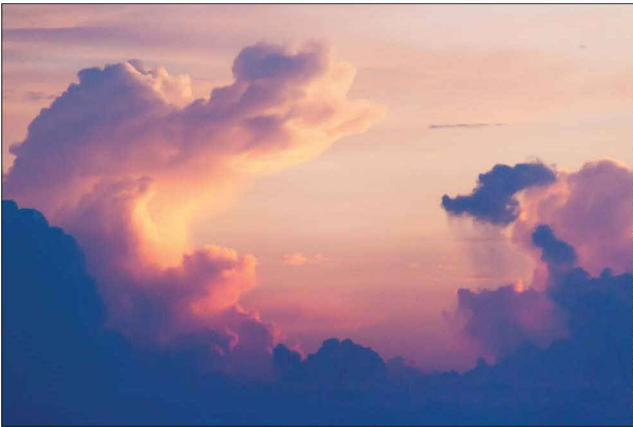
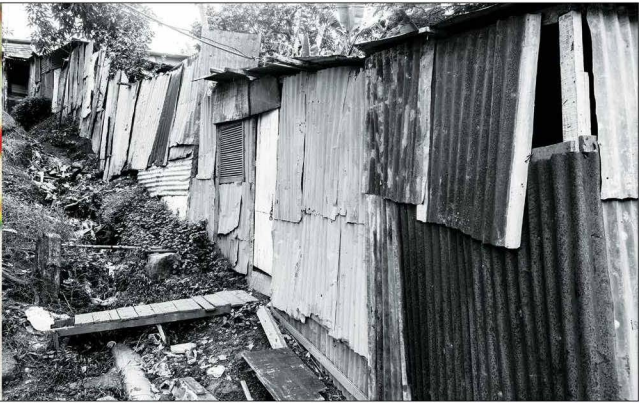


JOSHUA DUTTWEILER

JOSHUA DUTTWEILER

There are multiple sides to every story. Stories that require time and effort to discover their true depth. Dos Vistas or “two views” is my attempt at showing the depth, beyond the initial reaction is. My experience in Costa Rica over the summer showed me that there is so much more beauty below the surface, but its often difficult to find, and even more difficult to capture with a camera.

Joshua is a junior with a major in Applied Design and Visual Communication.



Dos Vistas, photography

SUDOKU

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To see crossword solution from 9/13 go to www.houghtonstar.com/crossword

To enter a drawing for a \$5 giftcard to the Allegany Harvest Co-op bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6 PM on WED 4/3.

Photo of the Week



SARA STEFFENHAGEN

Highlander fan.