

Artist Series Features Alumnae in Mother-Daughter Duo

ELISE KOELBL
Regular Contributor
& MARITH ANDERSON

This past Monday Houghton's Artist Series featured a mother-daughter musical duo, Dr. Barbara Hull and Gretchen Hull Bjørnson. Both Houghton graduates, Hull played the trumpet and Bjørnson accompanied her on the piano. Several of the pieces they performed carried personal connections for the artists and their alma mater.

Their first piece was Edvard Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, a very popular style of suite which has been transposed for many different instruments. Hull stated that it was fitting that they would perform a piece by Grieg, a Norwegian composer, as her daughter Bjørnson married a Norwegian man and currently resides in Norway herself.

For the duo's second piece, the chapel lights were turned on so that audience members could read along to the Agincourt Carol, hymn #144 in the chapel hymnals. The piece was a variation of the tune, composed by Bjørnson for her mother as a gift a number of years ago. She had asked her mother what her favorite hymn was, and Hull's answer, ever since her freshman year at Houghton when she first heard the song, was the hymn "Oh Love, How Deep, How

Broad, How High."

Later in the concert, the duo moved up to the organ loft. Hull took a moment between pieces to tell a story of when she was diagnosed with heart failure around three years ago, and she was worried she would never be able to play trumpet again. She now has a pacemaker—a device invented by engineer Wilson Greatbatch, the namesake and founding donor of Houghton's school of music. During this trying time for Hull and the people in her life, her husband recruited family friend Carson Cooman to put music to one of their favorite poems, "The Mystic Trumpet," by Walt Whitman. Dressed in white and wearing a top hat, speaker Gerry Szymanski joined the mother and daughter on stage, portraying Whitman, as he read the poem alongside the music of the trumpet and the piano.

The concert was well-received by audience members. "What I really liked about it was her stories and the personalization of things, but I especially liked the last one where they did the poem," said Lilly Milliman, a community member who frequently attends Artist Series with her husband. Emily Pierce ('22) also brought a per-

See **ARTIST** page 2



COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE FACEBOOK

Dr. Hull holds a doctorate from Eastman School of Music, and together with her daughter, Gretchen Hull Bjørnson ('11) performed a trumpet-piano duet this week.

College Choir Takes New England

ANNA WRAY
Regular Contributor

The College Choir will depart for their biennial tour on February 28th. This year, they will spend spring break traveling throughout New England. They will be stopping in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts. This includes a few days in Boston, and Rochester and Watertown, New York. The final concert of the tour will be on March 7th in Watertown.

When asked why the College Choir goes on tour, Amelia Makus '20, a graduate student pursuing an MM in Choral Conducting, discussed both promotional and ministerial reasons. One aspect of tour is getting the word out that Houghton has a vibrant music program with a variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees. As the College Choir visits churches and schools, they hope they are connecting with people who may want to come to Houghton in their future.

An additional purpose of the tour is sharing the gospel message with a wider audience and glorifying God. Makus shares,

See **CHOIR** page 2

ROTH ASKS LAMBEIN TO BE ITS VALENTINE



COURTESY OF KATIE DANG

Roth spreading love to their sister hall Lambein on Valentine's Day.

BURTON BREWSTER
Regular Contributor

On Friday the 14th, the brothers and sisters of the Lambein and Rothenbuhler Halls celebrated Valentine's Day in a new way.

Starting at around 7:00pm, the men of the Rothenbuhler dorm dressed up and visited Lambein carrying a load of over 130 carnations and personalized

cards for each of the women in Lambein. "It's Valentine boys!" exclaimed Matthew Utaro ('22). Upon entering Lambein, squads of about three to five men were sent out to the floors to knock on the door of each resident so that they could receive their card and flower.

Whenever a Lambein resident was unavailable, the men of Roth taped the flower and

card to the door. One squad in particular began the practice of shouting out commands to speed up the process: "Tape! Note! Flower!" they said whenever a resident didn't answer the door.

As Lambein fifth floor Resident Assistant Riley Gastin ('20) explained, "It was so

See **LAMBUHLER** page 2

Students Travel to Albany for TAP Advocacy



COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE FACEBOOK

From left to right: Haylee Conrad ('22), Michaela Graham ('22), Dustyn Helmer ('21), Jessica Mejia ('20), Corral Mrozik ('20), and Derek Schrank ('21) in front of the State Capitol.

JESSICA MEJIA
& DAVID BOWERS

Six students recently travelled to Albany to lobby for an expansion to the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which has not been updated since 2000.

The students - Haylee Con-

rad ('22), Michaela Graham ('22), Dustyn Helmer ('21), Jessica Mejia ('20), Corral Mrozik ('20), and Derek Schrank ('21) - lobbied with The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York (CICU). Among

See **TAP** page 2

World News: 2019-nCoV Affects Thousands in China

RILEY GASTIN

On Tuesday December 31st, 2019, the first case of 2019-nCoV (novel coronavirus) was recorded in China. As of February 19th, 2020, there have been a recorded 75,305 cases world-wide, fatalities are at an estimated 2,012, and there have been a recorded 15,126 recoveries. The United States has yet to see widespread cases; there are currently only 15 confirmed cases, no deaths, and three recoveries. The majority of the total cases are in China, with 74,188 confirmed cases, an estimated 2,006 deaths, and 14,926 recorded recoveries. The term “coronavirus” does not refer to a specific virus, but to a family of viruses. The virus which causes

the common cold is a coronavirus. According to the CDC, strains of coronavirus are responsible for outbreaks such as the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) pandemic of 2002-2003, and the MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) outbreak of 2015. The strain of coronavirus currently affecting our world is the newest known strain of coronavirus, 2019-nCoV. 2019-nCoV, like other coronaviruses, affects the respiratory tract. “It appears to be spread through droplet transmission, and as we’ve seen in China, the risk of rapid spread is possible, though we have not seen that occur here in the US yet. The illness caused by the virus appears to occur along a spectrum of severity ranging from

mild to severe disease (a lot like flu),” explained Director of Student Health Services and College Physician Dr. David Brubaker. There is not yet a vaccine or treatment drug specifically made for this strain of coronavirus. Dr. Brubaker explained, “While experts are learning a lot about this particular coronavirus quickly, there are still many factors that are not completely understood, especially related to its transmission, incubation period, and virulence. One of the key pieces to responding to outbreaks like these is the development of vaccines that can be used to immunize people against them. Part of the CDC’s (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) response to this coronavirus outbreak is

to work on developing a vaccine that could mitigate the spread.” Claire Cagwin (‘22), whose family lives in Taiwan, commented on the situation, “My heart goes out to the victims in China and everywhere else and to the people working hard to fight this virus.” She also went on to explain, “I’m not worried that spreading will be a huge issue. I firmly believe that China, Taiwan and all other affected countries will pull through stronger than they were before. People are coming together to overcome things like shut down schools, mask shortages and lack of answers.” When asked about the implications for global health, Professor Michael Ritter commented, “One of the

most challenging aspects of an outbreak like this is that there’s a lot less high-quality scientific information than we’d like. Policymakers, health care workers, and the public have a lot of questions, many of which are still difficult to answer.” Prof. Ritter went on to say, “This uncertainty can lead to lower public trust in the scientific process and authorities’ responses at a time when this trust is even more necessary for preventing disease.” For current updates on 2019-nCoV, you can visit the CDC’s website as well as the Worldometer website for a tally of cases, fatalities, and recoveries.★

ARTIST from page 1

sonal connection to the concert: “My dad is a trombonist, and it was nice to see him so moved by the music tonight. It was also a nice experience to listen in the chapel, because the space allows the sound to resonate so it can be expressed powerfully and felt alongside the power of God.” Hull is an accomplished performer beyond her Houghton audience. She studied at the Eastman School of Music, where she received a doctorate of musical arts in trumpet performance and literature. At Eastman, Hull went on to receive multiple rewards and achievements such as the Eastman Performers Certificate, and the Eastman’s Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Concerto Competition. She even went on to have solo performances during the Eastman Wind Ensemble under Donald Hunsberger. During the collaboration between the EWE and the Canadian Brass, Dr. Hull played as a principal trumpet for Eastman Wind Ensemble. Currently, Dr. Hull works at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas as an Assistant-Professor-in-Residence in studio trumpet. Dr. Hull also plays for the San Francisco Wind Ensemble as a co-principal trumpet, and at Ensemble Monterey as a principal trumpet. However, Dr. Hull is not unfamiliar with the Western New York area. Before living in Nevada, Dr. Hull lived in Rochester, New York. She taught brass and trumpet at Nazareth College after earning her Bachelor of Music degree at Houghton College. She has also performed in other orchestras

such as the Modesto Symphony, Fremont Symphony, Grass Valley Music Festival, the San Francisco Lyric Opera, and the SF Masterworks Chorale.★

CHOIR from page 1

“Personally, when I think about tour, that’s what I’m thinking about as one of the musicians. I’m thinking about ‘how are these songs affecting our audiences? Who is coming out to a concert that maybe is having a really rough time?’ and our music is combined with the gospel message, is doing something to uplift them and bring them out of that, help them laugh, help them smile for the first time in a while.” The College Choir will also be visiting some middle and high schools in order to sing with their choirs, with the intent to inspire students to continue pursuing music. Dr. Daniel Black, the director of the College Choir, adds that tour is also an opportunity to connect with alumni who have moved away and have fewer opportunities to visit campus. He thinks it is valuable for the students in the College Choir, as well, because, “being in an ensemble—that experience is not complete until you share it with an audience.” Tour enables students to share music with audiences who may not have been able to hear them otherwise. This year’s tour program is based on C.S. Lewis’s book, *The Four Loves*. The four types of love featured in the book are affection (family), friendship, eros (romantic), and charity (agape). The tour’s program

will feature pieces that represent each type of love. Potential audience members may be interested to know that the first three types will be represented entirely by secular pieces, including an Eric Whitacre arrangement of the text of *Goodnight Moon*, a lighthearted piece featuring a fictional language titled, “El Hambo,” and “Three Madrigals” based on Shakespearean texts. When asked about the process he went through to put together this program, Dr. Black explained that he is constantly thinking about ideas for concert programs. He believes that a well-programmed, cohesive concert can be “a really moving experience” for audience members. In addition to the tour, the College Choir will be performing a home concert on Friday March 13th, which will feature the same program as the tour. This concert will be at 7:30pm in Wesley Chapel and will give the local community an opportunity to see what the College Choir has done on tour.★

LAMBUHLER from page 1

sweet of the Roth guys to bring us all flowers and hand written notes. They were pretty awkward about it, but you could tell they had all put a lot of thought and effort into it which was what made it so sweet.” After delivering all the carnations and braving the notorious elevator known as Otis, the members of both dorms met up in the main lounge of Rothenbuhler to watch the movie, *The Princess Bride*, complemented by soda and popcorn.

According to Guthrie Collins, the Area Coordinator of the Rothenbuhler and Shenawana Halls, “I hope that this is something we will continue doing in the future! Valentine’s Day is very lonely for some people and that is a bummer. It’s really great that we have a sister building in Lambein, that we have the opportunity to be a blessing to!”★

TAP from page 1

their budget priorities for the 2020-2021 year are increasing the minimum TAP award from \$500 to \$1000, the maximum from \$5,165 to \$6000, and the income eligibility ceiling from \$80,000 to \$110,000. The CICU wants this expansion to replace expansions to Excelsior Scholarships, which provide free tuition to many students who attend state universities of New York. TAP awards, which help students attending both public and private colleges in the state, is very small in comparison to Excelsior awards. Since the Excelsior program only goes to students going to public colleges, private colleges are relatively disadvantaged. Helmer summarized, “Essentially the concern is that the state is taking away student choice by offering free tuition to state school students while offering little to no assistance for private school students.” After a five hour drive, the students quickly oriented themselves and dove into the day’s lobbying. They met with assemblymen Joseph Giglio and Mark Walczyk and senators George Borrello and Patrick Gallivan.

The students related to the officials the ways private schooling has positively affected their lives. They emphasized how having smaller classes allows students to build more intimate relationships with professors and facilitates better learning. They also testified to the ways private colleges often help students thrive who weren’t able to do so at public colleges prior to attending Houghton. Helmer reported that the meetings seemed successful, saying, “The assemblymen and senators were very open and concerned for private institutions.” The students who participated generally enjoyed the experience. Mrozik said, “It was a great opportunity that allowed me to speak with people who represent Allegany County ... I was able to gain more experience in advocacy but in a different area than usual. It was great to expand my advocacy horizons!” The students’ visit to the Capitol coincided with “lobbying Tuesday,” so they observed many other groups lobbying for various causes, including Medicaid and abortion rights. Mejia was interested in how the other groups lobbied for different causes. She reported noting that the Houghton students’ style of advocacy seemed “much more relaxed.” ★

Sports Highlight: Zedomi, Williams Break School Records

Selected members of the track team travelled to Boston University for the David Hemery Valentine Invitational. While there, Nathaniel Zedomi (‘21) broke the

all-time school record in the 400m with a time of 50.53, coming in three quarters of a second behind the previous record of 51.28, set by Stephen Scott in 2008.

Micah Williams (‘23) also beat the 2008 time later in the day, with a time of 51.18.

Sports

Cori Beck Leaps to Second Place for Women’s Basketball Career Assists

RODNEY SHEPHARD
Sports Writer

Two minutes and 27 seconds into the first quarter of the Houghton Women’s basketball contest against the Hartwick Hawks, Cori Beck (’20) drove down the middle of the lane and found Hannah Cybart (’21) spotted up for an open three point basket. Cybart’s three pointer connected and that assist was good enough to award Beck second place in Houghton’s record book for all-time career assists, putting her behind only Wendy Ivey (’01), and passing her current Head Coach Alicia Mucher (’03). When asked about the milestone Beck said “Being second all-time assists ranks pretty high. It’s pretty cool that I am the one that will be passing Coach Mucher because I have so much respect for her and look up to her as a mentor. It wouldn’t be as special if it was someone I didn’t know. I just think it’s a great accomplishment and I have seen the fruits of my labor.” Beck is currently averaging 4.5 assists on the year and dished out a career high of ten assists twice. The first on November 9th against Morrisville State, and the second on January 17th during a road contest against conference rival Elmira.

When an athlete closes in on a career milestone, it can be something that lingers in the back of their mind during competition until it is accomplished. When asked if she was aware of being only one assist shy of coach Mucher, Beck answered “Yes, I was aware that I was only one assist away from passing Coach Mucher for second in all-time assists. I know that Coach Mucher was a tough and driven player. I also think that she was very hard-working, she played multiple positions and had the confidence. I know she took a gap year because I think she was hurt but she was a scorer and believed in her teammates. I can tell that as a player she was passionate and intense because I see that through her coaching and I try and emulate that as a player when I step on the court.”

Beck’s unselfishness does not go unnoticed. Janessa Davis

(’21) who has been a teammate of Cori’s for the past three seasons commented on Beck by saying “Cori has awesome court vision. She can see a pass and thread the needle super well, and has used this strength of hers to better the team. Not only does Cori have great talent in seeing the floor, but she also has a knack for knowing where everyone is supposed to be, and when, during the plays that we run. I think this and a few other skills have worked in tandem to get her to where she is in terms of all time assists.”

When asked to describe her own game, Beck replied, “I like to penetrate and dish the ball. I wouldn’t say I am a natural scorer because I prefer assisting my teammates. This year I have filled the role as both a scorer and an assister. I don’t like to be viewed as a ball hog.” Stepping into more of a scoring role for the Lady Highlanders this year, Beck is averaging career highs in Points Per Game (PPG) with 8.8, and total points scored. She currently sits at 184 total points scored with four games still to play this season. She also had a career high 17 points on January 28th against Alfred University.

With her collegiate basketball career coming to an end soon, Cori would like to stay close to the game after graduation—this time assisting in a different way, as a high school assistant basketball coach. When asked why she chose to pursue a career in coaching, she said, “I think that being an assistant coach will one, allow me to still be involved in a game that I have loved since I was five years old, and secondly, it will allow me to influence high schoolers not only in basketball related things but also as a person. I think I will also be able to learn a lot about being a head coach and gain experience in how to control situations.”

Fans can catch Cori and the Lady Highlanders in action on February 22nd against Alfred University at the Nielsen Center at 4:00pm. It is also senior night for Seniors Cori Beck (’20), and Brooke Lewandowski (’20). ★

Ever Wonder...

...The Story Behind Houghton’s Boulder?

BURTON BREWSTER

Lost in the clouded annals of history is the story of the Houghton Boulder.

As people on campus will recall, The Boulder is the name of the currently defunct college yearbook. What many people do not know is that the name of The Boulder was inspired by a real & historical boulder located on campus.

For many new incoming students, the answer seems clear as to which boulder this is. The boulder by the Gillette Dorm of course! It’s the most iconic rock on campus. But this is not the case. The Gillette Boulder has only been on campus since the spring of 2008 and was donated by the outgoing class of that year. Furthermore, when the Gillette Boulder was initially installed on campus it was met with a wide amount of criticism.

Marc Smithers (’08), the Dean of Students, was a part of the class that donated the Gillette boulder. He explained, “The class of 2009, which my wife graduated in, had a strong push within their class to have their class gift be the removal of the rock as they saw it as an eyesore. But, hey, people thought the Eiffel Tower was an eyesore when it was first installed.”

Returning to the initial question, it turns out that there is another rock on campus which inspired the name for the yearbook. Located in front of Fancher Hall and emblazoned with a bronze plaque is the grave of Copperhead, “The last one of the Seneca tribe of Indians,” as the plaque reads. This is Copperhead’s story.

During the days of westward expansion, many of the original inhabitants of Allegany country were forced away from the Genesee Valley and forced onto

reservation. That is, all but Copperhead, who claimed that he was never paid for his land and thus refused to leave. Over the years, Copperhead became a local icon. He lived off of charity and would often share his lunch with the local children who visited him. In March of 1864 tragedy struck, as his cabin caught on fire and badly burned him, leading to his death.

Claiming to be 120 years old when he died, he was buried at the intersection of Centerville and Old River Road, facing eastward so that he could see the sunrise each day.

The narrative was not over, however. In 1910 the Houghton Star published an article revealing that the nearby creek to Copperhead’s grave was beginning to destroy the burial site. The students on campus immediately began to raise money so that in June of 1914 Copperhead’s remains were safely transported to the top of the campus. Then, in order to give Copperhead a proper memorial, Leonard Houghton (son of Willard J. Houghton) donated the historic boulder that now rests there to this very day.

Eventually, in 1925, the student body held a contest to see what the yearbook should be called. On the suggestion of a student known as Kieth Farner (’25), The Boulder was chosen.

The Copperhead Boulder is still used to this day on the campus’s insignia. You can see it on the front desk in the Reinhold Campus Center and on many of the stickers placed on the glass doors around campus. ★

A special thank you to Professor Douglas Gaerte for helping to make the research for this article possible!

Sudoku

Courtesy of www.sudokuoftheday.com

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

If you’ve never played sudoku before, the rules are simple!

- 1) Fill in each empty box with a number
- 2) Every row, column and 3x3 box must contain all the numbers 1-9, with no number repeated

The solution will be in next week’s issue!

The solution to last week’s sudoku:

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

Student-Athletes Travel to E8 Mental Health Summit

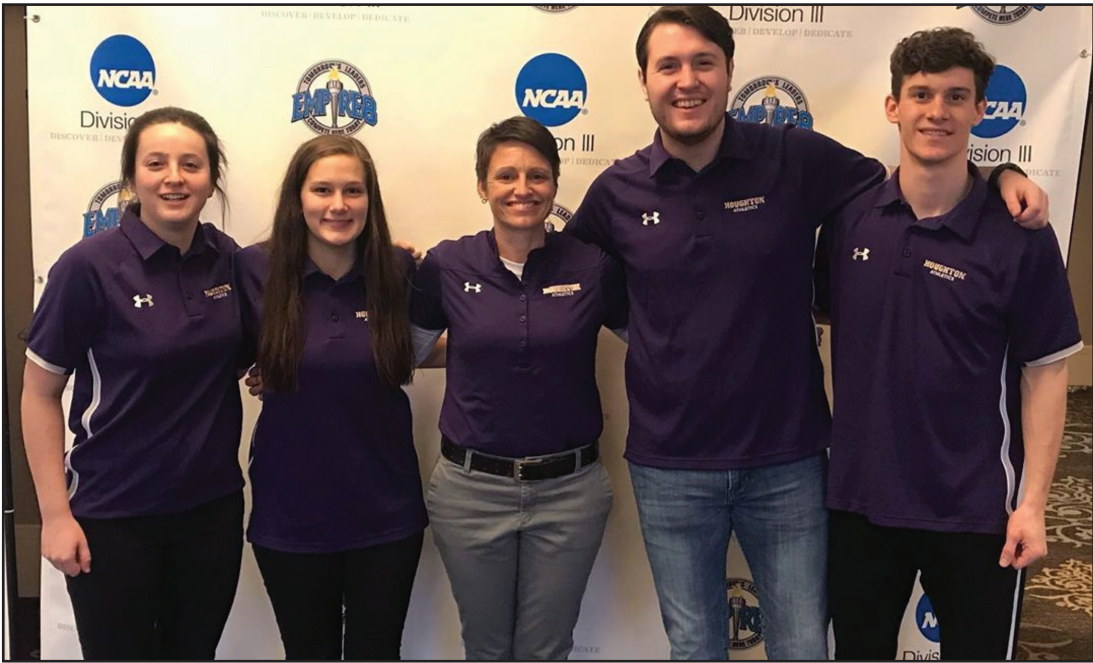
ERIN MAGGIO
Regular Contributor

Thirty-two student-athletes, including four of Houghton’s own, gathered for the 2020 Empire 8 Student-Athlete Leadership Summit.

In an interview with Deanna Hand, Houghton’s Associate Director of Athletics for Sports Medicine and Administration who oversees the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), she commented that the annual Empire 8 Summit aims “to bring student-athletes, who are seen as leaders on their respective teams, together for a weekend event to help foster team building, leadership skills, provide networking opportunities.”

Houghton student-athletes Benjamin DiCraсто (’20), Ronnie Lott (’20), Rachael Fortney (’20), and Andrea Taboni (’22), travelled alongside Hand to Rochester, New York. The conference was held from Friday, January 31st to Saturday, February 1st at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa.

The summit welcomed two keynote speakers who spoke about their experiences and knowledge of mental health. On Friday evening, Will Heininger shared. Heininger is now an Outreach Coordinator for Men-



COURTESY OF HOUGHTON SAAC INSTAGRAM

Left to right: Rachael Fortney (’20), Andrea Taboni (’22), Deanna Hand, Ronnie Lott (’21), Benjamin Dicraсто (’20)

tal Health at the University of Michigan Depression Center. His work at the center involves providing relatable mental health education to populations including schools and athletic departments and teams.

Heininger was also a four-year letterman who played football at the University of Michigan from 2008 to 2011. He also struggled with depression during that time—at the summit he shared these mental health struggles he had as a student-

athlete.

“His story was inspiring and eye opening in regards to the importance of breaking the stigma around mental health in athletics and encouraging those who struggle from a mental illness to seek treatment,” Lott (’20) said.

John Rigney, Senior Counselor and Outreach Coordinator in Health and Counseling Services from Nazareth College, presented to the students as well, sharing his knowledge about mental health education.

On Saturday morning, attendees were able to attend two different breakout sessions of their choice. Students were able to choose from four different sessions: “Building Your Brand/Resume Building,” “Mental Health Tool-Kit,” “What to Expect as Captains/Role of Team Leaders,” and “Core Values.” During these, students learned about how to best help people struggling with mental health, amongst other topics not explicitly related to mental health.

Attendees participated in other activities, including games, including Minute-to-Win-It icebreakers and Mental Health Jeopardy. The weekend also involved the creation of a conference video about mental health entitled “Breaking the Stigma” which should be shared on social media platforms soon, and the annual institutional collection of “Pop Tabs” for the Ronald McDonald House.

On reflection of the event, Benjamin DiCraсто (’20) said, “We learned about the negative stigma surrounding [mental health] issues, and brainstormed ways to change things for the better.”

Upon coming back to school after the conference, the student-leaders aspire to implement the information they learned. They hope to “break the stigma,” and share the knowledge they learned with their fellow students and teammates. They also intend to inform their teammates of the school’s mental health policy, and have proposed other ideas as well, including the possibility of devoting an entire day during Division 3 week toward mental health and wearing mental health awareness colors for a game. ★

Theater Review: What I Thought I Knew

JOHANNA FLOREZ

What I Thought I Knew is a play centering on a woman who believed herself to be infertile until, at forty-four years old, she discovered that she was six months pregnant. The play is based on the true experiences of Alice Eve Cohen, who also wrote a book by the same title.

Josie DiVincenzo portrays the protagonist, Alice, as well as around forty other roles in the ninety minute play. Alice teaches a solo theater class within the play, so the story is told by a single person reporting what everyone else says and does.

This style of theater takes some time to get used to. DiVincenzo differentiates her characters with voices, expressions, and body language; but the conventions of following the events of a solo performance are different than in a standard play. Her props consist of two chairs and a cup of water, from which she only takes a couple of well-timed sips. She shows an impressive amount of physical endurance to be the sole speaker for an unbroken hour and a half—even her core strength is put on display as she lays across the chairs in a variety of positions.

The play tackles some heavy

subjects. Alice is already the middle aged mother of an adopted daughter when she faces her unexpected - and, at that stage of her life, legitimately unwanted - pregnancy. She had long since given up hope on having a biological child after she was diagnosed with a couple different forms of infertility in her early thirties. Her life has moved on - she is recovered from her divorce from the man with whom she adopted her daughter, and is expectantly happy with her new fiancé. Pregnancy is less of a miracle than a confusing and frightening complication. Alice feels she has two viable options: abortion, to protect her own health as a woman with extremely high risk of life-threatening childbirth complications; or placing the baby, likely to be seriously deformed as a result of inadequate prenatal care and inappropriate medications, for adoption.

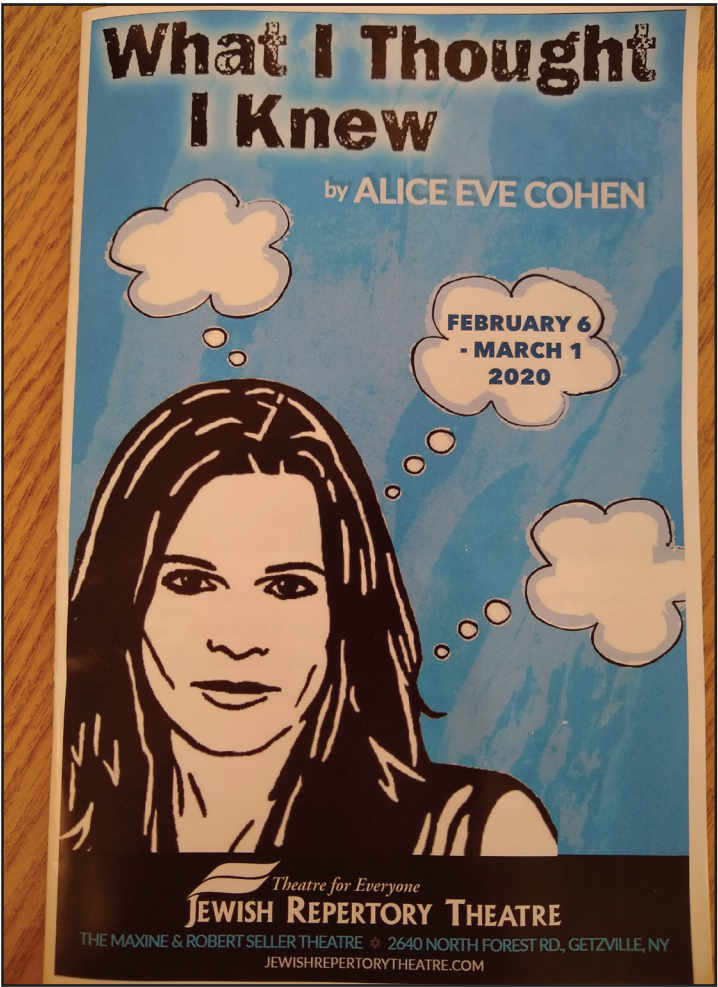
Alice encounters a deeply broken medical industry where insurance will not cover specialized treatment for her high-risk pregnancy, simply because her conditions are too rare to be accounted for in their policies. Doctor after doctor gives her advice and referrals to specialists who offer conflicting expla-

nations and action plans.

Alice’s religious context as an agnostic Jewish woman is also prominent in the play. Christian viewers may be interested to hear God and spirituality openly referenced in a play in which Christians are the religious Other. Alice references Jewish traditions (and superstitions) as she processes the events of her life. At the same time, she is generally unbothered by her fiancé’s Christian upbringing (except when her mother-in-law reads a New Testament passage at their wedding).

Despite the centrality of difficult issues, the play also maintains a sense of humor as Alice encounters ridiculous situations and people. It could be a tearjerker, but instead the audience finds ample opportunity to laugh at the absurdity of Alice’s situation and the people around her.

What I Thought I Knew is showing at the Jewish Repertory Theatre - within the Jewish Community Center in Getzville (northern Buffalo, 52 miles from campus) - every Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday until March 1. Student tickets are \$10 at the door. ★



COURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

The program for ‘What I Thought I Knew’

Interested in writing for the STAR?

- ✍️ No application!

✍️ Get Java pay-it-forwards for when your Flex Dollars run out in a week!
- ✍️ Get a great experience for your resume!

✍️ Write as many or as few articles as you like!
- ✍️ Learn to conduct interviews and improve your writing!

Students Attend Annual Sophomore Leadership Conference

ALEX DEARMORE
Regular Contributor
& GERI EDWARDS

During the weekend of February 7th, Houghton College’s Sophomore Leadership Conference took place. This annual conference is organized by the Office of Vocation and Calling, and spans two days.

Most of the details of the conference are overseen by Dennis Stack and Michelle Russell, but there is a good deal of student involvement as well. Central to the formation of the conference this year were seniors Jared Hobson (‘20), Sydney Jameson (‘20), and Samantha Moore (‘20).

In an interview with Jared Hobson (‘20), he commented on how he became involved as an intern for the conference. “Dennis Stack reached out to me at the start of last semester asking if I would be interested in serving as a coach for the SLC. I attended the conference my sophomore year, and was a junior coach last year. Being a senior coach meant that I had the opportunity to flex even more into a leadership role, and I was super excited that I got to lead the “Get-to-Know-You” activities and introduce the “Positivity Projects.”

In addition to Hobson, senior coach Sydney Jameson (‘20) similarly reflected, “I really enjoyed going [to the leadership conference] as a sophomore, so I was eager to get involved again and... be there to encourage [students and] to actually invest in them, because, I could see [their] leadership qualities. And you also



COURTESY OF ELAINE STARLING-LEELI

An SLC group with their Positive Change Project: Houghton, Let’s Talk.

get to know more of the sophomores. Sometimes as a senior you get really cynical because you’re like, ‘all my friends have graduated and it’s not the same,’ but participating in the leadership conference reminds me that there’s a lot of talent and wonderful underclassmen that can really make the world a better place.”

The theme for the 2020 conference was “Oh, the Places You’ll Go,” based on the popular children’s book by Dr. Seuss. Stack commented that the theme came partly from the fact that “we felt that we needed something a bit fresher,” and also that he’s “always been a Dr. Seuss fan.” He pointed out

that “the basic idea of the book is that we all want things in our lives to play out in a certain way, but rare is the life that goes according to plan!” The idea behind the conference was to show students how to rise up and lead, even when obstacles occur or when things do not go according to the original plan.

Students attending the conference heard from speakers including Steve Moore, President of Nexleader (an emerging leadership development initiative of the Association for Biblical Higher Education), and Houghton’s own JL Miller. Students were also asked to come up with and present a project that could inspire positive change on campus.

Some of the projects that were presented included: “The Houghton Dog” that students could take care of, feedback for a more inclusive chapel, a new class that pairs up Houghton students with young children in Allegany County as a mentorship program, a renovation to the ski lodge that could be used as a refuge for students struggling with stress called the “Center for Student Sustainability,” and an anonymous chat room for Houghton Students to help one another with mental health and other struggles called “Houghton, Let’s Talk.”

Feedback on the conference from many of its participants

was positive. Katherine Allen (‘22) commented, “I learned a lot about how to apply my strengths in everyday life. There are a lot of things that we don’t realize are strengths, like how we communicate with people, or how we take in ideas and information, but if we hone those natural tendencies into skills and use them correctly, we can grow and become great leaders.”

In addition, two other participants Nicole Collins (‘22) and Molly Brizzell (‘22) gave their perspectives. Collins stated, “the conference was a large step out of my comfort zone, but the way it was organized allowed me to relax and enjoy the time I had with my group. What could have been an introvert’s nightmare was instead a period of positive growth for all of us.” In commenting on her favorite part of the conference, Brizzell reflected, “my favorite part of the conference was getting to confer with a new group of peers. While I was familiar with everyone in my group and even had one of my field hockey teammates with me, I got to know everyone much better, and we were able to bond very closely during the weekend. I’m so glad that this arrangement pushed me into making these friendships that will extend beyond the conference weekend.”

The Sophomore Leadership Conference is an opportunity for Houghton College sophomores. It will be offered to the Class of 2023 next spring. ★

PHOTO(S) OF THE WEEK



COURTESY OF GERI EDWARDS

Lisbeth Crompton (‘21) is a chemistry major and part-time artist who sometimes wishes she had taken the easier path and become an art major to avoid fifteen hour labs. This Crompton original sits in her room.



COURTESY OF RILEY GASTIN

Riley Gastin took this photo near Arcade

Frustrated by/in Faith: How Polarized Politics Has Affected My Faith



COURTESY OF BRYCE PRESTON

HANNAH SIEVERS

Does the Christian faith call us to be politically active? My personal opinion is, without a doubt, yes. However, I feel like a more potent question is: does my political advocacy affect my faith, and if it does, how? Over Christmas break I caught up with my “camp mom.” She’s the wife of the director at the camp I worked at for many summers in the Adirondacks. In conversations of catching up, I can always expect a question in the realm of “how are you doing spiritually?” and I was anxiously awaiting it, because

I knew my answer would be disheartening to her. When she asked me, my answer went a little like this.

I am so frustrated with the church on so many levels, and it’s reached the point that sitting through most worship services or sermons makes me incredibly uncomfortable with how fake a lot of it feels. We sing and we talk about love; love for ourselves, love for God and love for others. Yet we as Christians, who are called to love, are failing miserably in this basic foundation of faith. While this is an intensely complex issue, I want to focus on how we as a church have failed to love others, a lot of the time

“Do you really want to welcome the brothers and sisters you’re uncomfortable with as they are?”

when things get “political” in church (unless it’s affirming of your personal privilege)? While some churches and Christians are making changes to work on truly loving God’s people, we still have so much work left to do in fully living out our commandment of love.

We have failed our queer community, whether it’s in blatant homophobia or it’s layered under “acceptance” with expect-

borders by idolizing our experiences with them in missions trips and neglecting them when they show up at our doorsteps. We have failed our impoverished by criminalizing their need and turning a blind eye to anything convicting. We have failed to love and care for our earth that God lovingly created for us by trashing it and not taking the action needed to sustain it.

While we all sit comfortably in the churches built to house us under the slogan “come as you are,” do you really mean that? Do you really want to welcome the brothers and sisters you’re uncomfortable with as they are? The church is meant to be messy and uncomfortable. The church should be leading the way in welcoming our neighbors, caring for our poor, loving and accepting members of the LGBTQ+ community, restoring decades of oppression, breathing new life into our earth and

coming together to worship accepting and understanding. If the church doesn’t start to look like this... I don’t want to be a part of it.

My camp mom from home and I have and will continue to have discussions where we disagree from time to time, and these instances of respectful discourse based on loving relationships is the only way for change to happen—not Facebook fights. She and I have learned so much from each other, and I hope you have friends that challenge you to love better too.

Though the ball has already started rolling, we’ve still got a lot of work to do in our churches. It is so important for us to build relationships, to educate ourselves, to tread lightly with kind feet and a kind heart, and to be advocates in our community, our country and our world. Jesus stood up for the least of those, and you should too. ★

Hannah is a senior majoring in communications.

“The way Jesus lived his life was in and of itself political.”

based off of how our “convictions in faith” play into our “convictions” in politics.

Our religion is built on being intensely political. The way Jesus lived his life was in and of itself political. So why are we as Christians so offended

tation of change or queer celibacy. We have failed people of color in our country and in our church by years of oppression, blatant racist acts, or microaggressions like tokenizing the relations we do have. We have failed our neighbors across our

The Importance of Silence



COURTESY OF BRYCE PRESTON

HANNAH ARBER

I find that some of the most critical turning points in my life have been the result of being by myself and listening to my thoughts in the silence. When I’m walking back to my dorm alone, when I’m going for a drive without music, or even in bed at night when I cannot sleep and the room is silent, that is where I hear my most sincere self.

Perhaps if we spent more time in silence we would pay more attention to the people around us,

be more alert in the conversations we participate in, and look forward to interactions rather than dread them. As it stands, I know many of us fear what might come of awkward silences, so instead we avoid interacting with certain people at all. If we spent more time in silence, maybe relationships would become more real to us. People wouldn’t be just objects that we spend time with or sit next to at lunch and dinner, but rather company. We find peace in good company, right? Well, maybe spending time in silence would help you find good company in yourself. Imagine finding peace in the company of yourself. You might never find that if you don’t allow yourself the time alone.

If we took a moment of si-

“If we spent more time in silence, maybe relationships would become more real to us.”

lence, we could hear ourselves think. We would develop more ideas and think about important issues in our personal lives as well as issues of the world. It sounds scary at first, being alone with your own thoughts, because you might hear your insecurities, anxieties, or sad thoughts speak up. But only then will you hear the true feelings you have towards these matters.

So often people nod and say

“yeah” in their conversations even if they don’t agree, just to pretend as if they’re listening. Our attention spans have become so short that we can’t even hold a five minute interaction with a friend without thinking about our next thing. We have these “silent moments” so rarely these days. When we are alone, waiting, or bored we pick up our phone and scroll. We watch videos, images, and read words that we will forget in a few minutes in exchange for a few moments of thoughtful silence.

I believe silence is a needed connection between pain and time. When they say time heals all, it’s because we’ve allowed ourselves enough silence to create closure with an issue. When they said it’ll make sense with time, that’s because we take the time to be silent and rationally make the decision. Time heals all because

silence allows us the time to heal.

Without silence we aren’t who we really are. The walk alone back to the dorm at night, the shower without music, or the drive without the aux cord. Maybe some of your saddest moments have been in these times, but maybe that’s because you allowed yourself a moment to feel what you truly feel rather than be distracted by all the noise around us. When we have fillers to take away the silence, we miss the opportunities to grow as people in that quiet space.

Take a moment to be silent.

Listen to your head and your heart. Listen to your fears, your sadness, your insecurities, your goals, your hopes, and your dreams. Only there will you truly find who you are. ★

Hannah is a junior majoring in integrated marketing communications.

“Our attention spans have become so short that we can’t even hold a five minute interaction with a friend without thinking about our next thing.”

Word on the Street: 2020 Election

Will competition among the moderate democratic candidates result in the nomination of a more radical candidate? Could such a candidate pose a viable threat to the Trump presidency?

“I think currently there are very few actually moderate democrats. We do have Sanders leading, and he’s obviously a very extreme candidate; and it’s looking like Biden’s campaign is falling apart. If Sanders is the nominee, I’d say that’s an almost guaranteed Trump victory. I see really very few of them having any chance against Trump. But will competition amongst the moderates lead to extreme candidates? I’m not entirely sure.”
-Honus Wagner, ‘20

“I think there’s a strong possibility competition between moderate candidates could lead us to a more radical democrat in my opinion, that’s exactly how we ended up with Trump as the Republican nominee. I want to say that person would pose a threat to Trump being reelected, because I feel like a lot of the discourse I hear is very much ‘anybody but him.’ But then again, nobody ever thought he would get elected in the first place, so I think there are a good number of people who support him and keep it on the down-low.”
-Anna Wray, ‘21

“I think this election is a farce and capitalism in and of itself is a farce. I think that our election is a farce and whoever is going to win is whoever is going to benefit upper-middle class white men and women.”
-Mary Chichester, ‘22

“In short, yes and no. I am already looking forward to some world-class entertainment this fall in the Bernie-Trump debates, but I’m not sure Sanders has the electability to pose a viable threat to the president. Bernie has the most momentum of the Democrats right now, which is not surprising since there are so many moderates splitting the vote. But let’s not forget that Bernie lost to Hillary last time around, and Hillary lost to Trump.”
-Bryce Preston, ‘22

“Does anyone have a chance against Donald Trump? Yes and no. Honestly, they’re all a bunch of screwballs, and I don’t really care because whoever wins, we’re all doomed anyway. It’s a self-serving position. I think Biden is going to get the nod because he’s getting the most money to the Democratic Party. Let’s be honest, whoever gives the most money wins. That’s how this works. The rich white men have a chance. Everyone else is doomed. Donald Trump will probably win again, not because he should win or because he’s the best candidate. If anyone is going to beat him it’s going to be Joe Biden, because he’s a rich white man. Bernie’s too nice of a guy. We’re all doomed. Giant Meteor 2020, let’s go.”
-Zachary Paris, ‘20

“The problem with all politics these days is that it’s just so crazy polarized, which is part of how we got the Trump-Hillary race to begin with. I don’t know what’s going to happen in the next debate. I have my fingers crossed that it won’t quite as much of an interesting time as it was in 2016, but I don’t know how much hope I actually have.”
-Jakob Knudsen, ‘21

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO
editor@houghtonstar.com



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

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | HOUGHTONSTAR@GMAIL.COM | [TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR](https://twitter.com/HOUGHTONSTAR) | [INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR](https://www.instagram.com/HOUGHTONSTAR)

The Houghton
STAR

2019-2020 Staff

JOHANNA FLOREZ // Co-Editor-in-Chief	DAVID BOWERS // Co-Editor-in-Chief
RILEY GASTIN // News Editor	JOSIAH WEIDENHEFT // Columns Editor
GERI EDWARDS // Features Editor	OWEN HARDIMAN // Opinions Editor
CALEB FESMIRE // Web and Photos Editor	SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB // Faculty Adviser



Artist of the Week

Tess Schilke // Junior Applied Design & Visual Communication Major



I love photography because you can bring out the beauty in anything. It's so fun for me to be creative and come up with an idea and be able to bring it to life through the photos I take.

