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Harvestival Returns

JAX JOHNSON '23

Hosted by the Center for Sustainability, Houghton University's annual Harvestival returns today, from 3-5 p.m. on the quad, bringing craft vendors, live music, pumpkin carving, and more.

"The main goal of the Harvestival is to connect students and our community to local vendors," says Director of the Center for Sustainability Brian Webb. "It's also a great opportunity for students to learn about the Center for Sustainability. We offer free cider donuts to anyone who makes a sustainability pledge (any commitment to put creation care into practice in their daily lives). Finally, this is the most beautiful time of year at



Houghton students and members gather for the 2021 Harvestival.

COURTESY OF RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT

Houghton, so we might as well get outside and enjoy the beauty of God's paintbrush on the trees around us!"

Along with Webb, the event will be run by Anna Zimmerman, a senior, who is one of the Center for Sustainability interns. Houghton

MANRRS will also be partnering with the Center for Sustainability to run the pumpkin carving table.

The Harvestival vendors will consist of both Houghton students, the wider Houghton community, and members of nearby towns. Also in at-

tendance, local businesses such as Jockey Street Coffee and Coppa Co will be selling coffee and art.

Senior Emma Wetherell, who will be selling her art at the Harvestival, says, "I have always loved art and making homemade gifts, but

recently I have started making jewelry. I have found a real love for it and wanted to show others what I have created. I hope that it can inspire others to turn their hobbies into something they can share with the community. This is the first time I will be selling something I have created and I am very excited for what's to come."

Sophomore Aubrey Armes says, "I am so excited to be selling at this year's harvestival! The harvestival is such a great opportunity for the community to gather and support one another, to appreciate the work of artists within the community, and to celebrate fall! I hope that what I'm selling will bring joy to the people that decide to

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CREATION STORIES: PEOPLE AND THEIR ORIGIN TALES

TIMOTHY RASMUSSEN JR. '22

Indigenous Creation Tales is a new campus activity this fall semester that is hosted by the Men's Area Coordinator for Rothenbuhler and Lambein Hall, Shua Wilmot.

Regarding the event, Wilmot told the STAR that members meet once a week, and they listen to a creation tale about various religious groups. After discussing the cultures together, he asks the other members what



Senior Gabe Huizenga passes out cookies baked by 2022 graduate Julia Wilmot.

COURTESY OF ELIZA DAIGLE

stood out to them.

Some of the questions that are often asked are, "What does the story suggest about their creator?" Another is, "What might you think about these values?"

Wilmot describes the environment of the

event as "a safe space for students to develop critical thinking", and it challenges the students to dig deep into what the stories are all about. They also reflect on the Genesis story, share knowledge, and he claims that "there is truth in every story".

Senior Gabriel Huizenga told the STAR that the event is more of a come and go, and you do not have to commit to going every week it is held.

Andre Spronk, a sophomore, said the event takes place in Echo Base on the first

floor of Rothenbuhler, and that they meet every Monday night at 7:30.

When asked what he liked most about the event, Huizenga said that everyone goes to it not knowing what to expect from the stories. Additionally, he said it allows them "to leave our own expectations and our own assumptions, and cultural ideas behind." To him, "the point of it is to listen to them and talk about them as if we don't have preconceptions of our own of like how the world was made." He described listening to these stories as "seeing it [the world] through a new lens."★

FEATURE: Hispanic Heritage Club

Victoria Hock ('23)

One of the many clubs that Houghton offers is the Hispanic Heritage Club. The STAR recently sat down with President, sophomore Kelsey Villatoro, and Vice President, freshman Alayna Byrum to discuss the club, their involvement, upcoming events, and how other students can join.

Both Villatoro and Byrum expressed high hopes for the club this year. Specifically, Villatoro noted that she hopes to have events (like history lessons), as well as provide opportunities for minorities to get

involved. Byrum added that she hopes to deepen her understanding of her culture, as well as others and that the club can be a safe space.

Villatoro and Byrum also noted that the club is planning several possible events in the future. In addition to a possible collaboration with Houghton's Black Heritage Club, Villatoro explained that they are also thinking of holding a Thanksgiving event featuring childhood dishes, as well as a Valentine's Day event. Byrum also discussed that they hope to hold a Christmas event, because "Christmas is a very big thing in all the Hispanic

cultures, so we want to have dishes and music and dancing."

Byrum encourages anyone who is interested in getting involved with the Hispanic Heritage Club to stop by the Mosaic Center, noting that even if they're not there, someone can put them in contact with the club. Villatoro further adds that the club is "open to anyone"—all students are welcome to get involved. ★

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purchase it from me, or to who they decide to give it to. I'm thrilled to be involved!"

Another vendor, senior Abby Weeks, shares her excitement by saying, "I am a senior biochemistry major with an art minor and this is my first year as a vendor for Harvestival. This year I will be selling my ceramic mugs, cups, and bowls, as well as some jewelry. I am so excited for Harvestival, and I can't wait to see what my peers have made for the event!"

Aubree Niles, a junior and returning vendor says, "This will be my second year setting up for Harvestival, and I am so excited! As an art major, it's such a great opportunity to showcase my work and also build experience. I will have original paintings, prints, stickers, and jewelry for sale. Connecting with community members, faculty and staff, and other students is another reason why I love Harvestival. I hope to see you there, you won't want to miss it!"

The music performers of this year's Harvestival expressed excitement for the event, with many of them having performed at Harvestivals in years past.

Senior Linette Taylor says, "In general, I take any opportunity that lets me make some music outside. I love playing at Harvestival because I'm surrounded by other creatives and I get the chance to enjoy a lot of new art and music."

Another performer, junior Josey Ikker, shares joy for Harvestival by saying, "Sharing different covers of my favorite music, especially when they're more relatable songs allows me to share stories from experience with others. Harvestival is an incredible stress-free time to spend with friends as well as with the community as a whole."

The Harvestival is an opportunity to experience the fall season here at Houghton, while also taking a minute to explore sustainability. It is also a chance to support local creatives and their work. If you're interested, stop by the quad this afternoon. ★



Harvestival arts and crafts activities, including warm cider.

COURTESY OF RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT

(Un)willing to Listen



Anna Zimmerman '23

The word “perfect” can mean a lot of different things to a lot of different people. A perfect Houghton could involve Perry’s ice cream and the soft serve machine returning to the dining hall (a noble wish). It could mean that classes are shorter or that Houghton would magically have a town around it (one with a movie theater, mall, and more food options). Both are understandable and have my full support. On a deeper note, it could mean that it would be a comfortable and safe place for people to express the things that they’re feeling and thinking.

While Houghton may say that conversations about tough issues are encouraged, I don’t think it’s fair or correct to say that everyone is welcome to ‘come as they are.’ I know of too many people who have come as they are and have been dismissed, harassed, or legitimately threat-

ened because they voiced their opinions with which other people didn’t agree. If someone is willing to be open about something that is deeply personal to them, respect should be given. It can be so difficult to say something that you know will not entirely be understood by the people you’re talking to. If you’re being a listener and someone is telling you something personal, it’s so important to understand and value the position that they’re allowing you to be in. I’m absolutely not saying that you need to change your mind to agree with what someone’s telling you. What I am saying is this: you need to respect and care for your fellow human beings and make it known that you value and want a relationship with them, no matter the differences between you.

In May of 2021, I took a course called Bridging the Gap. This course focused on ‘bridging gaps’ between peo-

“You need to respect and care for your fellow human beings and make it known that you value and want a relationship with them, no matter the differences between you.”

dents who were born here. Everyone came to the class with different experiences and backgrounds, which is what I believe made the program so beautiful and impactful. Throughout the May term, we spent time learning how to talk to others about things that were important to us. Equally as important, we learned how to listen to others. In listening to others, we show respect and care. On the other hand, dismissing what someone says

or not their views change or stay completely the same.

I believe that there is something so dangerous about purposefully surrounding yourself only with people who have the exact same beliefs and ideas as you. I did this for too long and would base my opinions of others solely on what I knew about our differences. While I wouldn’t completely cut off relationships with people who I knew had different beliefs than I did, I would hold back a bit and found myself developing expectations as to what I thought each person would (or wouldn’t) contribute to my personal growth. I’ve experienced the most growth when I’ve been willing to be with people who are different from me. When I surrounded myself in an echo chamber of sameness, I missed out on relationships with people who could’ve added so much wisdom and goodness to my life.

Over this past summer, I spent five weeks studying at Au Sable Environmental Institute in Michigan. Going into the program, I had thick walls up and thought that I was 100% correct in the way that I saw the world. I thought I knew what was right and wrong and that anybody who didn’t see things the same way was out of touch. Over that month of living in close proximity with one another (think: summer camp cabins with bunk beds and everyone eating dinner together at the same time every night), something in me changed. As more deep conversations were had in class, I became more willing to think about multiple points of view. After a week-

end of camping, a friend and I ended up being together for the three-hour drive back to campus. This was a three-hour drive with someone who I thought I was incompatible with and would never understand. Those three hours were filled with so many important conversations. I opened up about some things I hadn’t even fully realized I was wrestling with. The response I was met with was both gentle and confident and truly made me examine myself and think deeply about things I hadn’t been willing to consider mere weeks ago.

My time at school in Michigan encouraged even the tough conversations with one another. It truly felt like we could bring all of ourselves to the table. Coming back to Houghton made me realize that it doesn’t feel like the same is possible here.

If we’re all living together here, why can’t we have as many open and honest conversations? Why can’t we listen to each other? Why do we have to jump to conclusions about people, and why do these conclusions (which are often wrong) impact how we interact with each other? How do we forget the command to love and care for one another as we do for ourselves? How do we let the gaps get so wide that they seem too inconvenient to try to cross? Instead of focusing on what divides us, we should recognize what we have in common and let even our differences bring us closer together.

A lot of the time, a “perfect” Houghton feels out of reach to me. But, I’m hopeful that if we all start to make continued efforts to not only speak about the uncomfortable things, but to listen to the uncomfortable things, we will be closer to the “perfect” Houghton than we’ve ever been.★

Anna is a senior at Houghton majoring in Environmental Science.

Have an opinion
you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be less than 600 words

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

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Creative and Comfortable: Deitrick's Approach to Fashion

MEGAN BROWN '22

While the first day of a new school year may mark a time for new classes and new friends, for senior theology and communications major Grace Deitrick, it marks a chance to express her truest self through her first-day-of-school outfit.

"Even from preschool," she said. "I loved picking out my first-day-of-school outfit."

As with many kids, Deitrick's mom chose and purchased most of her clothes, and as she grew up, Deitrick began to discover what her own style was. At the end of high school, she found what went on to make the biggest impact on what she wears today: a local vintage store.

"I started shopping there more regularly," she said. "And I was like, wow, look at how creative these [pieces] are. There's so much history in each piece of clothing. And that really inspired me to develop my style more in college."

While Deitrick spoke, she wore a creamy short-sleeve button-down with a muted floral pattern, jeans, and black slip-on shoes. These types of clothes are representative of what she currently loves to wear, a style which she describes as "grandma living on

the French Riviera."

But what makes Deitrick's choices unique is how she mixes the posh clothing choices of an older woman with a college-aged woman's practicality. This grandma hasn't only lived on the iconic Mediterranean coastline.

"But also she lived on a farm before she moved to the French Riviera," Deitrick said, continuing her analogy. "So she's got a little bit of that salt-of-the-earth in her."

This parallels Deitrick's own life as she grew up in rural eastern Pennsylvania but traveled to London her freshman year for Houghton University's London Honors program.

"Living in London for a little while almost gave me permission to branch out because I saw the full extent of the creativity," she said. "Since I've been in college, I've spent more time in different cities. And I always get really excited to go to a city because I can wear whatever I want, and it won't be the weirdest thing there."

Deitrick prioritizes unique pieces that stand out, but she also prioritizes comfort. This has been an essential aspect of her clothing choices since she was young because she has al-

ways been an active person.

"I've always been just throwing myself wholeheartedly into what I do," she said. "And so that usually results in some kind of stain or rip."

However, for women, fashion has not always been about practicality. In a recent book study, Deitrick explained how a section discussed how women's clothing has historically been decorative whereas men's was functional. She noticed this subconsciously but facing it plainly written in a book put words to cues she didn't know she had been observing.

"I don't think how you do fashion is limited by your gender," she said. "It shouldn't be weird for a guy to wear a bracelet or a necklace, and it shouldn't be weird for a girl to wear what makes her comfortable."

The clothing that makes Deitrick comfortable is "ratty old button-downs," blazers, dresses, and statement earrings. While some of these might seem in contrast with one another on paper, it all makes sense to Deitrick and helps her express what is to her the ultimate aspect of fashion: creativity.

"It's really exciting to have



Grace Deitrick

Photo by Rylee Archambault

an area of my life where I can just release all the creative energy that I want to, and it doesn't take that much time out of my day," she said.

College mars our schedules with homework, extracurriculars, and social events, and makes it difficult to find areas of pure joy. That's why, for Deitrick, the task of getting dressed in the morning feels so special.

"This is the theology major in me coming out, I think it's really cool that God puts these little glimpses of beauty that we can find every single day," she said. "And we can just find joy in the way that something looks."★



LEVEL: MEDIUM

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