

**FILM REVIEW: THE GOOD DINOSAUR |**  
FEATURES, P. 4

**HOUGHTON COMMUNITY SENDS REPRESENTATIVES TO COP21 |**  
FEATURES, P. 5

**BEING QUEER AT HOUGHTON: ADAM REINHARDT '11 |**  
OPINIONS, P. 6

**SOCIAL JUSTICES IS MORE THAN JUST A HASHTAG |**  
OPINIONS, P. 7

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK: KIM LOGEE**  
FEATURES, P. 8

## Annual Craft Fair to Take Place

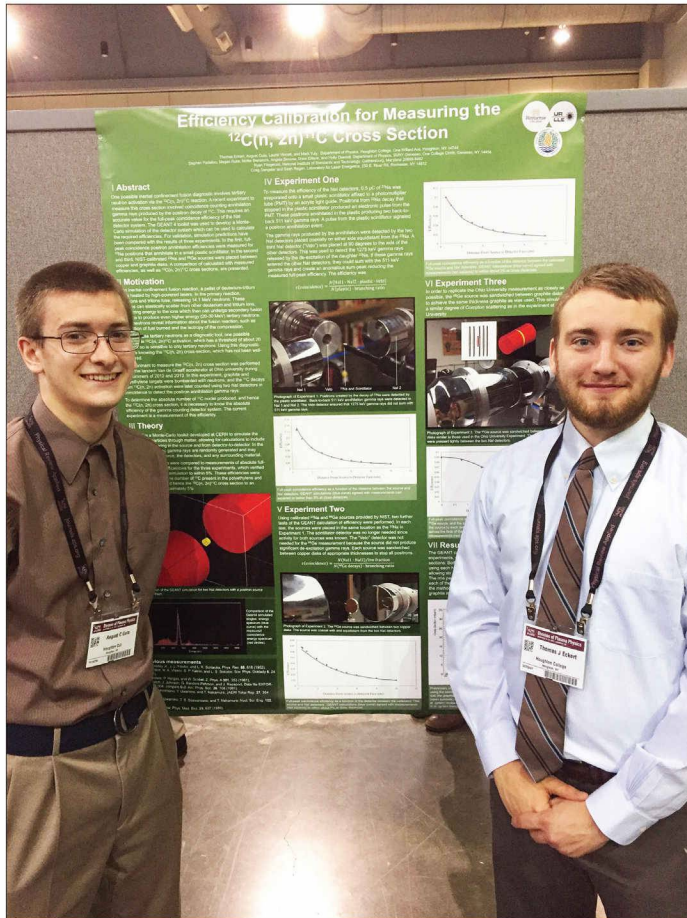
RACHEL ZIMMERMAN  
DANI EATON

Each year Houghton hosts the Christmas Craft and Art Fair, providing an opportunity for residents of Houghton and the surrounding area to present a wide array of products as part of the Christmas season. This year will be the fair's twenty-ninth year, held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 9 and 10 in the Campus Center's lower level and Van Dyk Lounge.

This year's craft fair is organized by Jessica Jennings, Houghton's constituent planning and event specialist, to include a variety of vendors. "Each year has increased and we are at the

See **CRAFT** page 2

## Students Present Research In Georgia



COURTESY OF THOMAS ECKERT

Students Thomas Eckert and August Gula presented their research on developing an efficient, time-and-cost-effective way to measure the areal density of an Inertial Confinement Fusion.

MARY CRONIN

While most of the Houghton College community retired home for holiday celebration over Thanksgiving Break last week, senior physics students Thomas Eckert and August Gula, and associate dean of natural sciences and mathematics Professor Mark Yuly travelled to Savannah, Georgia. The trio, together with faculty and students from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Geneseo attended the American Physical Society's (APS) fifty-seventh annual meeting of the Division of Plasma Physics. Eckert and Gula presented their research, which they had worked on under Yuly, to hundreds of attendees, many of them distinguished scholars and physicists.

Eckert explained the students' research was "part of a much larger project that spans over 20 years." He

said the goal of the project was the development of an efficient, time-and-cost-effective way to measure the areal density of an Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) reaction. The areal density is a parameter of ICF that must be above a certain threshold to have a reaction that releases more energy than is put in. "As one of the key goals of studying ICF is to have net-positive energy output which would allow us to use the reaction as a source of electrical power," Eckert said. "Overcoming this threshold is important. While this value can be measured today, current measurement techniques lack the efficiency of our system."

This research will likely impact efforts to creating clean, sustainable energy. It also may have applications in astronomy. "An ICF reaction is quite similar to the Gravitational Confinement Fusion that occurs in the

See **GEORGIA** page 3

## Pen Pals Partner With Houghton in Buffalo

SOPHIA ROSS

While students at Houghton's main campus seldom have the opportunity to interact with students at Houghton-in-Buffalo's campus, Professor Laurie Dashnau and her Literary Non-Fiction class have spent the past semester challenging this division. On Wednesday, November 18, she and five students from the class traveled to Houghton-in-Buffalo's (HB) campus to meet with a Writing 101 class, and to see how Houghton's mission extends beyond the Genesee Valley.

The partnership between Dashnau's writing class and the HB class has been in the works for the past three months. As a project for the duration of the Fall semester, Dashnau assigned her Non-Fiction students to write to



COURTESY OF LAURIE DASHNAU

Wednesday, November 18, Professor Laurie Dashnau's Literary Non-Fiction class traveled to the Houghton-in-Buffalo campus to meet with a writing 101 class.

students in Anna Matejova's ('11) HB Writing 101 class as pen pals.

"The idea came from me

already working with the Writing 101 instructor in Buffalo and having met last year's students and wanting

to seize the opportunity of encouraging them to connect

See **WRIT** page 4

## Presidential Campaign Update

DAN BELLEROSE

Presidential elections are hard to predict. Even at this point in the polling, many Americans will change their vote, and supposed winners could be ousted at the finish. Over the past few months, several candidates have dropped their bid for the presidency, and left the election to bigger players, with much more support.

Most recently, Bobby Jindal, a republican hopeful, decided to drop his long-shot run for the GOP nomi-

See **PRES** page 3



# National // Shooting at Planned Parenthood



DANI EATON

On Friday, November 27, a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado was open fired on. The suspect, who has been named as 57 year old Robert Lewis Dear, began shooting outside of the building and then led police into a nearly six hour long standoff ex-

changing gunfire before he surrendered and was apprehended. The standoff between Dear and authorities, which began just after the initial 911 call at 11:30 a.m. (1:30 p.m. ET) resulted in three deaths and nine civilian injuries. While his motive was and is still currently deemed unclear by police, CNN reported Dear, who openly expressed anti-abortion and anti-government views, was heard muttering something about “baby parts” after the shooting. From this, inferences have been made in regards to Dear’s motive. CNN also reported investigators also found evidence in and around the building including handguns and rifles, which were allegedly brought in a duffle bag to the scene by Dear, and propane tanks believed to be part of Dear’s attack. The attack, according to Reuters, is the first deadly attack on a U.S. abortion provider in six years. However,

according the Wall Street Journal, the attack comes after recent months of protesters gathering outside clinics due to the surfacing video from an anti-abortion group which allegedly shows officials from Planned Parenthood discussing reimbursements for supplying fetal tissue for medical research. Of the deceased was Officer Garrett Swasey, who was a six year veteran of the university police force and worked at the University of Colorado. Two civilians, Jennifer Markovsky and Ke’Arre Stewart, were also killed in shooting. According to the Denver Post, Stewart was an army veteran who enlisted out of high school in 2004 and served in Iraq. Markovsky was a stay at home mom, who moved to Colorado after her husband was stationed there for the military. According to CNN, Dear, who is currently being held in a Colorado Springs prison without bail, faces charges of first

degree murder. The charges were addressed in Dear’s first court appearance on Monday, November 30, who faced his arraignment via video feed from prison. If found guilty, Dear faces a minimum sentence of life in prison and a maximum sentence of the death penalty. After the court appearance, District Attorney Dan May said in an interview with Reuters that prosecutors will have 63 days to decide whether or not they want to bring a death penalty case. The U.S. Justice Department officials have also joined the case, increasing the possibility of a terrorism or civil rights case being brought against Dear by the federal government. Dear will formally charged on December 9. While this is Dear’s first time facing murder charges, it is not his first run-in with the law. Dear had previously been accused of domestic and animal abuse, in addition to being charged with being a peeping tom.

On Saturday, November 28, Obama addressed the attack in a statement offering praise for Officer Swasey, condolences for the families of the victims, and condemnation of another violent attack through the use of gun violence. Obama once again called on policy-makers to do something to prevent future mass shootings. “This is not normal. We can’t let it become normal,” Obama said in a CNN article. “Enough is enough.”★

*Dani is a junior communication and writing major with a minor in political science.*

## CRAFT from page 1

largest number of vendors we’ve ever had.” Jennings explained. “The majority of vendors are from Allegany County, with some being staff, students and alumni of Houghton.” She noted that there are also “a few from the broader Western New York area.” While many vendors will have handmade products, she says also that “some vendors will be selling licensed products,” such as Jamberry

nails or Tupperware. Jennings indicates that overall “there is a really great variety of products” for this year’s fair. In addition to the licensed products there will be an array of ceramics, jewelry, décor, candles, skin care products, alpaca wool, and knitted items, as well as chocolate, maple syrup, and dog treats. Rachel Wright ‘16 and her sister Anna Wright ‘18 are selling original poetry which has been typed out on a typewriter, “Some of these pieces will be typed on some of my watercolors and pencil drawings. We will also do commissioned pieces, either by typing or drawing what-

ever our buyer would like.” Members of the Houghton community can expect to see several familiar faces as vendors. Staff members Marshall Green and Susan Peterson will be present, as well as several Houghton alum including Naomi Woolsey and Grace Mangum. Current students Sarah Showers, Hannah Banks, Laura Stockdale, Rachel Wright, and Jill Magara will also be selling. Vendor Stockdale ‘16 said, “I’m going to be selling handmade hats, gloves, and headbands that I knitted myself. I’ve been selling these plus scarves on the Houghton campus since around fresh-

man or sophomore year on the Houghton Sells Facebook page and it’s gone really well. I’m taking part in the crafts fair in the hopes that I can expand my reach and number of customers.” Magara ‘17, also a student vendor, is also looking to gain exposure by selling handmade items, “I decided to sell some of my pottery when someone approached me earlier this semester about buying a few of my pieces. A couple friends and I are setting up a table and I think it’ll be fun and also a great way to begin getting my name out there as a local artisan.” Wright ‘16 agreed saying,

“We wanted to participate in the craft fair because it’s a chance to make a little extra money and to get our work out there. Plus, it’s really fun to make work and sell it.” In the midst of the busy Christmas season, Jennings notes the advantages of the craft and art fair. “There is a great variety of quality items at a wide range of prices,” she said. “So it’s a good opportunity to check off your Christmas list without leaving campus.” The Houghton community has a chance to celebrate Christmas while supporting the creative endeavors of the surrounding area.★

## Crossword of the Week

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68						69					70			
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- Across
1. Goalie’s wear
5. Music-video cable station
9. Necklace fastener
14. Condo division
15. October birthstone
16. Puts a spell on
17. Hard-hit baseball

19. Florida Keys, e.g.
20. Take the tiller
21. Move to a MASH, maybe
23. Superlative suffix
24. Winter-hat parts
27. \_\_\_ May Clampett
29. Hard puzzle
34. Bill picturing Cleveland
38. Jeansmaker Strauss
39. Bring in
40. Bench-clearer
43. Go sprawling
44. Iranian money
45. Not permanent, as ink
47. Hard form of lava
51. Fuss over, with “on”
52. Cold dessert
57. Politico Landon
60. Blowgun missile
62. Tractor maker
63. Porcupine’s spine
65. Hard still product
68. Excessive
69. Leer at
70. Not “fer”

71. Molecule’s makeup
72. Zip
73. Hive hummers
- Down
1. Vital beat
2. Baker or Loos
3. Roadside eatery
4. Mill product
5. FYI part
6. News org.
7. Bullpen stat
8. TV nightly news hour
9. Gum base
10. Guitarist \_\_\_ Paul
11. Wheel holder
12. Takes a gander at
13. “Hey, you!”
18. Olive \_\_\_ (military uniform)
22. Cockpit fig.
25. British buggy
26. Of sound mind
28. 1945 summit site
30. Do-nothing
31. Belgrade native

32. Diabolical
33. Auspicious, as time
34. Garr or Hatcher
35. Reagan Secretary of State
36. Algerian port
37. Lacking guidance
41. Love god
42. Unit-pricing word
46. Depot postings, informally
48. Lots and lots
49. Actress Hagen
50. Sunday delivery
53. Get-well spot, for short
54. Hosiery hue
55. Baseball great Banks
56. Many mall rats
57. Bluish green
58. Fontanne’s partner
59. Generic pooch
61. Forum garb
64. Abner’s radio partner
66. Moth-eaten
67. Teachers’ org.



GEORGIA *from page 1*

core of a star,” Eckert said. Eckert and Gula’s findings were presented in a poster presentation at the conference. A “poster presentation” is fairly self-explanatory: researchers, using visual aids, present their research to other professionals. There are usually many presenters gathered at a poster presentation, explaining and dialoguing with attendees as they pass by. Aside from the honor of having their research selected for presentation, Gula and Eckert were recognized for an “Exceptional Undergraduate Poster Presentation” at the conference. Eckert said, “It was a big deal

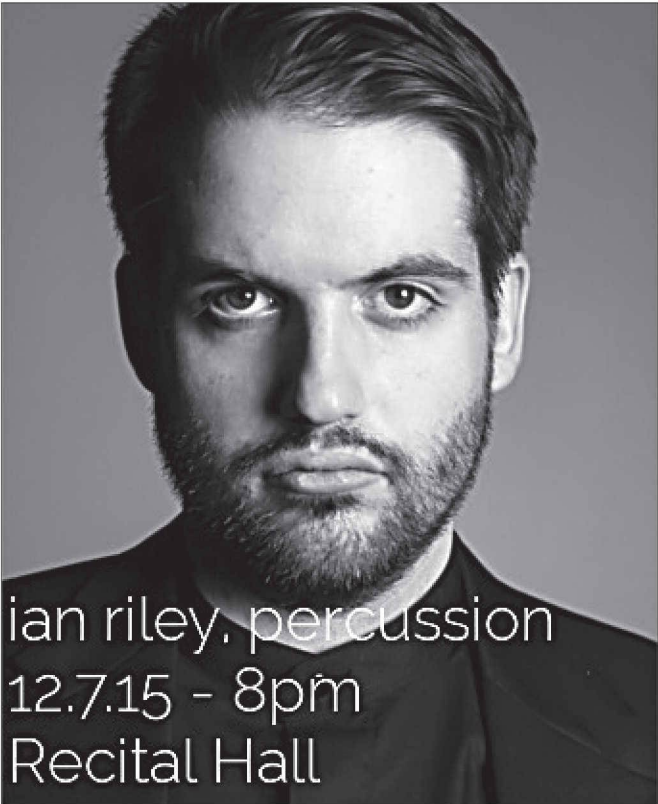
that we received that honor out of hundreds of submitted posters. We were given tickets to a banquet and we were asked to stand and be recognized for our accomplishment. It was a shining moment for both of us.” Notable attendees to the conference included Masaaki Yamada, recipient of the APS Maxwell Prize for Plasma Physics. His pioneering contributions to the field of laboratory plasma astrophysics, according to the APS website. Another well-regarded member of the physics community, Richard Rhodes, was in attendance. Rhodes is the author of the acclaimed work, The Making of the Atomic Bomb. Besides these distinguished scholars, Eckert said there were “loads” of other interesting and brilliant scientists at the conference. He expressed his enthusiasm over the networking opportunities he took advantage of. “This conference was one of the most rewarding experiences of my time as an undergraduate,” he said, noting how the contacts he made will likely impact his career for many years to come. Eckert stated, “For me, I am weaker in mathematical and theoretical knowledge, but I find my strength is in experimentation and presentation of my work. For that reason, showing a poster at a research conference is something I feel right at home doing.” He continued, “One of the great things about Houghton Physics, however, is that no matter where your strengths lay, you are able to pursue opportunities tailored to your aptitude.”★



COURTESY OF THOMAS ECKERT

Physics students Thomas Eckert and August Gula traveled with Professor Mark Yuly to Savannah Georgia to the American Physical Society’s fifty-seventh annual meeting of the Division of Plasma Physics.

Want to write? Email us at [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)



ian riley, percussion  
12.7.15 - 8pm  
Recital Hall

PRES *from page 1*



nation. According to New York Times, Jindal ended his candidacy by saying, “This is not my time, so I am suspending my campaign for president.” Since October, republicans Rick

Perry, John Bolton, and Scott Walker have also ended their campaigns. Despite this mass exodus of GOP candidates, the Atlantic says that as of November, there are still fourteen candidates running for the GOP nomination. The democratic nomination has been much less contested; fairly early on three of the six major candidates dropped their candidacies: Lincoln Chafee, Lawrence Lessig, and Jim Webb. With Lessig’s drop on November 2nd, there are three democratic hopefuls still campaigning for their possible presidency: Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O’Malley. Many democrats had hoped the current vice president Joe Biden would announce his candidacy late in the game, but he ruled himself out of the running on October 21st, leaving Hillary

Clinton as the leading candidate of the democratic party. According to RealClearPolitics, a recent ABC poll showed Clinton as nearly double the support of the other two candidates combined. The same poll showed Donald Trump, republican hopeful, as the ongoing frontrunner of the GOP. Despite an early tight race in the GOP, it seems that few candidates have a chance to pass Trump in the current polls. Ben Carson and Marco Rubio seem to be the only candidates who have a chance at catching up to Trump in the primaries. As we approach the final counts of the primaries, it is likely that the results will have changed from the polls we see now. But, as of the most recent polls, it seems that we may be facing a Trump vs. Clinton presidential race.★

Sports: Scores and Highlights

**Men’s Basketball, 11/24/15**  
Houghton v. Villamaria College  
W, 94-70 Houghton Shooting %: 49.4%  
Hilbert Shooting %: 32.8%

**Women’s Basketball, 12/1/15**  
Houghton v. Buffalo State College  
L, 77-92 Houghton Shooting %: 43.9%  
Hilbert Shooting %: 47.1%

**November Empire 8 Rookies of the Week (Women’s Basketball):**  
Leslie Moose ‘19 and Madison Detwiler ‘19

**Women’s Soccer (Results as of Tuesday Night):**  
W, 4-0 Houghton v. Columbia International University  
W, 5-0 Houghton v. Warner University



WRIT from page 1

them to connect more strongly with Houghton College in general, as well as with our residential students,” said Dashnau.

She consulted with Matejova, a former student of hers, in mid-August about the idea, and Matejova responded enthusiastically. They tried to mostly pair male students with male students and female students with female students. Several of the Non-Fiction students were assigned two pen pals, as there are twelve students in Dashnau’s class, while there are twenty-two in Matejova’s. The letters would be posted to Moodle on a regular basis, and the students could write back and forth.

Over the course of the next few months, they gave their students writing prompts for each letter that included topics such as a favorite memory, a historical event or country of interest, and a discussion of a character in a work of literature. According to students in Dashnau’s class, these assigned topics often branch out into other areas as they discover things they have in common

despite their differences.

On November 18th, Dashnau and students Carina Martin ‘18, Bonnie Huegel ‘19, Jordan Trautwein ‘19, Alyssa Rogan ‘18, and Andrew Meyers ‘18 all traveled to Buffalo and sat in on an HB Writing 101 class. In the classroom, each Non-Fiction student was assigned to a group of five or six HB students, and instructed to interview one another with questions they had prepared beforehand. Rogan’s group was mostly interested in what her life was like on Houghton’s main campus, while she asked them about their lives in the United States compared to their lives in their home countries. Huegel and her group talked about how they are different and similar, their home lives, their friends and their families.

“Their life experiences are so different from my own, yet really, we are the same,” said Huegel. “It was exciting and eye opening to talk to them and get to know them.”

After writing to one or two of the HB students throughout the semester, it was especially exciting for the Non-Fiction students to finally meet their pen pals. According to Martin, the experience was somewhat strange, but still enjoyable.

“When you’re communicat-

ing virtually with someone for a long period, you sometimes formulate an idea of them in your mind that turns out to be very different from the way they really are,” said Martin. “In general, I found that my pen pals’ letters had clearly reflected their interests and personalities, enough that I felt upon meeting them as if we already knew each other. It’s amazing how much of someone’s personality and individuality can be conveyed through a thoughtfully written letter.”

Overall, the pen pal program has proved a success. Not only do students in both classes have the opportunity to practice their writing skills on a technical level, but, according to Rogan, the writing project has enhanced her abilities to relate to and understand people of different cultures through her writing.

“It isn’t often that I connect with people from cultures so vastly different from my own,” said Rogan. “The whole experience has given me a deeper appreciation for diversity.”

Dashnau echoed Rogan’s words, saying that the experience was designed to accomplish this.

“My students have been challenged to think about crafting their writing for students with a different level of experi-



COURTESY OF LAURIE DASHNAU

Literary Non-Fiction students travel to Buffalo to meet their pen pals.

ence with the English language as well as cultural knowledge,” she said. “Mother Teresa is quoted as saying, ‘I am a small

pencil in God’s hands.’ I think many students feel the same way in regards to their pen pal experience.”★

# Film Review: *The Good Dinosaur*

JACKSON WHEELER

*The Good Dinosaur* is built around a “what if?” premise that the film’s trailers have likely already explained to you: what if the meteor responsible for wiping out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago had just zoomed past earth, uninterrupted? Pixar takes this scenario and imagines dinosaurs that have evolved to become an advanced species, while humans still walk around on all fours in a pre-Neanderthal kind of way.

The central story being told here, revolves around Arlo, a young dinosaur who becomes separated from his family after being provoked by a human child. The two are forced to overcome their initially perceived differences and gaps in overall mental capacity; having to rely on each other in order for Arlo to conquer his fears of the unknown so that he can find his way home.

The first thing one is bound to notice is how incredible *The Good Dinosaur* looks. From the hypnotic flowing water, to the shining brilliance of snowy mountaintops, to the painstaking detail of the lush forests, it is unbelievable how photorealistic the geography is. However, while the quality of



COURTESY OF IMDB

Pixar’s *The Good Dinosaur* centers around a human boy and his friend dinosaur named Arlo.

the animation is sublime, the overall presentation suffers a bit due to the out-of-place cartoonishness of the dinosaurs themselves—they stick out like a sore thumb against such authentic landscapes. Cartoonish though they may appear, the film still manages to do some incredible things animating the various species of dinosaurs; Arlo, especially, the bruising and physical wear and tear his adventure has on his body is shown with great yet subtle detail.

As great as Arlo looks, overly cartoonish or not, he is, unfortunately, insufferable as a main character. He is fright-

ened of anything and everything, and it ends up becoming the only memorable thing about him. Nearly every step forward in the story is a result of one of Arlo’s irrational fear-induced episodes and it gets old quickly. He becomes little more than a plot-device to keep things moving. In a film dealing implicitly with the effects of evolution, it becomes clear that Arlo might have been better off experiencing the effects of natural selection.

Arlo’s journey toward self-confidence does eventually begin, kicking off with the friendship he comes to

establish with Spot, the film’s token boisterous, silly, ape-like, human character. Spot is a lot of fun to have onscreen, although he falls victim to the recent animation cliché of being more of a dog in nature, than an actual portrayal of a prehistoric person. He pants with his tongue out, sniffs the ground, howls at the moon, etc. It’s cute, but he essentially has more in common with the moose from *Frozen* or the horse from *Tangled* than something resembling a person.

Overall, there is a striking lack of originality or creativity in *The Good Dinosaur*, es-

pecially given its distinction as a Pixar movie. It struggles as a film to establish any real narrative identity that goes beyond material that doesn’t feel like it is being lifted directly from films like *The Lion King*, *Ice Age*, or *Finding Nemo*.

Beyond the lack of original ideas, as the film progresses it becomes less and less apparent why this story requires the presence of dinosaurs at all. There is hardly anything novel about the way the movie uses them. There are no jokes about the meteor, no jabs at evolution, no conjecture as to what will become of these silly humans, nothing like that. It is a major missed opportunity for the film to feature anything memorable or particularly noteworthy to supplement a storyline that Pixar is essentially knocking off from previous projects.

The film itself is a marvel of technical achievement and looks better than anything Pixar has ever made, making it all the more disappointing that there is very little to sustain the viewer once the novelty of the aesthetics begins to wear off. In the hands of the Pixar of old, *The Good Dinosaur* might have been something special, but when compared with the impact left by Woody and Buzz, and other famous duo’s, much like the meteor that misses the earth, Arlo and Spot fail to hit their mark.★



# Houghton Community Sends Representatives to Climate Conference

RACHEL BELLEROSE

From November 30th to December 11th, the city of Paris will host the Conference of Parties (COP21) which is a meeting of representatives from over 190 countries around the world. The conference was called in the hopes of forming a legally binding and universally recognized agreement on climate action. This week, three members of the Houghton community will fly to Paris in order to show their solidarity with the movement: Sustainability Coordinator Brian Webb and his wife Becky, along with senior International Development major Lauren Bechtel. Becky Webb was unavailable for interview, but both Brian and Lauren expressed high hopes for the outcome of COP21 and stressed its international importance.

This is the twenty-first time that the Conference of Parties will meet, but according to Webb, the effect of previous meetings has been minimal. This year, however, a different approach will be taken. Rather than a treaty on climate action being drawn up and ready to sign before the conference meets, the participating countries have



The city of Paris will host representatives from over 190 countries around the world at the Conference of Parties. Sustainability Coordinator Brian Webb and his wife Becky, along with senior Lauren Bechtel.

been asked to bring their own solutions and goals toward slowing down climate change. Because of this new approach, Webb said that he believes that COP21 is “the single most important political event of the decade,” and that the outcome “will decide the trajectory of how the world decides to take a stand on climate change.”

When asked what his goals for conference were, Brian answered, “there are two primary goals. Most importantly, we’re hoping to use this as an opportunity to bring a witness to the church about how climate change is related to our faith and how responding is an issue of justice. The secondary

piece is that we want to be a witness to the world of God’s love by simply being there, and by being there as Evangelical Christians.”

Although Webb and Bechtel both agreed that the primary reason they are attending COP21 is to be witness to the fact that they care about climate action, Bechtel also views the conference as a means of empowering voiceless people groups. She stated that the people who are most affected by climate change are often those who are least able to speak out against it, but that “the global community thinks of COP21 as the first time that we can really band together to

do something, to make a positive difference.”

To Bechtel, the issue of climate change has moved from a distant future to an immediate present. She said, “One of the arguments that has been made for a long time has been ‘preserve the environment for those that come after you,’ but what we’re seeing now is that we’re looking out for the environment because climate change is going to affect our lives.”

When asked what she thought of the argument that environmental regulations on fossil fuels should not apply to developing countries because it will hinder their develop-

ment, Bechtel compared that thought process to feeding fast food to a young child. She said, “We know that it’s not good for the child, but people will argue that if there’s nothing else to feed them, then you have to feed them something. And in some ways, that’s true. But I don’t believe that is our choice here... if we think of countries’ development as either fossil fuels or nothing at all, we’re faced with an unsolvable problem. Using fossil fuels will have negative effects on them in the long run, so we have to think creatively about how to harvest energy in ways that do not prevent that country’s development.”

For students who are interested in the issue of climate change and would like to show their support of COP21, two events will be held by Eco Reps on December 8 and 9. The first is a day of silence which will represent solidarity with people groups who are unable to speak out against the deterioration of their land by climate change. The second is a 24 hour prayer service for climate action, the success of the conference, and for Brian, Becky, and Lauren. Students interested in either event should contact Eco Reps Intern Daniel Bellerose for more information.★

Photo  
of the  
Week

WINNER //  
Thomas Eckert  
'16

COURTESY OF THOMAS ECKERT



# Let’s Put the Phones Away, Shall We?



ANTHONY BURDO

REBEKAH WALLACE

I’m sitting in chapel and during the middle of the message I happen to look to my right. Five people sit all in a row, and each one of them is using their phone. At least two students in my own row have them out, as well. Cell phone use during chapel has become increasingly rampant, and to be honest, this is frustrating. Honestly, I have had my phone out in chapel before. It’s always brief-just to check the time or maybe reply to a quick text message. I know others do

similar things, such as adding a reminder in their phone so that they don’t forget something they need to do later in the day. It is not this kind of sporadic screen-checking that bothers me; what bothers me is when an individual continuously scrolls down his/her bright screen for chapel’s entirety. Frankly, it is disrespectful to the speaker, and quite often distracting to those around you. There is some murky area here because chapel attendance is required of us as students. Maybe you have too much homework to do and you are using your mobile device to read for class. It is understandable that this will happen once in awhile (I’ve done it, too!). Furthermore, I understand that sometimes the topic spoken about in chapel is of little interest to someone, who may be there because they need to get their chapel credits in. Personally, I think not being

“Not being interested in what someone has to say is a poor excuse for refusing or being unwilling to pay attention.”

“Cell phone use during chapel has become increasingly rampant, and to be honest, this is frustrating.”

interested in what someone has to say is a poor excuse for refusing or being unwilling to pay attention. We represent our school to these speakers who take time out of their lives and sometimes travel a long way to come and speak to us. What do we want these speakers to remember about Houghton students? That they couldn’t spend forty-five minutes off of their phones? Also, consider that it is not just outside guests coming to speak that are affected by

students using cell phones, but fellow students are affected as well. When asked about her experience giving a faith journey, Joanna Friesen ‘15 said she “was not there to glory in people’s attention,” but she did notice a significant portion of her audience using cell phones. “There’s a group mentality of I can do this because everyone’s doing this,” she noted, “but when everyone thinks that way, half the chapel’s on their phone...” In continuation, I am not claiming this to be an entirely accurate representation or scientific survey, but last week I took an informal poll of ten random students, asking if they’ve been seeing a lot of cell phone use around them in chapel and whether it bothers them. While every single one of them admitted that it’s something they notice, only four of them said they find it distracting. Still, I’d like to speak for even those four

students out of ten – we’re not all good at multitasking, and we very much want to pay attention to the speakers, but it’s difficult to do so when someone in front of us is playing a game on his or her cell phone. While considering this topic, I couldn’t help but wonder why so many students use their phones during chapel, so as I asked around. In reality it is not always – and perhaps even rarely – out of aloofness or disrespect. When asked about why she uses her phone in chapel, Kayleen Norcutt ‘16 said, “Honestly, I would attribute it more to my addiction to my phone than a problem with chapel.” She told me she likes using that time while she’s sitting down to scroll through her phone and unwind from the busy day. In fact, that it’s difficult for her not to do that. In conclusion, I’m not advocating a requirement that during chapel everyone sits with their hands folded and eyes never diverting from the pulpit. I am simply asking that we think about how this looks from an outside perspective and attempt to weigh our decisions about phone use accordingly. ★ *Rebekah is a senior writing and Spanish double major.*

# Being Queer at Houghton Adam Reinhardt ‘11

A lot of people discover their sexuality during their college years. For a young LGBT person, Houghton College is not exactly the most hospitable place to discover that you are anything but a cisgender heterosexual. I, however, was well aware of my homosexuality long before I arrived at Houghton. Despite this, I was also a conservative evangelical: creationist, pro-life and, yes, anti-gay. I was following God’s direction to become an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church. To say I was experiencing cognitive dissonance would be putting it lightly. Even prior to my Houghton days I was well-steeped in the evangelical world, a world which proved to be a toxic environment for my soul. Although I deeply believed in Jesus, or at least I deeply desired to believe in him, my growing understanding of my own sexuality created a guilt-sickness which poisoned my faith. I would always wonder: “am I really saved? Do I believe hard enough to earn God’s forgiveness? Will I go to heaven even though I feel this way about that boy from school?” These were questions I began pondering as early as 13 or 14, and the apparent silence I received in reply only caused anxiety and angst. It was the academic study of theology and the Bible under the shepherding care of my professors that freed my spirit from despair

and eventually allowed me to find a faith which my whole self could participate in. Despite the hostile environment codified right into the college’s covenant, the education I received gave me the intellectual tools to see that faith is a wider and deeper thing than fundamentalist dogma. I do not regret my decision to attend Houghton College. It was at Houghton where I first began to come out of the closet to my closest friends. I found much joy and freedom and courage with those peers who refused to judge me or stop loving me even if some of them “didn’t agree” with my sexuality. I was inspired to begin speaking out on behalf of LGBT Christians, even though I did not tell most people that I was one of them. However, much of the student body, administration, and several professors were openly hostile toward LGBT students and anyone who might support them. And the exercising of my newfound freedom and courage would not come without cost. During my sophomore year I was a resident assistant at Rothenbullen

Hall. I took my job very seriously and formed a close bond with most of my residents. Toward the end of the spring semester I was summoned to the Student Life office. I was being accused of a long list of transgressions against the covenant and had to face a hearing. Among the accusations were sexual harassment and homosexual behavior. I was devastated. I had never had any sexual contact with any student at Houghton. I had certainly never sexually harassed anyone. I learned that a fellow LGBT student in whom I occasionally confided in had leveled these accusations against me. He had been the first person I came out to, and though we didn’t speak frequently, when we did talk it was typically about our same-sex experiences and the hardships of being queer at Houghton. He was far more “experienced” than I was, so it was rather natural for me to tell him when I had my first sexual experience with another man, far away from Houghton College. I had no idea that confiding in him would lead to one of the worst experiences of

my life. A few months before the accusations were brought up, this student had received campus wide attention with his announcement in chapel that God had delivered him from his homosexual desires, and the College went on to provide him multiple venues for telling his story. He had previously self-identified as bisexual. From his pulpit he claimed that homosexuals don’t really exist, that they were just confused straight people. Though I obviously disagreed with him, I tried to be respectful toward him and encourage him to take the path he believed was right for him. Why he would fabricate accusations of sexual harassment against me, or why he would divulge my private information told to him in confidence, I will never know. But it had serious repercussions. The office of Student Life found me guilty on all charges. They told me that telling this student information about my sex life constituted a form of sexual harassment for the information was not invited,

despite the fact that there was precedence in our friendship to talk about our experiences. My Resident Director, a man I considered a friend and who I trusted, offered me no defense. I was fired from my job as RA and forced to move out of my living space just three weeks before the end of the year. I was humiliated. Despite all the support I received from my friends, I was a deeply jaded and angry person after that year. I began to drink alcohol in excess, partly as an act of rebellion and partly as a way to numb the pain I was feeling. Now, years down the road, those wounds have healed, but there are still scars. I am still a Christian. I am still pursuing ordination, now with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I have found a faith tradition where I feel welcome. In May 2016 I will have my Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. I survived Houghton College, and I want to tell LGBT students attending there now to cherish the good friends and cut out, as much as possible, voices of hate and condemnation; make the best of your relationships with the beautiful minds of faculty there, and do not fear the angry old guard who use their pulpits to oppress you. Their day is ending, and a bright new day is coming. God has called you his own, and no one can take you out of his hands. ★

“Cherish the good friends and cut out, as much as possible, voices of hate and condemnation; make the best of your relationships with the beautiful minds of faculty there, and do not fear the angry old guard who use their pulpits to oppress you.”



# Social Justice is More than a Hashtag



ANTHONY BURDO

MARINA CULL

Like many of you, I often find myself scrolling through social media when I need a break from the onslaught of papers and exams that make up the life of a student. Sure, there are plenty of Instagram photos and BuzzFeed articles and other things to help me procrastinate, but more and more, it's posts related to social justice that are overwhelming my newsfeed. I guess this should come as no surprise, given that our generation, the Millennials, are known for our idealistic belief that we can change the world. Rather than accepting the status quo, we challenge it and search instead for

pragmatic solutions to global issues. It is for this very reason that so many of us have a couple of pairs of Toms, travel internationally on mission or service trips, and aspire to work for socially responsible companies. In essence, social justice has become trendy among our generation, and that fact is perhaps most evident on social media: we tweet, share, and hashtag just about anything related to the quality of people's lives.

Of course, there are certain benefits associated with this. In particular, we praise the awareness being brought to these issues and the public conversation surrounding them. However, I'm concerned that in many cases, such benefits are not actually being reaped because we have a distorted understanding of awareness. The infinitely complex historical, political, and social contexts of global issues like poverty, war, and racism cannot be adequately conveyed in 140 characters or even a single blog. When we rely solely on short, fragmented posts as our means of engagement with issues,

“We must remember that it is another injustice and indignity if we simply reduce their pain to a catchy hashtag or a profile filter.”

it is not really awareness that we are breeding: rather, a dangerous false sense of understanding causes us to think that we are qualified—or worse, entitled—to have meaningful opinions in regards to addressing these issues. For example, most of us can probably remember when the Kony 2012 video swept the Internet several years ago. While we were quick, myself included, to rightfully condemn the Ugandan warlord and his ruthless use of child soldiers, how many of us could really explain what the Lord's Resistance Army was, how it had come to be, and how it was surviving? How many of us could even identify Uganda on a map? How many of us

realize today that three years later, Joseph Kony has yet to be captured? That 30 minute viral documentary, though, was sufficient for many of our purposes. We were moved emotionally, informed of the most basic information concerning the subject, and able to share it on Facebook. Once the craze surrounding that issue started to die down, though, so did our passion for it. On to the next trendy issue. As someone who is studying International Development and Communication with the hope of someday using these skills and social media platforms to get people passionate about global issues, I really do understand that awareness is critical to

any social movement. For this reason, I'm not trying to dissuade you from posting about these issues on social media. What I am trying to dissuade you from is limiting your engagement with these issues to only that. If you really want to change the world (or even just your community), start by striving to truly become aware of the issues. Educate yourself by doing sound research, meeting the people behind social justice issues and listening to them. After all, these are their stories and we must remember that it is another injustice and indignity if we simply reduce their pain to a catchy hashtag or a profile filter that, if we're honest, we may be using to make ourselves feel like we've made a difference today. Ultimately though, the purpose of real awareness is to motivate people to action. Knowing a great deal of statistics and historical facts is of little value if it does not compel us to advocate for, to serve, and to love those whom are affected by these issues. We can do this in a number of ways, but however you choose, do it with a pure heart. ★

Marina is junior international development and communication double major.

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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.



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# Artist of the Week

## Kimberly Logee

// junior art and communication major with a minor in writing



ANTHONY BURDO



### Titles & Media

*clockwise descending*

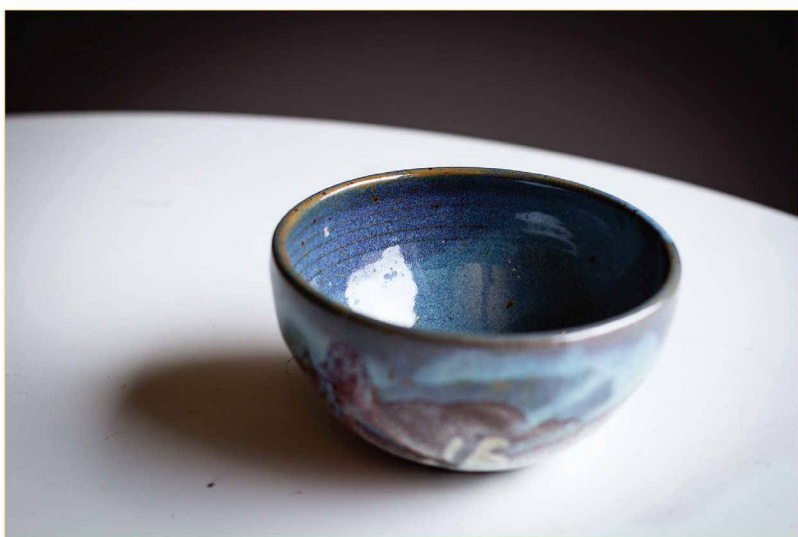
Untitled, *digital photography*

Gone, *digital photography*

Remember, *mixed media*

Blue, *digital photography*

Untitled, *ceramics*



“And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it.”

– Roald Dahl

