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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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SIX FACULTY MEMBERS RESIGN

SARAH JACOBY

Over the past several months, Houghton has experienced a number of faculty and staff departures. Six faculty members across five different disciplines have moved on from their positions at the college to pursue new opportunities. These faculty members are: Jan and Patrick Buckwalter (education); Christopher Wells (physics); Ryan Thompson (art); Aaron Routhe (sociology); and Cory Renbarger (music).

The departing professors are taking new positions in a variety of fields, such as industry research and high school education, with two of them moving on to other college teaching positions. Their reasons for leaving fell into three main categories: three of the six said that salary and retirement benefits played a role in their decisions, three said that they wanted to be nearer to family, and two of the six cited a spouse's employment opportunity as their reason for leaving. Of the two professors who are taking

on other college teaching positions, both said that moving closer to family was a factor in their decision.

Regarding the somewhat sudden nature of these departures, several of which took place later in the summer, interim Academic Dean Linda Mills-Woolsey said, "It's not unusual to lose this many faculty members in a year; it is a little unusual that we got so many late departures."

This was due in part to the fact that three of the faculty members found jobs outside of college teaching. While higher education follows a fairly rigid hiring schedule, other fields have different hiring timetables that can conflict with the academic year. Additionally, those professors who moved due to their spouse's change in employment had less control over the timing of their departure.

Academics is not the only area of the college affected by departures. A significant change has also taken place in the Office of Student Life, as Sharra Hynes, former Vice President of Student Life, resigned

from her position this past May in order to work at the University of Central Oklahoma as Director of the Volunteer and Service Learning Center.

Mike Lastoria is leading the search committee for her replacement, a process which is expected to be completed by next summer at the latest. Dennis Stack, interim Vice President of Student Life, cited a desire to be closer to family as a primary factor in Hynes' departure, stating, "I would say [her choice to leave] was all for personal reasons."

Stack also spoke to the amount of turnover which has taken place at Houghton this summer and in the past year, stating, "The fact that there's a lot of change at one time, it can seem a little disconcerting. But when you take [these situations] one at a time and realize the reasonings behind them, I don't think you

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After 10 years, "It's the Right Time"



HOUGHTON COLLEGE

COLIN WYDYSH

Wednesday Sep. 5, Dr. John Brittain gave an announcement to the faculty and student body of Houghton College following his first sermon for chapel. The news was his planned retirement for this year and duties being covered by a temporary replacement until the school chose a suitable candidate to continue Brittain's work.

Dean of the Chapel and a professor of Religion at Houghton, Brittain worked at the school for about ten years in total. Dennis Stack, Dean of Students and interim Vice President of Student Life, has worked with him since his arrival in 2003.

"He was very well-received by the school," Stack said. "He is a good spiritual advisor for the whole campus."

Despite the school being officially known as a Wesleyan college, Houghton has maintained a diverse range of students with different backgrounds.

"We have such a wide array of the Christian spectrum here that Brittain has done a great job striving to meet all of their needs," said Dennis Stack.

Prior to arriving to the school, Brittain had been involved in ordained ministry for over 24 years -- meaning his retirement is ending at about 34 years overall. His last job was as chaplain for University of Evansville, located in southwestern Indiana. Though there has been a decade spent here, Brittain had retirement in mind well in advance.

"When I arrived, I made it clear to the school," said Brittain. "My wife and I had been talking about retiring for a while now."

His planned retirement for December is not the first to be heard of recently. Over the past year, a number of other faculty members announced their own resignations or retirements respectively.

See BRITTAIN page 3

KINGSLEY USES HUMOR TO INSPIRE ACTION



LUKE LAUER

Kingsley is the author of several books, including "Be Last - Descending to Greatness."

MONICA SANDRECZKI

This week, Houghton Wesleyan Church sponsored the founder of OneLife Ministries, Jeremy Kingsley, to speak during the annual Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW) services, which focus on spiritual growth, in hopes of turning the campus "more toward Christ than we might without it," said Pastor Wes Oden, Houghton

Wesleyan Church.

Kingsley led six services from Sunday night during Koininia to Wednesday morning's chapel. He spoke from a variety of Bible passages including 1 Kings, Mark, Luke, and Acts that named concrete ways for the Christian to change his or her life to please Jesus Christ, but also peppered his sermons with humor, adding jokes in between key points in his message.

Instead of being a pastor or professor as one might expect from a guest speaker, Kingsley is an inspirational speaker and author.

"Jeremy is different from most recent speakers, but that was intentional. I was getting some feedback that our speakers were more academic than inspirational, so we were looking for someone who was a bit more inspirational," said Oden. "My goal is to find people who are both. I think that it's important in our setting that the speaker has a deep grasp of scripture and theology and can communicate this in a way that is inspirational."

Using repeated phrases like, "you don't read the Bible to finish, you read it to change" and "Jesus is fully God and fully man," Kingsley incorporated the audience in a sort of call and response.

"This one's a real winner, judging by the attendance [Monday] night," said Dean John Brittain, who added that there were many positive remarks

from students.

"He's definitely urging some changes in each student's life and on campus as a whole. There's a huge emphasis on continual change and transformation, challenging our hearts instead of confirming what we already know or are comfortable with," said David Jung, junior.

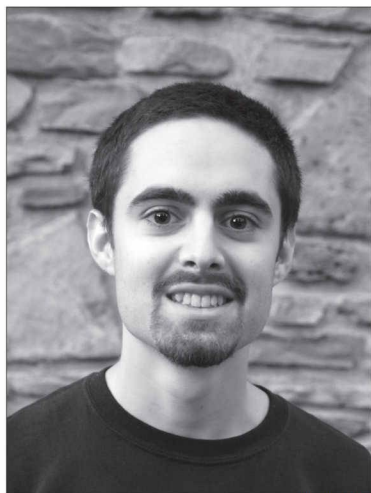
Though some students were pleased with Kingsley's messages, others did not receive him so positively.

"I was disappointed with Jeremy Kingsley this week. His overall message, while important, felt incredibly watered down, as though aimed at a significantly younger audience," said Abby Buckingham, junior. "His comedy was more of a distraction than an addition to his speaking and I didn't really find it amusing in the first place."

Jehoshaphat Reich, senior, said that he did not agree with Kingsley's claim that one should not be friends with non-Christians unless it is for the purpose of evangelism.

"No one wants to be preached at, they want a friend. If they wanted to be preached at, they'd go to church; everyone knows that," said Reich. "But his enthusiasm was good and his focus on doing things was good and we need more of that. It's a Christian walk, not a Christian talk." ★

SGA / New School Year, New Vision for Student Government



LUKE LAUER

JOEL ERNST

It's a new year, with new challenges and opportunities. And the SGA is excited to cast a vision for our student body this year! The Student Government has a theme this year: "Seek God, Serve Others, Unite as Highlanders." What do I mean by this?

Seek God—"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13, NIV). We as student leaders want to promote spiritual growth as the top priority for our campus life. Maybe you are a new student, and you are looking for opportunities to connect with

meaningful spiritual life activities on campus. We as the SGA want to increase awareness of the many great activities that are available. Bible studies, prayer groups, worship services, times of confession and reconciliation—these are all ways that we as students can grow together in our walk with Christ. Keep an eye out for news about spiritual life activities, as the SGA works to promote the many existing ways you can get plugged in and thrive spiritually on campus.

Serve Others—"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will by my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NIV). As Houghton College students, we have a sphere of influence where we can impact others through service and outreach. The SGA wants to promote service activities as a way for students to unite in the common goal of spreading Christ's love to others. The Houghton Academy is one such opportunity for outreach right in our community. Let's set an example of hospitality, and welcome Academy students when they come to our campus! Another exciting chance to serve others is a service day on the national Make a Difference Day on Oct. 27, 2012. The SGA is very excited to see how we can connect

with service organizations in Allegany County on this Service Day. Look for more news about this event as plans move forward.

Unite as Highlanders—"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3, NIV). As a Christian college community, God is calling us to be united. All of us students have various gifts and strengths that are expressed in our involvement in academics and activities outside of class. Yet we are all Highlanders here. The SGA wants to unite our campus through common activities—spiritual life, service, and supporting each other in our various strengths. Let's support our student-athletes—if you are not an athlete, you can show support at our home games. Or maybe you have never attended a student recital—support our music students and show up! The SGA will continue to seek out ways that we as students can come together in a greater way this year.

Let me now give you an update on one of the most important parts of our SGA—the Student Senate. This Tuesday night, your elected representatives met for the first time this school year. The Senate discussed an SGA resolution that came forward last semester regarding the alcohol policy at Houghton College, a resolution that I had vetoed last semester. After this discussion, the

Senate decided not to override my veto, thus accepting my veto so that the resolution will not be going to the college administration. If you have questions about this discussion, let me know and I would be happy to answer your questions. The Senate also elected students to three major college committees—an example of the privilege we have as students to take part in the policies and actions of our college. At this meeting, the Senate declared its support for See You at the Pole, an event that will be taking place by our campus flagpole on Sept. 26. Contact Joshua Mertzluft '13 for more details.

We will soon have the freshman class represented on the Senate, and we look forward to how the Senate can help lead our student body as your representatives and student leaders on campus.

I hope this gives you a sense of where the SGA is headed this year. We hope that at the end of this year, we can look back and see our student body closer to the Lord, stronger together as a Christian community, and making a difference through service in the lives of others. Please join with us in this endeavor, and please pray for us as we see God bring about His plan for Houghton this year! ★

VOX POPULI

Q: Eleven years later, how do you see the effect of 9/11 on our lives?

A: I think people are a lot more paranoid overall when it comes to large groups of people because that is definitely a target for bombing and terrorist attacks and people have become a little more prejudice toward that Muslim religion and they get cautious when they see that cultural dress.

--Aaron Arber, sophomore



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

A: I'm actually Canadian, but based on the patriotism I've seen in the U.S. compared to Canada, I was surprised at how little attention it got, in the following years, but especially this anniversary.

--Lauren Bull, junior

A: For the past several years, my family has watched the specials. For people younger than me, I'm not sure it has much of an effect, but I think my generation will always remember it. Also, I think it really introduced not just the word, but the idea of "terrorism" and we often think of 9/11 and the Middle East when we think of terrorism.

--Stacia Gehman, freshman



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

A: 9/11 was our reversal. There was an increase in prices everywhere; there is a whole new war; we've had basically a whole generation going to war in the Middle East. Every modern movie you watch has the war in the Middle East or 9/11 as a backdrop. It's that much a part of our culture. It's like the Cold War strikes back: political unrest, economic upheaval. In a lot of ways, we're still dealing with the aftershock of the Cold War in the Middle East

--Justin Gill, senior

A BRIEF GETTING TO KNOW OUR 7 NEW PROFESSORS INTRO: THROUGH A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS

ANNELISE HEIN

Sarah B. Derck, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, comes to Houghton with a bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University, a master's degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary, and a doctoral degree from the University of Manchester (England). She has been married for 11 years and has a son in 2nd grade as well as a Miniature Schnauzer and her son's 20 pet frogs.

What do you love most about your subject?

"Introducing students to the loving God of the Old Testament, and the very bruised and broken people God used in the Old Testament... It's a joy to share the richness of these books with my students."

Favorite books and movies:

The Chronicles of Narnia, Jan Karon's *Mitford* series, Dorothy Sayer's *Lord Peter Wimsey* novels, and the 5-hour-long BBC version of *Pride & Prejudice*.

Hobbies: Reading and knitting.

Jun-Koo Park, Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics, earned a bachelor's degree from Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea, and a master's and doctoral degree from Iowa State University at Ames. He is married with a 6-month old son.

What do you love most about your subject?

Dr. Park is an applied mathematician, so he enjoys seeing "how and where mathematics is used in real world problems." He is currently studying protein structure and dynamics in mathematical biology.

Favorite movie: *Dances with Wolves*

Hobbies: Table tennis, basketball, guitar.

Isaac Wingfield, Interim Assistant



Professor of Photography and Digital Imaging, has degrees from Appalachian State University and Rhode Island School of Design, as well as teaching certificates from Brown University. He previously taught art at Lakeside School in Horsham, Pennsylvania and is married to an artist named Emily.

What do you love most about your subject?

"Drawing attention to things that I think are worth seeing."

Favorite authors: Madeleine L'Engle, Wendell Berry, Annie Dillard, Michael Pollan

Hobbies: Hiking, camping, canoeing, photographing, "or any other excuse to be outside;" reading, and playing board games.

Christopher Jordan, Interim Chemistry Instructor, has a bachelor's degree from Hope College and a Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is married to a non-scientist whom he says "preserves my sanity by helping me leave science in the lab."

What do you love most about your subject?

Jordan has liked chemistry since he decided to memorize the periodic table in 5th grade, and he truly appreciates the broadness of his subject. "Whether you're motivated to develop a fundamental understanding of how the physical world works, or to find solutions to problems like global warming that challenge our society," he said, "there's a place for you in chemistry."

Favorite books: the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy

Hobbies: Reading, watching sports, playing Ultimate Frisbee.

Conor Angell, Interim Assistant Professor of Voice, holds a bachelor's degree from Taylor University, a Master of Music from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and a Doctorate of Music from Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, Bloomington.

What do you love most about your subject?

"I love to see how a discipline that is sometimes thought of as dispensable can be very powerful in conveying ideas and beauty. It is exciting to help students develop the technique and expressive tools they need to become confident artists with something unique to say."

Favorite books: Vocal music scores and Russian novels, especially those by Dostoevsky.

Hobbies: Hiking, running, tennis, disc golf, and racquetball; eating out and attending concerts with his wife, Kerri.

Mark A. Hunter, Associate Professor of Psychology, is also working as the Director of the Center for Academic Success and Advising. He has a Bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, a master's from East Tennessee University, and a doctoral degree from the University of Alabama.

Stephen W. Plate, Director of the Greatbatch School of Music and Associate Dean for Music, holds a bachelor's degree from Evangel University and graduate and doctoral degrees from Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

What do you love most about your subject?

"I love how music represents the character, nature, and beauty that is God."

Children? "I have three daughters: Isabella, 19; Katherine, 17; and Sophia, 15."

Favorite book or movie? "One of my favorite authors is CS Lewis -- I have trouble with a favorite anything as I like so very many [books and movies]."

Hobbies? Hiking, biking, driving, traveling, reading, and conducting symphony orchestras. ★

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would get the same feeling...it's not like there's a sinking ship thing going on, it's just a season—the next people who come on as full-time VPs could be there for 20 years." In addition to Hynes' departure, Dean of the Chapel, John Brittain recently announced his decision to retire this coming December.

From a student perspective, these changes in staffing can be frustrating or sad, especially to those within the affected area. The education department took a particularly hard hit, as it lost two professors in Jan and Patrick Buckwalter.

Senior education major, Liz Chevalier, said, "I think it's unfortunate that current underclassmen will not have the opportunity to learn from the Buckwalters, but it is my understanding that they left with no hard feelings. They took advantage of a great opportunity that came at the right time for their family."

Sociology also lost a key figure in

Aaron Routhe, whose late resignation caused some difficulty for students majoring in Sociology or enrolled in Sociology classes. The administration and faculty worked hard, however, to provide the smoothest possible transition for those affected students, a fact that Mills-Woolsey attested to, saying, "We want to do all we can to make sure that the staffing changes are handled in a way that makes for the best benefit for students. We want to do them the least harm we can as we follow up on [faculty departures]."

As a parting thought, Mills-Woolsey encouraged students to make faculty and staff aware that they are valued, stating, "If there's anything students can do, just be encouraging to the staff and the faculty, and when there's somebody that you appreciate, show them that you do appreciate them. Now, that's not going to keep people from leaving if they want to be near to their families or they're not cut out for college teaching, but it can make a difference in the climate in which people work." ★

BRITTAIN from page 1

"It is no surprise that we have this number of people retiring," said Brittain. "In general, this is a good thing."

He believes that his generation - the "baby boomers" - are on their way out and this gives job opportunities to the younger age groups. "I will be 66 by the time I retire and for my generation that is the typical time for retirement... it's the right time."

With this in mind, Brittain plans on traveling and eventually moving when the time is appropriate.

"We would like to eventually move in the mid-Atlantic area. Possibly even Washington D.C." said Brittain. He added that travel and time spent with family was a definite desire. Despite his retirement coming into effect after this semester, Brittain has no intention in refusing to speak or include sermons later in his life.

The school has made preparations for the transition from Brittain to a new Dean of the chapel.

"This semester we will begin the

search process," said President Shirley Mullen. "We plan to begin this in early November...we hope to have someone by the fall of 2013. We will take the time to find the right person." While the search is conducted, Dr. Michael Jordan, who holds a doctorate in Liturgical Studies and has been Assistant Pastor at Houghton Wesleyan Church, will fill the role as the interim Dean of Chapel for the Spring 2013 semester.

"It's hard to imagine anyone who can do as well as Brittain," said Mullen. "He really embodies the position so well. The contribution he has brought is extraordinary."

According to Mullen, from the diversity of speakers introduced, the deacon program, understanding of the church and college paired with his excellent focus on students, Brittain imprinted a great legacy. The Spiritual Life Committee and chapel is an integral part of Houghton's main focus.

"Academic pursuit, Student Life and Chapel are all central to Houghton," said Mullen. ★

Loving This Giant Collaboration

KATHERINE BAKER

David Byrne and Annie Clark collaborated over three years to create a pop album titled *Love This Giant*, released in the U.S. on September 11, 2012. “I am very proud of what we created and excited for it to hit your ears,” said Clark in a promotional interview.

Clark, an American singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, is more commonly known by her stage name St. Vincent. She began her solo career in 2006. Clark’s work has been described by Sean O’Neal, a writer for the entertainment website The A. V. Club, as “simultaneously playful and foreboding.” Ben Ratliff, a jazz and pop critic for the New York Times, characterized her style as “haunted and nervous or cynical.”

Byrne is a Grammy winner and a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee. He is best known as the principal songwriter and founding member of the American New Wave and avant-garde band Talking Heads, active from 1975 to 1991. After his work with Talking Heads, Byrne released several solo albums.

The promotional single and first track on *Love This Giant* titled “Who” is a strong introduction to the album’s overarching musical themes. A music video for the single was released on September 4, 2012. The video, like the entire album, hints at romance, while simultaneously conveying darker undertones.

“Who” opens with a funky, spirited horn section and builds with the addition of percussion and Byrne’s distinctive voice. Clark joins Byrne, and at times her clear vocals take the lead while at others she harmonizes with her partner. Throughout the rest of the album, Byrne and Clark alternatively take the lead vocally and lyrically.

The single is upbeat and lively, making the listener want to dance just as Clark and Byrne do in the music video. It is amusing to see the 60-year-old Byrne shaking his hips, accentuating the age difference that exists in the collaboration. In an interview conducted

by Jayson Greene for Pitchfork, Clark laughingly said that “the record is pretty sunny to me, considering my default is morbid.”

The most striking and unique aspect of *Love This Giant* is that, as Clark stated in a promotional interview, she and Byrne “decided to center the music around a brass band.” This unique selection shaped the songwriting and the progression of the album. A musical choice that seemed less inspired was the use of programmed drums in many of the songs.

Another distinct feature of the album is that *Love This Giant* is a democratic creation; it does not definitively sound like the solo work of either Clark or Byrne. Because the process involved so much cooperation, the album took several years to complete.

“The writing was truly collaborative: sometimes Annie would send me some synthesized versions of brass or guitar riffs and I would arrange them a bit and write a tune and words over them; other times this process would be reversed and I would send some musical ideas to Annie for her to write over,” said Byrne in a promotional interview. “This material would get passed back and forth—each of us adding and elaborating on it.”

Love This Giant is very compelling because it is such a distinctive album. As the common saying would have it, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” This doesn’t mean the whole is better than the parts that make it up. Rather, it means that the individual parts making up a whole each have meaning of their own. When these parts are taken together, the meaning of the entire compilation changes.

Byrne and Clark have successfully created an album that is greater than the sum of its parts. Byrne sums this up by saying in a promotional interview, “I started to sense that we were ending up with a sound and approach I’d never heard before. There were elements that were reminiscent of things I’d heard, but a lot of it was completely new. Very exciting!”★

Faculty Art Show Preview



LUKE LAUER

The Faculty Art Show in the Ortlip Gallery.

MEGAN SPECKSGOOR

The Ortlip Gallery Series opens this year with a versatile collection of recent works from Houghton’s own Art Department faculty, featuring a medley of everything from Portuguese architecture inspired ceramic tiles to oil paintings that celebrate the subtle beauty of the locally commonplace. This exhibition is the first organized by alum Renee Roberts, Houghton’s debuting Gallery Director, Art Department Coordinator, and Collections Manager.

Roberts said that the behind the scenes work has been challenging at times, but the opportunity to “work with art and work with people where [she] care[s] about the community and the environment” is a worthwhile reward. Roberts also has a personal investment in the artwork being displayed as she spent part of her summer collecting fibers from Allegheny County and making paper out of reeds for Jillian Sokso’s relief and screen printing installations. “I want the show to succeed because it’s my job, but there’s also an artistic component. My fingerprints are on it,” said Roberts. “I just want to make it the best it can possibly be.”

Gary Baxter’s submissions reflect characteristics of the mosques and cathedrals he observed on the Iberian Peninsula and the interplay of successive cultures. His tiles utilize both Moorish and Christian color symbolism and design styles, highlighting the differences and uniting the similarities. “It’s not so much that unfamiliar places strike me in a particular way as it is that even the small details of new places strike me,” said Baxter. “New surroundings make me hyper-observant. I wouldn’t say that I look for things, but I tend to be inspired by light and color and texture.”

These pieces are for Baxter an exploration of his response to the intermingling of Moorish and Christian architecture, the artistic layering of religion and culture. “I would say that clay is well suited for exploring history and culture because the purest clay is formed with layers of decomposed stone in lakes over long periods of time,” said Baxter.

“I never thought about it before, but clay is a sort of picture of succession and history.” To add to the cultural eclecticism and interaction, Baxter even used glaze made out of Roman glass fragments he discovered in the Sahara desert. Baxter said of his art, “When things are going well the work seems to evolve on its own. That is, the next series of pieces usually suggests itself before the current one has run its course.” However, in reference to his current display, Baxter added, “It is a complete departure from my previous work.”

Drawing from inspiration closer to home, Ted Murphy is featuring twenty-seven paintings, one-third of which are oil, based on nearby locations and capitalizing on the “specialness of the rural Houghton area.” Murphy accomplished his “Plein Air” style by setting up a pochade outside, given him by a faculty development grad, during just about every month of this last year so he could observe grand or minute changes in season and light. “I don’t go out looking for subject matter,” said Murphy. “I try to find what’s there that I missed last time.” Murphy’s paintings, somewhere between representational and abstract, convey his “interaction with the environment. This show is about a sense of place,” said Murphy, but “it’s not about the trees. It’s about this area in this time of my life.”

Murphy believes that if one cannot find something worthwhile to paint in his periphery, he will have a difficult time finding it on a journey somewhere foreign. “Spain and Portugal are magnificent places,” said Murphy, referring to this last spring’s art Mayterm, “but I don’t need to go there.” Murphy is just as artistically content setting up his easel at a baseball game, on his backyard deck, or inside a restaurant. In the words of haiku master Richard Wright, Murphy quoted “I use the everyday to transcend the everyday.” According to Murphy, Wright’s book “This Other World” is the closest Murphy has ever come to reading what he attempts to paint. “It’s the everydayness that’s so striking,” said Murphy. “If it’s not at your feet, you’re not going to find it.”

The opening reception for the exhibition is Saturday, September 15 at 7:00pm in the Center for the Fine Arts.★



WWW.GOOGLE.COM

The Cover Art for Love This Giant by artists David Byrne and St. Vincent.

Debunking Doubts About Christianity

BRITTANY MCLURE

“The only God that is believable to me is a God of love. The Bible’s God is no more than a primitive deity who must be appeased with pain and suffering.” This is not something that we normally hear while attending classes here at Houghton. However, it is arguments such as this one that Keller points out Christians need to feel ready to defend themselves against. Questions like how a loving God can send people to Hell and how a good God can allow suffering are valid questions of the doubting world. In *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller, different areas of skepticism regarding Christianity are debunked in every sense of the word. Keller, in a way unlike any author I have experienced, takes nearly every imaginable argument against Christianity and he does not leave room for doubt.

It is far too common in the world we live in today to argue about the existence of God in a confrontational way. The debate has a tendency to get heated, but Keller uses an approach far different from the ordinary. He takes common doubts and shows an understanding for these views. However, he goes much beyond that understanding, and almost empathetic response to these arguments, by taking these arguments and providing logical responses in support of his belief in God through the use of quotes, scriptures, history, and philosophy. He does so in a way that could turn skepticism into faith and faith into stronger faith.

The second half of the book, entitled “The Reasons for Faith,” deals more with explaining Christianity. Now that Keller has erased all modes of doubt,

he takes it to a new level of spiritual belief as he explains the fundamental pieces of Christianity. However, he does not merely explain Christianity for new believers; he manages to explain it so that it will connect with people regardless of where they are in their faith. One of the most important parts of this section is that Keller is completely honest. In the chapter, “The Clues of God,” Keller explains that there are many things in life that point to God’s existence, but there is no irrefutable proof. This shows that Keller is not willing to scrounge up nonexistent proof in order to make his point. Instead, he explains, “many people have found strong clues for his reality – divine fingerprints – in many places” (p. 131). As Christians, I think this is something that we can relate to, yet at the same time he explains in detail what this “fingerprint reality” consists of for those who have not experienced it.

Timothy Keller writes so that all can understand while still harboring an incredible knowledge of religion, philosophy, and history. While he takes real life conversations with people about their skepticism regarding the Christian faith, he manages to solidly explain that the belief in God is a sensible one. Not only does he do this with complete coherency, but he also does this with true understanding for the opposite side of the argument. Keller provides both a solid foundation for true believers in an “Age of Skepticism” and a slew of seamless arguments for those who are a little more skeptical in their belief. This is truly a book for anyone, no matter where they are in their spiritual walk.★

Athletic Complex Update



Athletic complex view from outfield.

ALEXA DAKIN

The Kerr-Pegula athletic complex, made possible by a \$12 million donation from Kim (Kerr ’91) and husband Terry Pegula, was well-timed with Houghton’s shift into NCAA Division III sports. The complex will include many upgrades to athletic facilities. Coach H. “Skip” Lord, Executive Director of Athletics at Houghton, spoke about Houghton’s transition.

“[Houghton] made a decision, about a year and a half ago, to move from the NAIA to NCAA Division III and the Empire 8 athletic conference in particular,” said Lord. “Lo and behold, that was just prior to the gift from Kim and Terry Pegula, and that gift gave us... the lead funds that we needed to begin the process of adding these nicer facilities.”

The Kerr-Pegula complex is planned to include - as well as the new turf on Burke field - baseball and softball stadiums, and a field house for indoor track and field, tennis, and hosting other

various events. These new facilities, as well as accommodating the college’s transition into the NCAA, also allow for the introduction of new sports to Houghton; the college will be developing softball and baseball teams, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s golf, and men’s and women’s tennis. Practice and play time on Burke field will be maximized, allowing for further development of soccer and field hockey teams.

Deanna Hand, the Head Athletic Trainer and Senior Woman Administrator at the college, also sees a social opportunity that Kerr-Pegula presents to the community in and around the college.

“It’s going to be... opening the door for the community,” said Hand. “It’s going to give us ability to house outside things... concerts, graduation, and stuff like that... we can do sectional games for area schools... There will be more opportunities for the community to come in.”

The complex will also be easier on Houghton’s athletes, allowing games to be played at home, decreasing travel time and giving athletes more time at school to focus on studies. When asked if athletics ever interfered with his academic career, junior Luke Ogden, a soccer player and track and field athlete, stated that athletics were an important part of his education and his academic career at Houghton. “Being part of a team... gives you an opportunity to lead... and to be led,” said Ogden.

There is some concern that, with Houghton’s shift into NCAA, the college is putting too much emphasis on athletics. Lord disagreed, explaining that Houghton’s participation in the Empire 8 conference will not only garner publicity for Houghton, and hopefully boost enrollment numbers, but will also place Houghton among the ranks of a number of other schools well known for their academic and community standards.

“That group is, what I would call the small- to mid-sized, academically rigorous, liberal arts institutions in Central and Western New York,” said Lord. “When you look at the standard measurement of academic rigor, those schools reflect who Houghton is... they’re also nationally known for their emphasis on sportsmanship and character development.”

“It’s really what people make of it,” said Ogden. “I’ve had a lot of people ask me if the Kerr-Pegula complex is only going to be for athletes, and I don’t see how that would be fair. It’s for everybody.”★

Things to Do

KATHERINE BAKER

Ever been bored on a Saturday afternoon in Houghton and wished you could come up with a more exciting activity than yet another ‘movie night’ with your friends? My guess is that many students will answer ‘yes’ to that question. Houghton’s campus is off the beaten track, and it’s sometimes difficult to find ways to amuse yourself.

What better incentive to bring back a reinvigorated Things to Do column? Here’s the place I’ll attempt to bring original variety and excitement to those weekend afternoons. As a personal disclaimer, my intent in writing this column is not to make students with cars more popular. However, this may be an unintended side effect.

A great way to begin this year’s column is by recommending a trip to Ressler’s Corn Maize in Arcade. The Star staff spent a fun-filled Sunday exploring corn mazes, launching tennis balls, sliding down tubes on burlap sacks, bouncing on a huge jumping pillow, and even digging for treasure in the sand.

You may ask, are we college students or five-year-olds? To those skeptics, I merely request that you withhold all judgement before paying The Maize a visit yourself. All of the stresses of the first week of school simply melted off my shoulders as I tried to jump higher and higher on the

bouncing pillow and attempted to launch my tennis balls at faraway targets.

For \$8, you gain admission to the property’s four corn mazes, a hayride, tennis ball launchers, pedal carts, the jumping pillow, a tube slide, digger town, the corn barn, and a hay jump. Although to a college student that may at first sound pricey, I definitely thought the experience

Friday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m., from the first weekend of September through the first weekend of November. Friendly Maize owner Bob, whose adorable young grandchildren were helping out around the property, is even willing to stay open late if a group wants to schedule a trip through the corn in the



The Star staff bouncing gleefully together on the jumping pillow.

was worth every penny. In fact, isn’t any activity that temporarily erases all of a college student’s worries priceless?

Ressler’s Corn Maize is open every

dark with flashlights. If you won’t take my word for it that the Star staff had a great time at The Maize, just check out our pictures from the trip.

The Evangelical Response to a Mormon Candidate



ED LINNECKE

Last spring, as Mitt Romney solidified his position as the Republican Party's presidential candidate, I found myself quite excited for an interesting twist in the upcoming election. How would evangelical Protestants, who typically comprise a significant portion of the Republican vote, react to a Mormon candidate whose religious commitments contradict some core tenets of Christianity? To make matters even more interesting, the naming of U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan (A conservative Catholic) as Romney's running mate makes this the first Republican ticket without a Protestant since 1860. Although Roman Catholicism is nothing new to the American political scene (Vice President Joe Biden is a practicing Catholic), I presumed that the selection of Ryan might draw further attention to Republican religious sentiments, and thus, Romney's Mormonism.

Perhaps I should note that I am not saying that Romney's religious commitments should be an important part

of deciding who to vote for in November, or that religious commitments ought to be a relevant part of political discussions whatsoever. Rather, I simply expected it, regardless of its appropriateness. Needless to say tensions do seem to arise when popular evangelical culture, which is permeated with conservative sentiments, is confronted with not only a non-Protestant representative, but a representative whose religion has been (appropriately or inappropriately) historically pitted against evangelical Protestantism. Despite the religious differences, Romney still holds a substantial advantage over Barack Obama in approval rate by evangelicals, who according to the Christian Post, already held a 50 percent advantage in May. But this is to be expected. I did not suppose that the evangelical world would sway from core beliefs on abortion and marriage, simply because of Romney's theological differences. But what I did (and do) find surprising is the seemingly miniscule amount of antagonistic dialogue generated by the issue.

Yes, here and again we may hear about a radical group of evangelicals opposing Romney's Mormonism, but such instances have remained the exception. In general it seems that Protestants are not too bothered by the potential President's religious commitments. In fact, Romney's presidential campaign may reflect, and perhaps play a distinctive role in, a general change in the

relationship between Mormonism and the rest of Christianity.

Both the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the National Council of Churches (NCC), the two largest ecumenical bodies in the Protestant world, denounce the Christianity of Mormons. The theological grounds for doing so are fairly substantial. For instance, Mormonism denies the Doctrine of the Trinity, and of course, ascribes to the Book of Mormon as a revelatory source, in addition to the Protestant Bible. Among other differences between Mormonism and Christianity are Mormonism's unique beliefs about cosmology, salvation, and interpretation of the person of Jesus Christ.

Yet, dialogue between Mormonism and the Protestant world has grown substantially in the recent past, and the evangelical world's unchallenging acceptance of a practicing Mormon seems to suggest that the evangelicals may be beginning to look beyond theological differences. Richard Muow, president of Fuller Theological Seminary and a Houghton graduate, has been especially influential in the growing dialogue between Protestants and Mormons. Although he claims that hostility still exists in the evangelical world, he encourages a friendly "give-and-take" dialogue with Mormons, something that mainline Protestantism has been reluctant to partake in.

So is the great Christian tradition ready to assimilate Mormonism? Probably not. Though the term "cult" seems to be falling out of popular discussion, theological unease still runs through the majority of the Protestant world. But has the "Mormonism and Christianity" question been settled, with Mormonism falling outside of the Christian tradition? Some would say yes, but the increase in apparently friendly dialogue between Mormonism and the Protestant world, especially amidst the current presidential campaign, suggests that issue is far from settled. Theological differences have been set aside in the past (one need not look farther than the differences between certain Protestant denominations), but reconciling the Book of Mormon with mainstream Christianity may be a more substantial task. I do not know whether or not Mormonism and Protestants will ever share the same "title," but I do know that decrease in cultural hostility demonstrates that changes are taking place. As Mitt Romney carries forth the Republican legacy, with the majority of evangelical Protestants behind him, the relationship between Mormonism and mainline Protestantism will remain an issue on the backburner for many Protestants, especially the theologically inclined. Though it may not, and probably should not, impact one's decision about "who to vote for?" the presidential election's impact upon the developing relationship between Protestantism and Mormonism is sure to be a relevant issue in the near future of American Christianity.

Ed is a senior philosophy major

Ex Mea Sententia / Addressing Issues in a Crazy World



ANDRE NELSON

"We live in a crazy day and age!" exclaimed... well, literally everyone in every generation since the dawn of time. I imagine that in the Paleolithic era, as men painted cave images of the hardships of hunting and gathering, they thought to themselves, "Geez, we live in a crazy place!" My bet is that when the first alphabet was created and words were first put into writing, people thought to themselves, "Goodness, we live in a crazy world!" People thought it during the agricultural revolution, and the industrial revolution, and we think it to ourselves now, during the Social Media revolution. The overuse of this statement does not make it any less true, and in my opinion, *ex mea sententia*, we really do live in a crazy world.

As I prepared for the start of this new school year I wasn't entirely sure what to expect, especially after all the crazy news we witnessed this

summer. Some truly "crazy" things had occurred.

First, the House of Representatives appropriated 606 billion dollars for national defense as a result of many intense debates concerning Afghanistan.

Departing from the world of politics and economics, there was an incident in which Dan Cathy, the CEO of Chik-Fil-A, appeared on The Ken Coleman Show giving his stance on marriage which he later restated to the *Baptist Press* resulting in a heated conversation over marriage equality. Conservative evangelicals lined up around city blocks to buy chicken sandwiches in support of both Dan's right to free speech and the defense of marriage, while on the flip side, those in favor of equality in marriage lined up around city blocks to buy a Venti Frappuccino at their local Starbucks.

Even seemingly bright moments of the summer were overshadowed by tragic events. We all stood in shock and horror on the opening night of The Dark Knight Rises as James Holmes threw tear gas into a crowded theater in Au-

ror, Colorado, then proceeded to open fire, killing 12 people and injuring many more. This sparked conversation about gun control, which in turn sparked conversation about ethics in social media, due to many voicing their opinions in untactful ways.

Leaving Colorado, our attention was then brought to Wisconsin where a white supremacist, Wade Michael Page, opened fire at a Sikh Temple, killing six people. And let's not forget that face-eating man in Florida.

Last but far from least we are left at the end of the summer with the National Conventions, as the Republicans and Democrats prepare themselves for their final sprint towards the 2012 presidential elections. As these take place and we advance into the last stretch of the race, we are witness to increased vilification of the opposition. We all know that deep down inside, conservative Republicans want to keep us in the dark ages and thwart all progress of human kind, while liberals desire nothing less than to destroy the very moral fabric upon which this "Christian" nation was built.

All in all it remains a crazy world, and I have to admit I expected to hear a good deal of noise over these issues as I returned to Houghton. However, I was met by quite the opposite: silence. It seems that, in these first few weeks, the news is no news.

We are all in a time of transition. Freshmen are stepping onto a new campus feeling anxious, perhaps unsure of what lies ahead of them, excited about the times they'll have and nervous about the work. Seniors' veins are rushing adrenaline to every extremity as we enter our final stretch; we're excited to be finished but stressed about the next step into "the real world." All are getting accustomed to a new environment. Unlike the rest of the world, we do not have consistent year-round routines.

Nevertheless, we are here to have our minds stretched and to address these political, social, and religious issues—issues that do not pause for transitions but instead continue pouring down on us in the same crazy way they always have. My hope for this column is that it will be a place in which well-constructed and educated opinions may be presented, addressing issues in this crazy world relevant to our campus.

Andre is a senior communication major

We are here to have our minds stretched and to address these political, social, and religious issues— issues that do not pause for transitions but instead continue pouring down on us in the same crazy way they always have.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK /

Reinventing Goals and Visions



LUKE LAUER
EMMA HUGHES

With the fall semester come speeches. Speeches of persuasion, and speeches of vision. It is now, when students are newly arrived to campus—some returning, some now coming for their first taste of college student life—that we student organizations have a chance to reinvent, in some way, our goals and visions for the new year. We set out our purposes and our identities in speeches, looking for a new way to define ourselves within the bounds of past tradition.

For the *Star*, like many others, this is nothing new. The work of a student newspaper can be a frustrating one due to how quickly the people involved in it pass through its

ranks and how quickly the resulting visions for the paper change. It remains a question for us of how to achieve a long-term difference and goal while lacking a truly constant variable other than the notion of tradition mentioned before.

This may be too pessimistic a view—we may have limited resources, but tradition has its impact, and we are indebted to the work of those in past years that has contributed to that tradition. We sincerely hope to live up to the traditions they have set in place, and we hope also to make contributions ourselves to that strong tradition.

But what is this impactful tradition, exactly?

It's a simple one, it seems. The *Star's* mission is outlined at the bottom

of this article, capturing the center part of this page seven. We carry on a legacy of dialogue, transparency, and integrity. We serve as a medium for expression of student thought and are apparently a quality publication of significant news and events. We are...

I'm not quite sure at this point. Rote words were never my strong suit.

Neither were vague depictions. I never found them understandable or fascinating, and I don't believe you do

either.

Let me attempt to elucidate myself again to explain away the vague terms, and capture what, in practical terms, I mean.

We are the student newspaper of Houghton College, meaning we are your paper, students. Our mission is to tell and write the truth with integrity and respect, to report the stories here, and to ensure your voices have an audience. We are here to give rise to what you think and say, and not simply block you out in favor of only others' (or our own) thoughts. The point of the *Star* is relevance to and understanding of the student body and the community here.

At the heart of it all, the *Star* is about people and their stories. It's about you students, and the news and happenings affecting you. It's about this campus, and the news and happenings affecting it. It's about people and a place and their intersection, and what that intersection looks like, whether in events, achievements, notoriety, surprises, or predictions. To this end—the goal of serving this group of people—we strive for

the highest quality and of research, writing, editing, formatting, photo-taking.

We strive for the highest quality of journalism, as far as we are able within our resources. We won't, and don't, get it right all the time, but this paper and this staff will give the best we have. This is our tradition. It will always remain the same, no matter the staff at hand.

So here, at the end of all things (or at least one page away), is the Houghton *Star's*

speech for the beginning of the 2012-2013 year. We hope you, our audience, enjoyed it and will enjoy the coming months. It is our vision for this year, at the intersection of present identity and past legacies. May it be a good year.

Emma is a senior history major.

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Want
to
Write?

email us

editor@houghtonstar.com

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.

We want to hear what you think.



You can also comment on articles online at
facebook.com/TheHoughtonStar

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less and submitted to

editor@houghtonstar.com



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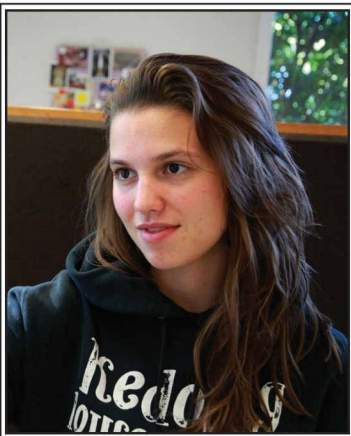
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2012-2013

ARTIST OF THE WEEK

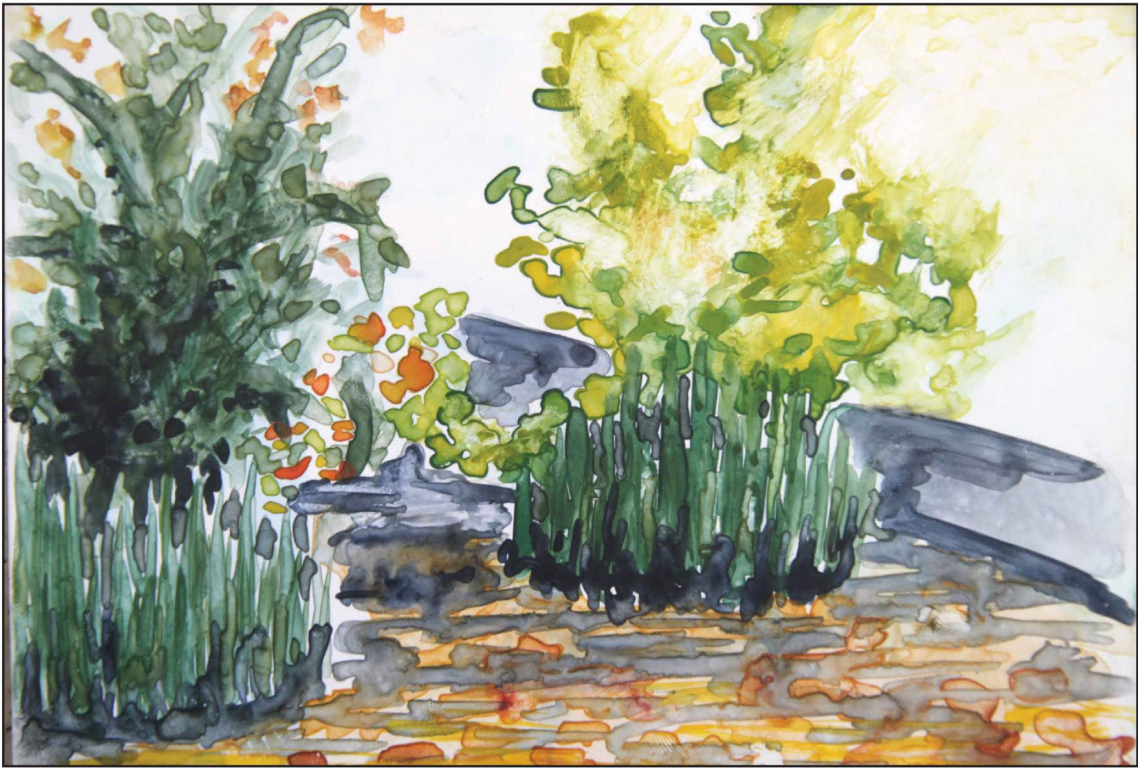


LUKE LAUER

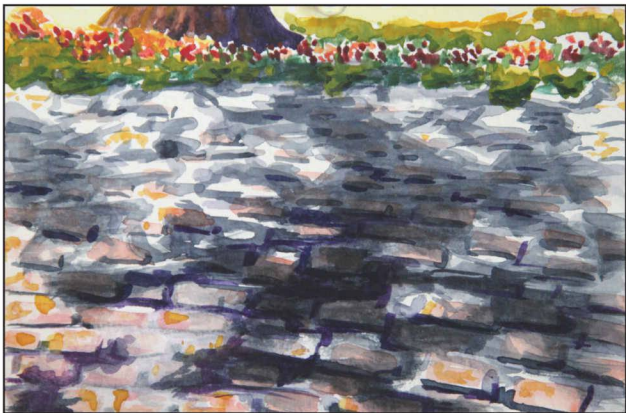
JANE STAIRS

I grew up in various part of Africa, mostly Kenya. During my hectic childhood of moving location and changing friends, I found the only constant in my life was drawing. Through the encouragement of my parents and the calming effect art has on me, I kept it up and began to pursue it more intentionally. I took art classes through high school and found by the end of my senior year I could not live without it. My love for art only increases as I watch my professors work, visit Europe and give glory to God through creating.

Jane is a sophomore art major.

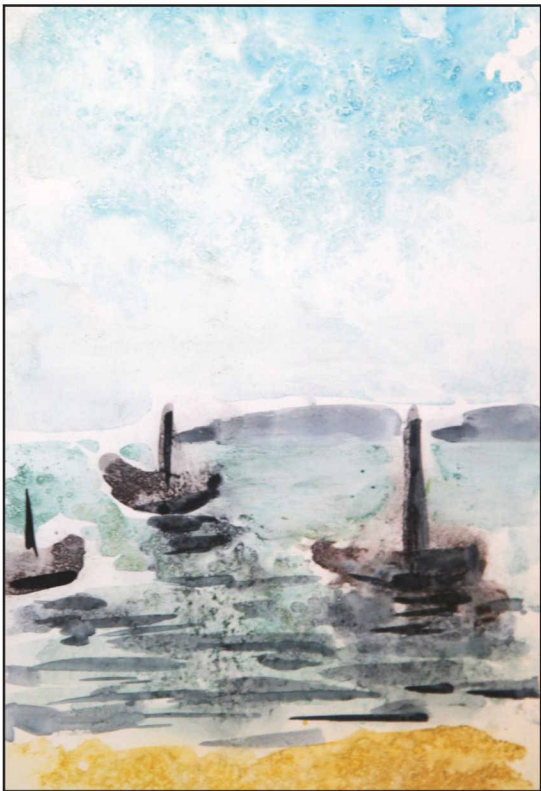


Pebbled Water, watercolor



Shadows, watercolor

To win a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 4/25.



Sea Salt, watercolor

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

SPORTS RECAP

- BASEBALL: Overall 7-30
- SOFTBALL: Overall 4-34
- MEN'S SOCCER: Overall 2-2-1
- WOMEN'S SOCCER: Overall 3-2
- FIELD HOCKEY: Overall 2-1
- VOLLEYBALL: Overall 4-4

All information from <http://athletics.houghton.edu/>