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## HOUGHTON BUFFALO CLOSES

SARAH BURTON ('23)

On Jan. 23, 2023, President Lewis visited Houghton University Buffalo and announced that they would not be accepting any new students to the commuter campus. It was first opened in 2014, and this news has come as a shock to many. In a letter published on Jan. 24, he explains the reasons behind the decision.

The Buffalo Extension Site was not approved to become a Center when President Lewis first applied for it to become one in 2021. Part of the process for it to be approved was consulting existing colleges and universities within the city of Buffalo.

Erie Community College, Buffalo State College, and Niagara County Community College objected to Houghton Buffalo, thinking that Houghton's approval would be, as President Lewis paraphrased, "detrimental to existing institutions" in the area.

Due to this kind of backlash in Buffalo, approval was halted and made in-



Houghton Buffalo students and faculty gather for picture

COURTESY OF JANNATUL NOSHIH

creasingly more difficult. According to President Lewis, "[Houghton Buffalo] was notified on Dec. 27, 2022 that it would not be approved as an Extension Center." If Houghton were to continue the fight for approval, the master plan for the entire University would have to change.

He states at the conclusion of his letter that "while we will no longer admit new students in Buf-

falo... Houghton remains steadfastly committed to our current students... and we will serve them through completion of their Houghton degrees."

Interim Dean of Houghton University Buffalo Steve Strand describes the loss that is felt by faculty, staff, and students alike, saying that "They [Faculty and Staff] are very committed to the work here... [they] feel a sense

of loss because they are intensely motivated by a strong sense of mission to serve students."

Student Financial Services Specialist Ginny Dadaian also remarks on this sense of loss, showing true passion in her responses.

"I love Houghton University," she exclaimed. "All across the US, private and public colleges and universities are struggling,

unfortunately Houghton University is a victim of this wave."

Dadaian, as well as several students, remarked on the impact of surrounding schools in the Buffalo area on the closing of Houghton Buffalo.

"I was thinking about furthering my education after my two year degree, but now I don't know what to do," states David Elliot, a sophomore.

Many of the students from Houghton Buffalo express deep concern for the branch's closure. In particular, Desiree Radford has decided to take full course loads for both semesters of 2023, as well as a summer session to complete her degree by the winter.

"Even though President Lewis promised that we would all be able to complete our degree plan," Radford says, "I just don't have faith in that promise anymore."

Radford also expresses the worries of the student body of Houghton Buffalo, stating "I am left to wonder why minorities always get

See HOUGHTON BUFFALO page #2

## SPOT RETURNS!

JAX JOHNSON ('23)

Tomorrow night at 10 p.m. in the Wesley Chapel, one of the biggest Houghton events returns! Hosted by Junior Julianna Capone and Senior Anna Zimmerman, this year's SPOT is bringing us all the way back to vacation bible school, with student videos, live music, assorted shenanigans, and more!

As many students know, SPOT is a big tradition at Houghton. Every semester, students gather for a wild ride of a variety show with all kinds of acts relating to a theme. No two SPOTs are the same, so it is always interesting to see what students come up with each year, which also makes SPOT a perfect

time for students to display all types of talents and creative projects. And, as Hall Brawl week comes to a close this week, the winners of the competition will be announced as part of the SPOT programming.

Zimmerman talks about the upcoming SPOT saying, "This year's theme is Vacation Bible Spot, based on Vacation Bible School that I'm guessing many of us attended as kids. The music will be rocking - expect versions of some Veggie Tales songs like you've never heard before. The videos will be funny - ever wonder where the giant H on the quad came from? Or what it's like to go into Paine as a non-STEM major? And there will be interactive activities that you might just get to be a part of throughout! Along with the After Spot Sale in the Campus Store, the fun will continue at a late night After Party in the main level of the CC. Think: lots of

snacks, games, some arts and crafts, and a VBS photo booth."

Senior Linette Taylor, who will be returning this semester as part of the SPOT band, shares her excitement for the event, saying, "This is my third time being a part of SPOT band. It's so much fun to get to make some music with my friends that isn't part of my classes! I really look forward to it every semester."

As hall brawl winds to a close, students can look forward to vacation bible SPOT! Not only is it an opportunity to support fellow students, but it also is a time to unwind and have a laugh with friends. Any student can come, and are all welcomed. ★



SAT MAR 18 - 9PM - CHAPEL

Zimmerman [left] and Capone [right]

COURTESY OF JULIANA CAPONE

## The Mosaic Center

Dear Reader,

Like many of you, the STAR Staff was surprised by President Lewis' news that the Mosaic Multicultural Center would not be opening next year. Hoping to provide insight on the decision to the student population, we began preparations to write an article about the news for this week's edition of the STAR.

However, we realized that due to how recent the news is, and how fast the article would have had to be written, we would have been unable to cover it with the care and attention that we feel like such an important topic would require, and thus made the difficult decision to wait to publish it until it is complete, in order to provide our team more time to meet with people and leaders on campus as well as gather more information and views from the Student Body themselves.

The Houghton STAR has always been the voice of the Student Body. As such, it is important that we include you in the conversation as well. Below this brief letter is a QR Code leading to a Survey about your views on the Mosaic Center's closing. We would love to have as many students as possible participate in order to have a view from the Student Body as a whole about the effects of this decision.

Thank you for your understanding, and we apologize for the delay in such an important topic.

If you have any questions, or would like to provide deeper insight into your perspective on the situation, reach out to us at [STAR@houghton.edu](mailto:STAR@houghton.edu).

Thank you,

Josh Carpenter

Victoria Hock

& Christian Welker

**Houghton Buffalo** from page #1  
the short end of the stick. I am very happy being at Houghton Buffalo, but I don't feel like I am a part of Houghton University. So, I am very sickened by this decision."

Many students from Houghton Buffalo are deeply concerned about the future of their education and the lack of resources they have now, upon hearing of the closing of their school. Transportation is an issue for several and there is a distinct lack of trust many feel, with many saying the student body wasn't aware or involved until the visit made by President Lewis.

The closing of Houghton University Buffalo shocked many in the community. It has also challenged the community, with many mixed feelings from faculty, staff, and students about the situation. Its lasting impact has yet to be seen, with some expressing hope for the future and others suffering from a severe sense of grief and discontent. ★

## Tell us how you feel



All responses will remain anonymous unless The STAR is given your permission to use your name.

## Puzzles

Send the Completed Sudokus to [STAR@houghton.edu](mailto:STAR@houghton.edu) to join our Puzzle Leaderboard.

Solutions will be printed in the next copy of the STAR

## Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Fiendish

PROVIDED BY SUDOKUOFTHEDAY.COM

## Last Week's Solution

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

## CORRECTION:

In our March 10, issue, there was a typo that referred to Dr. Dibble as Dr. Gibble in the Houghton Choir Tour article



# Fish Fridays



ETHAN MCCARTHY ('25)

Do you know what Dean Jordan means when he talks about Lent? While the ancient practice may not be present in all denominations, there are some, namely Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and Orthodox, along with some former members of these denominations and many other students who desire to follow this traditional Christian season of penance, abstinence, and fasting.

When I first came to Houghton, I expected that it would be easy to maintain this practice of my faith, namely the exclusion of all meat on Fridays throughout Lent, with the exception of fish and other seafoods, such as shrimp. However, the dining hall did not make this easy, with the poor selection of products that do not in-

clude meat being restricted to salads, cheese pizza, and the minuscule vegan section. Often this results in students not receiving enough protein. Think of the athlete that only has those options on game day. Does anyone really think that would go well? "It's really hard as an athlete to not have any protein on what are typically game days when I'm in-season. Even if fish or seafood of some sort was offered at lunch and not necessarily dinner on Fridays, it would allow those who observe Lent to get some much-needed protein in their systems prior to competing in the afternoons...it is offered enough in the dining hall already that simply aligning those days with Fridays seems reasonable," says Jackson Medeiros, a sophomore pitcher on the

*"Take the fish or shrimp that are served throughout the week and serve them on Fridays instead."*

Houghton baseball team.

The realization of this fact was very disappointing to a number of students who observe Lent, including myself. I thought that a Christian university which claims to be open to students of a

variety of different traditions, which claims on the What We Believe page that this diversity has led to "wonderful and sometimes heated discussions across campus, in classrooms, and in the coffee shop!" would not make it difficult for members of the Christian family to observe their traditions. But sadly, with the current meal setup, they have

made it a challenge nonetheless.

Thinking about it, Houghton does serve fish, shrimp, and other hearty meal options that would be perfect for those observing Lent, but despite years of

asking, Metz has refused to make a change to help these students in their faith journeys. Even McDonald's, a secular company, created the Filet-O-Fish to provide food to those observing Lent. It does not sound all that radical to me: take the fish or shrimp that are served throughout the week and serve them on Fridays instead. Even something like pierogis and those mini pretzels would work (something I would certainly enjoy). Of course, there was shrimp served on a recent Friday for supper, but this has not been a common occurrence, since lunch that day did not have a Lenten meal as well, even though there was fish served on Monday and Thursday that could have been served on Friday instead. A Metz employee told me that there is a five-week schedule of meals, and considering Lent lasts for 6 weeks, it is certainly possible for this to be properly planned ahead of time.

When speaking with other students, there has been confusion towards the actions of Metz and the university and compassion shown towards those observing Lent. "It seems like a reasonable expectation that Metz would make the requested accommodation for students engaging in this spiritual practice," says Gabe Huizenga, a Theology major.

Houghton certainly has a

strong community (yes, I said the magic word) of students and staff that supports the different Christian traditions that are present at this university, so this is not a knock at them, but simply a request for Metz and the university to help students accommodate their religious traditions.

For years students have put up comments on the suggestion board and asked if Metz would provide accommodations for them over Lent. Though the Metz employee mentioned above has brought this up with Metz himself and claims that they seem open to the change, I also brought up the issue at the Student Council meeting on Monday, and they assured me that they will bring the situation up with Metz as well. However, I was also told not to expect a change from Metz. While I hope that is not the case, I would not be surprised if nothing were to change, though I am immensely thankful that the student council was willing to bring this up to support members of the student body.

If there is fish served today, then that will be a welcome surprise, even though this is a day of exemption from the season for Catholics because of the Feast of Saint Patrick. If that is the case, then I am very happy to have seen it occur two weeks in a row, but I hope that this can be applied throughout all of Lent in the future so that students can more easily live out their faith traditions on campus. ★

*Ethan McCarthy is a Sophomore studying adolescent education and augmented history. He is interested in history, languages, hiking, and debating anything under the sun.*

Have an opinion  
you want to share?

CONTACT  
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## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor  
should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO  
star@houghton.edu



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

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The Houghton  
STAR

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## Review

## Houghton Choir Review

Written by: Alaska Dunstan '25

This past Friday marked the final concert in the Spring 2023 Houghton Choir tour. The theme of the tour was Christ, Our Home. The Houghton Choir performed in 5 states before returning home to the Houghton Chapel for the last concert in this series.

There were several memorable moments including the reading of an original poem by Linette Taylor. Linette wrote the poem as a reflection of the choir tour and was encouraged by other members of the choir to read it aloud at the final performance.

There was a multitude of beautiful music performed including a composition by Ethan Carr, a graduate student, who also sings in the Houghton Choir. This piece, I Went To the Woods, was conducted by Rebekah Scharf, a fellow graduate student who also had a solo during another piece. The choir also performed pieces such as Christ the Appletree, Here I Am, Lord, and Great is Thy Faithfulness. My personal favorite was Roll, Jordan, Roll, an exciting song that was performed extremely well by the Houghton Choir. The choir was conducted by Dr. Dibble for the remainder of the performance.

Overall the concert was a huge success for the Houghton Choir and was a very strong finish to the Spring 2023 tour.

## Artist of the Week

## Alyssa Lyon '23



Alyssa Lyon is a senior studio art major. Before coming to college she had never experimented with clay, or ceramics, but since coming to college she has fallen in love with abstract 3D art. However, she still enjoys working with any medium: oil paint, clay, ink, watercolor, etc. "My pieces are purposefully organic in shape reflecting the shape and movement found in God's creation. Recently, in a departure from my usually large 3D work, I've ventured into the world of watercolor. Working mostly on bird and plant studies, I believe that God created everyone of us unique and with care, and I hope to reflect that love in all the types of art I make."

