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Student Proposes Community Covenant Change

MARY CRONIN
ALLYSON MURPHY

This past Monday at SGA's weekly meeting, president of the LGBTQ dinner group on campus, Mary Cronin, delivered a powerpoint presentation introducing the new proposed changes to the Community Covenant.

Cronin discussed varying statistics, such as "92% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT" (Human Rights Campaign) and "About two thirds of LGBT students reported having been sexually harassed in school in the past year" (Par-

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Houghton Hosts National Championship



COURTESY OF JOANNA FRIESEN

Saturday men and women from all over the country traveled to Houghton to compete in the National Christian College Athletic Association cross country championships.

KASEY CANNISTER

The men and women's cross country teams both ran at the National Christian College Athletic Association

(NCCAA) Championships on Saturday at the Field of Dreams. This is the second time Houghton has hosted the NCCAA national championship.

Competing on their home course, the women earned a

tenth place finish among 21 teams competing in the Division 1 event, while the men finished fifteenth out of 18 division one teams.

The lead runner for the Houghton women was junior, Joanna Friesen, who fin-

ished twenty-eighth overall in 19:27 for the 5K course. A total of 142 athletes competed in this race.

"For the women, this was their best race of the season. Six of the seven girls had season bests," said Head Coach Patrick Hager. "Our team really embraced competing at home for the national championships."

On the men's team, Cory McCarty '17, ran the top time for the Highlanders, finishing the 8K in 27:29.6, which earned him sixty fifth place out of 135 competitors. Matthew Gostomski '16 was not far behind as he finished with a time of 27:34.7 earning himself seventieth place. 135 athletes competed in the men's race.

"Starting out last year's season, we had four guys on the team, and only one of them competed at nationals. This year we've progressed and competed with 11 guys on the team," said men's cap-

See **NCCAA** page 3

HSE To Host Gamer Tournament

MARY CRONIN

Houghton College gamers are gearing up to participate in the first annual League of Legends Tournament, held in Big Al's on Saturday at 7 p.m. The video gaming, often observed in the afternoon and evening hours in the basement of the campus center, is anticipated to graduate to the next level: a take-no-prisoners team competition amongst Houghton's own gamers.

In such tournaments, members of the "world's largest gaming community," according to the League of Legends website, form teams of five to compete in several battle scenarios and game modes.

The event is promoted by Houghton Student Enterprises (HSE). Among other endeavors, "We work with the organizers of intramurals and we run some of their sports tournaments for them," Vice President of HSE, Bjørn Webb said. Beyond this responsibility, Webb is also in

charge of planning and running one or two of HSE-originated tournaments per semester. "I feel that the gaming community at Houghton has a strong presence, but could be stronger," he said. "This semester I wanted to put on a tournament for some of the students that don't usually compete in the sports tournaments." While intramurals have grown to include kickball and flag football, this tournament is the first of its kind, a competition wholly divorced from sports, which will primarily serve non athletes.

Some Houghton students, including Webb, would say the value of socializing through training, strategy, and competition long treasured in American sports culture also translate to gaming culture. Webb noted, "I think gamers are perceived as non-social students. In reality I believe that these students are very social, but social in different ways." He continued, "One

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1st Annual HSE
LEAGUE OF LEGENDS
TOURNAMENT
November 21, 2015
7:00
Big Als
Teams of 5
(students, faculty or community members)
Sign up as a team or individual.
Contact: bjorn.webb18@houghton.edu

COURTESY OF BJORN WEBB

Jazz Ensemble To Feature Student Work

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

This Saturday, November 21, Houghton's music program will put on a concert performed by the Jazz Ensemble. "The concert will be a collection of standard tunes of the jazz repertoire, and also some contemporary jazz pieces by modern composers," said dean of the school of music, Armenio Suzano. The concert will also feature compositions by Houghton student Marc LeGrand, performed by the combo ensemble. Big band,

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International // ISIS Attacks Across the Globe



MELISSA MACLEAN

Three cities, three attacks, one perpetrator—last week Europe and the Middle East experienced a new form of “reign of terror.” From car bombings to gunpoint, the cities of Beirut, Baghdad, and Paris were no short of escape. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, formally known as ISIS, has officially claimed responsibility for these attacks.

On Thursday night, Beirut, Lebanon went up in flames after a double suicide bombing

occurred in the streets of a suburban shopping district. Over 200 were wounded in the attack and at least 41 reported as dead. BBC news remarks this bombing as the “deadliest the capital has seen with the end of Lebanon’s civil war in 1990.”

Witnesses described their experience of the attack, “I’d just arrived at the shops when the blast went off. I carried four bodies with my own hands, three women and a man, a friend of mine,” a civilian, Zein al-Abideen Khaddam, told his local television.

In response to this attack, Prime Minister Tammam Salam sent a statement to the country by which he declared the attacks “unjustifiable.” He encouraged Lebanon to take up unity amidst the attempts to bring discord to the country. U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, also urged peace for those attending the Syrian peace talks that would occur later that weekend.

Just hours after the Beirut attack, two other suicide bombings occurred in the city of Baghdad, Iraq. The first explosion went off at a funeral held for a Shia fighter in the Al-Ashara al-Mubashareen

mosque, in south Baghdad. A total of 21 were killed, in addition to 41 others who were critically wounded. Later that day, a roadside bomb also went off at a Shia shrine that killed at least five and wounded 15 others. ISIS has taken responsibility for both of these occurrences.

A statement distributed on a pro-ISIS social media account claimed that the aim of Friday’s attacks was “revenge for our monotheist brothers in al-Fallujah, al-Anbar, and Salahaldin,” referring to the Iraqi military operations to retrieve land they had lost to ISIS.

In closing the symphony of terror, ISIS militants conducted six last gun and bomb attacks across Paris, France on Friday night. It was the deadliest terrorist attack that Europe has seen since the Madrid train bombings in 2004. Paris prosecutor, Francois Molins, reported a death toll of at least 129 people, in addition to the other 352 wounded in the entirety of the attacks. According to CNN, seven terrorists were killed in the bombing. However, ISIS claimed eight perpetrators were involved in the operation. This led Mollins to release a statement cautioning

the nation that the “threat may still be on.”

The first and deadliest attack occurred in the Bataclan concert hall, which totaled 89 casualties. It was reported that three attackers with assault rifles entered the concert and opened fired. They then proceeded to take the audience hostage and systematically shoot them in front of the stage, after delivering a brief address on ISIS.

In response to the terror, French president, Francois Hollande, declared a state of emergency across France in hopes of both limiting mobility and implementing zones of security and protection. The French government also responded with airstrikes to bomb Raqqa, an ISIS stronghold in Syria. However, there was much backlash towards the government on this rash decision.

The situation took another complex turn when one of the terrorist’s was found to be a Syrian refugee. This not only unveiled a new set of debates in the Syrian Refugee Crisis, but also gave way to increased ill-tempered feelings amongst local civilians towards the marginalized group, though the ter-

rorist was only a diminutive representation of the entire refugee population. But the opposing argument lies with the issue of hopelessness. Due to their vulnerability, the idea of thousands of hopeless, refugee, young men makes for an easy opportunity to attain “cheap recruits.” Whether this is true in the case of Syria, the disagreement lies more with the response to it. While some believe this calls for resettlement, others see as a chance for internal progressive projects.

Continual Group Twenty (G20) meetings will be held in Turkey to discuss plausible action plans for all three terror attacks. As for the U.S., President Obama has agreed to expand intelligence sharing with France in an effort to better combat terrorism. The discussion will continue into the week until an agreement is met.★

Melissa is a junior international development and communication major.

GAMER from page 1

feels the most comfortable communicating with people they relate with. I believe this is the same with gamers.”

Laura Stockdale ’16, a participant of the upcoming tour-

namment, agreed. She said one reason gamers at Houghton may be interested in the tournament is its potential value as a forum for meeting other League players on campus. She said, “We don’t always get to play with each other and end up playing with just other random people online. I think some people might like the opportunity to meet other

Leaguers and perhaps join their teams.” Of course, training and intense competition contribute to the event as well. Stockdale speculated that improving one’s skills necessary for the video game, such as strategic planning, quick reflexes and teamwork, are a likely motivator for potential participants. Certainly, “The competition itself also

plays a part,” she said. “People can’t resist a competition they might win.”

Above all these factors, however, Stockdale finds a grounding aspect to her enjoyment of League of Legends. “I’ve enjoyed playing strategy games since I was a kid,” she noted, adding, “I play League simply because I think it’s a

lot of fun. I enjoy the character choices and the different abilities that come along with them.”

While as of Tuesday only a few students were signed up, many more are expected to participate. All students are encouraged to take part in the event, whether watching and cheering on friends or entering as a competitor.★

WORD ON THE STREET



“I’m kind of tired of seeing it reduced to its simplest form on Facebook. I think there’s got to be a lot more involved with it I think than just blacks and whites.”

-Ian Daniels, Senior



“I just feel like in general God calls us as people to be accepting of other people. Even though we have our differences, I feel like refugees need a place to go and Americans should be very accepting of refugees in general, whether they come from Syria or somewhere else.”

-Aicha Kuwong, Senior



“I think that we should definitely be open to accepting refugees. I think we should be careful not to use misinformation to spread fear. I lived in Buffalo alongside a lot of Syrian refugees and I can say they’re really hard working and resilient and they’re not terrorists. It’s really frustrating that that idea is being spread, and I’m frustrated by a lot of our politicians.”

-Emily Barry, Junior



“I think that the United States foundationally is a nation of refugees and if we were to turn away refugees now, it would be a betrayal of our foundational principles.”

-Matt Young, Sophomore

How do you think the United States as a whole should respond to the possibility of accepting Syrian refugees?

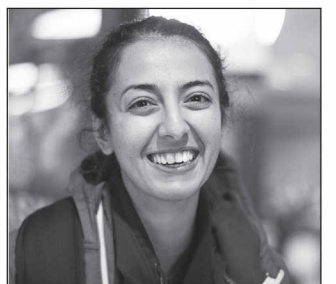
“I think that we are a country that was started by refugees and therefore we should definitely take care of who we can, as long as we can do it safely. I don’t think that any answer is absolutely correct that I’ve heard so far. We should definitely use caution, but also try to be as welcoming and accepting as we can be.”

-Isaac Feulmer, Senior



“First of all I’m Canadian. I guess as someone who is a product of immigration—as first generation—I think that it is an obvious negligence of human life and capacity to turn someone away because you don’t think they’re one of you.”

-Jiwan Dhaliwal, Junior



“I believe that that the U.S. should because it is largely unconcerned and I feel like the people who do oppose it don’t have arguments that are very valid because I feel like this nation is quite capable of taking them in.”

-Robert Kuchar, Junior



SGA from page 1

ents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays-NYC). After which she went on to report Houghton specific statistics gathered at recent LGBTQ forums: “approximately 75% of LGBTQ Houghton students have self-harmed, experienced suicidal ideation, or both.”

After delivering these statistics, as well as personal reflection, Cronin proposed a new revision to the Community Covenant. Presently, the Community Covenant reads:“We believe that Scripture clearly prohibits certain acts, including drinking alcohol to excess, stealing, speaking or writing profanely or slanderously, acting dishonestly, cheating, engaging in occult practice, and engaging in sexual relations outside the bonds of marriage (including premarital sex, adultery and homosexual behavior).”

In relation, the proposed revision consists of a two-paragraph amendment that seeks to

still remain true to Houghton’s Wesleyan doctrinal roots, while overall seeking to deter campus from over-sexualizing members of the LGBTQ community. As Cronin stated, the edits align Houghton College with “the Wesleyan Church’s doctrine of marriage and sexuality without giving the impression that LG-BTQ or ‘homosexual’ people are somehow uniquely or excessively sexual, in a way their heterosexual counterparts are not.”

After Cronin’s presentation, time was given for an open question and answer session for all those present. From this session, one student asked how the decision making process would be made. Cronin answered that the process begins with a resolution in SGA, then is voted on in the Student Life Council. From there, faculty will have a chance to vote on the proposed revisions. If each step meets with approval, the revisions will then go on to President Mullen for approval. The final decision then resides with the Board of Trustees. In summation, the process would span various levels of administration, be time

intensive, and, at the earliest, be completed by the first week of May.

As the presentation concluded, Mary mentioned that a petition is now circulating around campus for students in support of this revision to sign. Furthermore, if a student wishes to read an information document on the proposed changes he or she may contact Cronin, Annetta Snell, or the SGA office for a copy.

“I am disappointed that [the initial candidate] is not coming and we are now back at square one in the search process, but I am hopeful that we can find someone who has a vision for Christian liberal arts, and can [bring it to fruition] on a very tight budget,” said Bruxvoort Lipscomb, Chair of the Department of English and Writing as well as the Interim Associate Dean for Arts and Letters.

Aside from having responsibility for the academic budget, the Academic Dean “hires, develops, and maintains high quality faculty,” according to President Shirley Mullen. In a Christian liberal arts context, Mullen feels that in light of

the current devaluation of the humanities in favor of the sciences, “it can be difficult to find the right [faculty] who are committed to creativity and imagination”, who can teach students to be “problem solvers, not just memorizers”.

Houghton’s current emphasis on the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is not so new. Mullen maintains dedication to the sciences has been part of Houghton’s mission since the 1930s. In regard to the new data science and engineering majors, they “provide an opportunity for Christian liberal arts colleges to prepare graduates of a certain kind”, who can think broadly and critically through different contexts. This “makes the humanities more important than ever”, and for Mullen, it is imperative that any potential Academic Dean candidate understand this.

Bruxvoort Lipscomb said, “Most of the time, I am thinking of the college as a whole [in the candidate search process] rather than my own department.” Qualities she feels are important

in a candidate are strong leadership skills, capability of working with limited funds, and the ability to manage people and groups well. The first and foremost question, however, is whether a candidate’s vision and concept of Christian liberal arts higher education is compatible with Mullen’s own vision.

As a professor of English, Bruxvoort Lipscomb desires a candidate who is a “strong advocate of academic freedom.” Academic freedom is the freedom for faculty to creatively work in their fields, even when their work is in tension with community values or, in Houghton’s case, Wesleyan theological values. This is something the “English and writing, art, and probably the Bible and theology departments might especially depend on.” According to Bruxvoort Lipscomb, Houghton College is very committed to academic freedom, and she and President Mullen both expressed confidence that a candidate who embodies the ideals of Christian liberal arts education will soon be hired.★

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

NCCAA from page 1

tain Aaron Eisenhardt ‘17. “As a men’s team we were able to qualify for nationals and our team unity is much deeper this year. I’m looking forward to next year. Since we are only losing two seniors the team will be very similar to this year’s.”

Women’s captain Fries-

en said, “Running the home course is an advantage, in spite of Houghton November weather. I ran on the course; I know its terrain and characteristics. I’ve run the course backwards and forwards countless times, that is a distinct advantage over the competition.”

Along with Houghton, 47 teams traveled from states all across the country to compete in the national event including teams from Washington, California, Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Georgia, Ohio,

Florida, Kansas, etc.

Teams were hosted on the course as well as around campus. 10 schools were housed both in the flats or dorms and several teams ate in the dining hall.

On Friday evening all cross country athletes were invited to a celebratory banquet in the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex. “It was a good time for everyone to be together in a formal setting, with some awards given out. It really set the tone for the meet and helped get people

excited,” said Hager.

With such a large event being hosted on campus, several departments were highly involved in the planning. All athletic administration was involved as well as Sodexo for catering services, Becca Crouch for housing, Ray Parlett for security, and the grounds crew for preparing the course. In the months leading up to the competition, the departments would meet to work on planning every two weeks.

“It’s very special to host

such a large meet and get to see so many other runners on campus in the days leading up to the meet. It is a momentous way to finish the season,” said Friesen. “The season has been long and full of hard work and effort - it’s hard to believe that it’s all over.”

The Cedarville University men and women won the NCCAA Championship race for division one and the Maranatha Baptist University men and Moody Bible Institute women won division two.★

JAZZ from page 1

the other ensemble within the overall Jazz Ensemble will “be performing more well-known works,” music student Danielle “DJ” Bees ‘17 said.

The Jazz Ensemble is directed by Ken Crane, an adjunct professor whose position at Houghton is entirely devoted to jazz. Suzano noted that the Jazz Ensemble, directed by Crane, “Has existed for many years now, and it has created a very special niche for the performance of a highly specialized repertoire.” Jazz Ensemble members Elizabeth Ibarra ‘17 and Bees commended Crane as a good teacher. “He will correct

you if you’re wrong, he’s not afraid to, But he will give you compliments if they’re due.” said Bees. Ibarra echoed this, “It’s a tough love type of thing.” Both students noted, “We all like him.”

Both Ibarra and Bees, expressed their enthusiasm to become part of the jazz ensemble. Ibarra, who had performed jazz in middle and high school, said she “took the one chance I had” to do jazz this semester. Both enjoy the jazz ensemble as something unique, different from their other experiences within the music program. Bees noted that she likes “how much fun the music is to play. It’s not as much pressure as in other ensembles.” She explained, “It’s a bit more free. There’s wiggle room.” Ibarra described it also

as a growing experience. “I’m getting much better at allowing myself to improvise,” she said. She explained, “I have a set way of playing, a set style,” but jazz is “breaking me out of my musical box.”

Both Ibarra and Bees noted “not a lot of people know about the jazz ensemble.” Suzano commends the ensemble in that “they execute their music in the highest possible level of quality and excellence,” and expressed his hopes and enthusiasm for the concert. “This will be an opportunity for Houghton students and for the community to enjoy an evening with music that is truly American and an incredible representative of the best the American spirit of creativity and ingenuity can provide,” he said.★

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				7				
9		6	2					
						9	8	

Sports: Scores and Standings

Men’s Basketball, 11/17/15
Houghton v. Hilbert College
L, 94-91 Houghton Shooting %: 39.3%
Hilbert Shooting %: 52.4%

Women’s Basketball, 11/17/15
Houghton v. Hilbert College
W, 71-69 Houghton Shooting %: 29.3%
Hilbert Shooting %: 30.1%

Ortlip Art Gallery Opening

Inextinguishable

MASON WILKES

Inextinguishable, New Works by Sharon McConnell, is an installation that abounds in re-examinations of concept, form, and the everyday. Marking the culmination of a new study in fabrics, McConnell utilizes simple materials and a re-

peating-square format to create works that interact with our perception of space and meaning.

Upon initial impression, one immediately notes the way in which the works communicate with the Ortlip Gallery space, with pieces like *Studies* and *The Law of Gravity* utilizing wall space and cast shadows to great effect. By presenting traditional net forms



MASON WILKES

Sharon McConnell's new work, *Inextinguishable*, is now open for viewing in the Ortlip Gallery. She uses simple materials along with a repetition of square shapes that interact with the viewer's perception of space and meaning.

in a nontraditional context, the artist draws beauty out of classically utilitarian forms while utilizing the interplay of light through the pieces to create a tension between net and shadow.

Expanding on the idea of dialectical tensions, *The Periodic Table* references both familiar and unfamiliar forms, catching the observer in a shifting context of associations.

The *familiar becoming unfamiliar* is a repeated theme throughout *Inextinguishable* and is perhaps best embodied in the installation's centerpiece, *Cloudscape 7.24.15*. Composed of thousands of individual fabric squares, the

piece immediately encounters those entering the gallery as a shimmering cloud formation. However, as one moves closer, the installation changes, breaking down into individual squares and patterned segments, creating a sharp dialogue between the known and the inexplicable. Dialogue is again seen in the format of the piece itself which exists as a juxtaposition of pixelated rationality and hand-placed fabric—an arrangement that creates strong dialectical tension between concept and format while forcing the viewer to acknowledge the shifting nature of perception.

Ultimately, *Inextinguishable* is an exhibition that

guides the viewer to an examination of perceptions. By creating dialogue between mediums and juxtaposed relationships, McConnell creates a participatory experience that leaves viewers with their own inextinguishable wonderings about the world around them. ★



MASON WILKES

McConnell creates a participatory experience with her Installation pieces, leaving the viewers with their own inextinguishable wonderings about the world around them.

The Body As a Canvas: Students and Tattoos

WILLIAM TETTA

The angel resting on Sophomore Joseph Miner's left shoulder is not a real angel of course, but a tattoo of one. Miner's angel is a seraphim, traditionally considered in the Christian faith to be the highest rank of angels. Stretching from Miner's shoulder to halfway down his arm, the seraphim clasps its hands in front of it as if it were praying, and hides its feet and eyes behind four of its six wings, while the other two stretch out behind it.

Miner's decision to get his tattoo came six months after hearing a particularly

inspiring sermon. The topic was Isaiah 6, where the prophet Isaiah finds himself before the throne of God. In the scripture it states that seraphim flew about the throne, covering their feet and faces with their wings while proclaiming God's glory. Recognizing his unworthiness, Isaiah proclaims himself to be "a man of unclean lips," who should not even be allowed to look at God. At this, one of the seraphim flies down and touches his mouth with a piece of coal. "He says, 'Your guilt is taken away and your sins are atoned for,'" Miner recalled, "and it was kind of like a response to... just the weight of the guilt he felt for being such a sinful man." Miner said he got his tattoo as a reminder that God is more concerned about

our devotion to him than he is about how many sins we commit.

Sarah Makosy '16 also got her tattoo to remember something special in her life. Hers simply consists of a set of coordinates on the back of her arm: 42° 37' N, 79° 04' W. Makosy said these are the coordinates of a camp where she had worked the past two summers. "In the two summers that I was there, I really changed a lot as a person," Makosy said, "and I really... found out who I was." She, along with a friend working there, got the tattoo to commemorate the camp.

Several students interviewed said they believed that tattoos were beginning to gain acceptance in today's culture. Crystal Zuver, a sophomore and non-traditional student

with nine tattoos, said that those with tattoos used to be considered "up to no good", but that is not the case anymore. "I am an artist," she said, "and I see my body as a canvas, and tattoos are art and a way to express myself."

However, others expressed a differing opinion. Emma Donmoyer '19 said she believed that getting a tattoo is something that can very easily be regretted. "What means something to you changes a lot when you get older, even if it meant something to you at one point, it might not later," said Donmoyer.

A number of students also spoke about a change in their perceptions of tattoos and those who have them. Miner said he gained a new appreciation for personal space after

receiving his tattoo. "When I'm just walking around trying to get my lunch and someone's like, 'Oh, what's that mean?'" Miner said with a laugh. "Like, I'm trying to eat here! Leave me alone." He also commented on people who would try to feel his tattoo. "I'm like, 'that's still skin', you know?"

Miner, Makosy, and Zuver all agreed that getting a tattoo is something that needs to be thought about. "That one split-second decision of, 'you know, I'm just going to go get a tattoo today,' is something that stays with you forever," said Makosy. "Permanence-wise and importance-wise is something that I think people should take thought in." ★

Annual Christmas Prism Celebrates the ‘Prince of Peace’

RACHEL BELLEROSE

From December 4-6, Houghton College will host the ninth annual Christmas Prism. The event will take place in Houghton, as well as Rochester and Williams-ville, a change from last year’s venue in Hamburg. This year’s theme is “Celebrate the Prince of Peace!” which, according to the dean of the Greatbatch School of music Armenio Suzano, intentionally suggests that this year’s Prism will be a time of worship as well as an opportunity to experience a beautiful performance. Suzano, who replaced Stephen Plate as Dean and Director of the Greatbatch School of Music this year, said “If we have not touched the hearts and spirit of the audience, we have not done our job... People for miles around know that Houghton students are talented musicians, but that’s not the main point, here. The point is to worship the Creator of the universe.”

When asked who will be performing this year, Suzano answered “Everybody!” In addition to the classical



Greatbatch students in preparation for the annual production of Prism. This year’s theme is “Celebrate the Prince of Peace!”

LAURA JOHNSON

groups that have performed in previous years (including Men’s and Women’s Choir, College Choir, Symphonic Winds, and the Symphony Orchestra) the 2015 Prism will include two, more contemporary groups: Gospel Choir and Houghton Singers. Suzano describes this decision as an opportunity to expand the horizons of Prism by including

music which has generally not been included as part of the canon. He is excited for the fresh perspective that these groups will bring this year.

Along with the additions to the musical ensembles are several relatively new faculty members directing and conducting this year. Graduate Music Coordinator Kelly Van Kirk, Suzano, professor Sarah

Luebke, and associate professor Adam Luebke were all brought on as faculty within the last two years. Malcolm Bell, a graduate student, will also be conducting Gospel Choir. Suzano believes that the number of new faculty will affect Prism positively, as they will be able to see it with new eyes and therefore take a fresh approach. The faculty

and students, he said have been praying regularly for Prism’s ministerial success as well as its technical, musical success. Suzano also compared the role of Houghton’s musicians to that of the Levites, who performed holy service in the tabernacle of the desert and in the temple. He said the focus of this year’s performance is not meant to be on the performers, but rather on experiencing God through the music.

In addition to the musical experience of Prism, there will be an upscale dinner served on Saturday night for those who purchased the thirty dollar tickets. Phyllis Gaerte, Alumni and Community Director, said the dinner is always a beautiful experience with delicious food and a Christmas ambiance. While parents and alumni are the primary people who attend, students are encouraged to come and enjoy the pre-Prism celebration as well. Gaerte says the experience is well worth the extra cost.

For students looking for a break before plunging into finals, this year’s Prism will certainly be on the top of the list.★

From Lucca To Houghton Fabio Menchetti

HOPE MCKEEVER

You may find second year music graduate student, Fabio Menchetti working hard in the music building, but one thing you will not catch him doing is complaining about the snow. He shared, “I really like winter. I hope there is so much snow that we can’t get out of our houses.” Menchetti’s adventurous spirit denies the opportunity for life to get stale. He believes, “The process is more important than the result.”

Although he is currently pursuing a master of arts in piano, Menchetti’s music studies began long before he arrived at Houghton in August of 2014. He began playing piano around age 7 in his hometown of Lucca, Italy. At a young age, he was accepted to a music conservatory in Lucca where he received a bachelor’s degree in piano performance. He pursued a second bachelor’s in music,

theater, and visual arts at the University of Pisa. Later he attended a conservatory in La Spezia where he received two master’s degrees in music education and piano performance.

After receiving a job in music education teaching junior high students, Menchetti worried that he would stop growing if he taught at the same school for many years. He admitted, “I was afraid to be stuck.” Without any connections to music schools in the United States, he sent out many applications to different schools. When Houghton got back to him, Menchetti left Italy and made the decision to go abroad and pursue a third master’s degree. He reasoned that a master’s degree from a school in the United States would be important to pursue as a transition between studying in Italy and achieving a doctorate in the United States or in another country. The decision to go abroad and leave familiar places and people was not easy, but he communicated how much he has learned and is learning from the experi-

ence of studying abroad.

Currently Menchetti has 22 piano students at Houghton as a part of his assistantship for the master’s program. He explained that it was difficult to understand and be understood by his students at the beginning of the year due to the language barrier. His first year as a graduate student was exciting because he had to navigate a new culture and language in an academic setting, he expressed. In addition, he discovered that he could not only survive the courses, but he could thrive in the Houghton environment making new friends and enjoying his work alongside fellow music students at Houghton.

This semester, Menchetti is focusing on preparing applications for Doctorate programs in piano performance. He aspires to teach music in the higher education field. He finds his musical roots in early romanticism and late classicism and especially enjoys listening to Beethoven and Chopin.★



ANTHONY BURDO

Fabio Menchetti, originally from Lucca, Italy, is pursuing his third master’s degree in arts in piano. His first two master’s degrees of music education and piano performance were completed at the University of Pisa.

Reverse Racism Does Not Exist



ANTHONY BURDO

BETHANY SCHOONOVER

Firstly, I want to make it known that I realize that I personally do not have to deal with thinking about my race constantly. In America, whiteness is viewed as the default. Since I’m white, I don’t have to deal with any sort of discrimination or racism. Therefore, I may

not be the best authority in this matter, but I have the opportunity to present the problems inherent in the phrase “reverse racism.”

Let me be blunt: reverse racism does not exist. It may help to begin by defining what racism is. When a race has the position of power over minority races and, purposefully or not, uses this power in a way that negatively affects these minorities — that is racism. When anything is said or done that affects a minority race as a whole negatively — that is racism. Racism is negative comments that further negative and harmful stereotypes about minorities. Racism is refusing to hire someone because of their race. Racism is the high

“So please, don’t buy into the myth of ‘reverse racism’ when what you’re actually speaking about is racial prejudice.”

incarceration rates and low graduation rates among people of color. Sometimes, sadly, racism is violence and hate crimes.

These things are undeniable examples of racism, but comments, such as “white people can’t dance” aren’t racist. Hating someone because they are white is not racism. These things are better understood as “racial prejudice.” Racial prejudice exists purely on an individual

level, unlike racism, which also operates on institutional and cultural levels. While saying “white people don’t like spicy food” might hurt an individual’s feelings, it can’t really do any cultural or institutional harm. There is no power behind statements like that.

Neither racism nor racial prejudice is acceptable. As Christians, we are called to love one another and embrace our unity in Christ. This is why the apostle Paul wrote that “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28) We should therefore criticize any kind of prejudice that

is grounded in race. While on this earth, it is perfectly great for people to celebrate their racial background — however, in Christ we are the same.

White Americans must realize that we do not face racism on an institutional scale. Perhaps we occasionally face racial prejudice or insensitive jokes, but our racial background does not seriously limit our opportunities for success or impair our lives in any meaningful way. The problem with calling out “reverse racism” is that it silences and devalues those who face true racism. So please, don’t buy into the myth of “reverse racism” when what you’re actually speaking about is racial prejudice. ★

Bethany is a sophomore education and English double major.

On Dating Your First Year



ANTHONY BURDO

KASEY CANNISTER

The transition from high school to college is full of new experiences. It is a time to be independent, try new things and ultimately learn more about who we are and where we are going. As freshmen, students live in a new place, make new friends, and some even find a new romantic relationship. But wait, is a relationship really what we should focus our time on-especially freshman year?

In the college environment it is easy to become over dependent on another person and become completely entangled in a relationship. By dating so soon in college I believe you will make fewer friends and won’t develop as much independence.

When you date someone on campus, the urge to hang out is continuous since the opportunity is always present. When you live less than a mile apart, share the same dining room, and stay

on the same campus once the school day is over, it’s hard to create separation.

I came across an article in Psychology Today entitled, “Enmeshment in Family Relationships” by Randi Kreger. It describes how reliance on a relationship can turn into enmeshment.

This can be defined as the trouble that occurs when time passes and one stops becoming an individual with separate thoughts, feelings, beliefs, opinions, hobbies, etc. Essentially, couples become highly reliant on each other and each individual tends to lose his or her sense of self.

Although this problem can arise in any stage of life, I feel it is of high concern for first year students who are trying to navigate so many new roles in life. When they enter into a relationship so early in an already big transition a lot of key foundational elements get pushed aside.

A person becomes so highly invested in making the relationship work that they spend a smaller amount of time creating core friendships. More importantly, an individual does not take time to be one’s own person and truly understand their values, beliefs, and desires.

In discussing this topic, Nancy Murphy, a counselor at

“Take time to develop friendships and save the serious dating for later.”

Houghton, commented, “I think the biggest reason for not dating freshman year is that there are so many more critical areas of self-development and self-discovery (managing emotions, identifying personal strengths and challenges, gaining competence and confidence socially and professionally, etc.) that could be sidelined prematurely.”

She continues, “If one gets into a “relationship” in order to find the “right person”, it is important to know oneself.”

Speaking from personal experience, my boyfriend and I met our first year, but both came to college not wanting to date our first year. Although we each had intentions of potentially dating in the future, we wanted to take the time to get to know each other and build a solid foundation of friendship first.

We didn’t want to jump into anything too quickly especially with so much change already going on in our lives. We started dating our sophomore year and found it truly beneficial to have taken the time to be friends, live

separate lives, and establish our own friends.

In addition, with some space we have been able to better understand the college atmosphere and how we each fit into the big picture of Houghton. Striving for balance is really important and even as juniors, we are figuring out that it is good for us to do different things, keep some space, and not neglect our individuality.

Maria Tricarico ‘16 started dating her fiancé during the second semester of her first year. She reflected on her experience and said, “Honestly, the fact that I was dating didn’t really impact my education. Both my boyfriend and I were very committed to our education and we were good at prioritizing when it came to school. We struck up a healthy balance.”

Tricarico believes the impacts of a relationship are not determined by a person’s school year. Rather, it is based on the maturity and understanding of each couple. She said, “I think people need to decide for themselves whether or not dating is a good idea for them at that specific time, and they should understand why it is that they think that.”

As students, I believe we need to gain independence and confidence that we are okay by ourselves before we can enter into a relationship with full

confidence. Ultimately, I do not recommended dating your first year of college but rather spend time getting to know yourself.

However, whether you are a freshman or a senior, if you do decide to enter into a committed relationship I would encourage you to take time to establish strong friendships and to understand yourself first. Without a relationship do you feel like you have time to invest in yourself? Will you be able to invest in another person without taking away that personal time?

Additionally, within a relationship continue to assess your level of enmeshment as a couple. Are you neglecting your individuality? Do you feel like you constantly have to be involved in aspects of each other’s lives?

According to Psychology Today, in healthy relationships with a strong connection each person can pay attention to the other without losing or compromising their sense of self. You should be able to be separate without falling apart and be together without losing your individuality.

Your freshman year is going to be filled with new experiences as well as people. Take time to develop friendships and save the serious dating for later. Do not forget to be yourself in every relationship. Responsibly set aside time to reflect on your emotions and continue to be aware of your involvement in each others lives.★

Kasey is a junior communication major with minors in art and business.

Love Does Not Mean Acceptance



ANTHONY BURDO

GARRET KIRKPATRICK

There has been a stirring debate on campus about the LGBTQ issue involving how members of that community and supporters of the individuals involved feel as though they should be more supported and more accepted on Houghton’s campus. Boldly, I here admit that, yes, I have a problem with this movement.

Many of you are probably thinking; “Oh boy, here it comes: the hate preaching and gay-condemning conservative Christian”. Well I’m here to tell everyone that is not the case. Yes, I am a conservative and I was raised in a Christian home with the view that being gay is wrong. However, I was not raised in a home filled with hate toward people who do not agree

with my opinions.

Despite not agreeing with the views of the LGBTQ community, you are all still my brothers and sisters in Christ and I will love you as Jesus has commanded all Christians to love their neighbors.

But I will not support you in your actions to embrace the LGBTQ life.

There is a difference between the two. This distinction is where Houghton, in general, has a hard time distinguishing between acceptance and love. Therefore, let me give an example to show everyone what I mean.

Say I am addicted to pornography as well as drinking alcohol and I asked everyone I knew to accept and support my decision to do those things on a daily basis. Would many of you, knowing I am committing a sin, continue to support me and tell me what I am doing is okay? Thus accepting the fact that I will continue to do those things that you may think are wrong? I would tend to assume that no, most Christians would say what

“The only person you should seek true approval and true acceptance from is God. If you feel that God has accepted you and loves you for who you are, then, in the end, that is all that matters.”

I am doing is not okay. Although they would not condone my actions, they would, for most part, love me anyway and do whatever they could to help me.

Just because people don’t accept the views of the LGBTQ community does not mean they do not love them for who they are inside. And so, if a member of the LGBTQ community asked me to support them in their decision, I would feel obligated to say no, even though I still love them. Furthermore, I would most likely receive some backlash for my

difference of opinion.

There is a double standard for the LGBTQ community that no one likes to talk about; one that, although it may not sit well with many people, still needs to be brought to light.

In a nutshell, the present dialogue at Houghton says, “Christians need to support and accept the LGBTQ community more.” By making this claim, the LGBTQ community denies us our choice as Christians to stand up and say, “No, we do not want to support something we do not believe is right”.

If the LGBTQ community has the right to stand up for themselves and say, “support my choices,” I have the right to stand up and say, “no, I do not support your choices” without being ridiculed. But as I sit here writing this article, I know that many people would ridicule me.

I am tired of all the double standards being thrown around in today’s society. One is praised

when supporting the LGBTQ community, but one is ridiculed and called names like “gay hater”, “too conservative”, or an “unloving” Christian when in opposition. I am tired of the way our society has deemed it “not okay” to stand up for your faith. I am tired of the hate being preached from both sides of the spectrum. And lastly, I am tired of the continuous talks of acceptance.

Why can we not just live with the fact that people have different lifestyles? Not everyone will agree with each other and support each other’s decisions. There is such a strong desire to be accepted and loved by everyone. Yet, the world is a cruel place and, I hate to break it to you, not everybody will like everything you do. I have come to grips with that, but I think many other people still need to.

Talking about accepting one another is all well and good. If that is something you feel you want to do, then go ahead, it’s not my right to stop you. But in the end, the opinions of others don’t matter. The acceptance of a community of peers will not matter. The only person you should seek true approval and true acceptance from is God. If you feel that God has accepted you and loves you for who you are, then, in the end, that is all that matters.★

Garret is a junior business and political science double major.



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.

Letters to the Editor:

Paris Sympathy:

Dear Editor:

Coming on campus this morning, I was deeply touched when I saw the ROCK in front of Gillette Hall painted in the colors of the French flag.

Thank you to those responsible for this expression of sympathy and support of France, its victims and survivors of the recent tragedy.

- Retired Professor of French, Jean-Louis Roederer

Response to LGBTQ Discussion:

Dear Editor:

Colleges throughout our nation’s history have found their commitment to Christian principles slowly eroded to the point of no longer being recognizable as having been founded on God’s Word. Changing the Houghton Covenant would be a step down this road.

Three reactions to the recent articles:

1. Society encourages

acceptance of ideas and values which are based on what seems right to individuals, or new “science” which is contrary to the teachings of God’s Word. Man and his ideas become the final authority- not the Word of God.

2. Satan puts doubts in our minds about what God has said; as he did with Eve when he asked, “Did God really say....?” (Gen. 3:2). In essence, asking if God really meant what he said.

3. Sexual immorality in scripture (sin) includes adultery, fornication, and homosexuality. In John 8 Christ helps the religious leaders understand the hypocrisy of judging and condemning others. Neither did Christ condemn her, but said, “...go your way and leave your life of sin.”

As Christians our job is not to condemn, but to lovingly encourage those living in sin back into a vibrant relationship

with our heavenly father. We cannot compromise biblical standards by accepting cultural ideas which violate God’s law. We need to love the individual, but not validate the behavior.

- Gary King, 1967 alumnus, 30 year Houghton resident

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Artist of the Week

Derek Brooker

// senior communication major with a minor in art



ANTHONY BURDO



“A work of art is useless as a flower is useless”

– Oscar Wilde

Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Jay Munly,
digital photography
Rat Queen,
Screenprint
Landscape of
Houghton,
digital photography
The Call of Cthulhu,
letterpress print
Sky Full of Stars,
digital photography

