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## Two Majors To Be Replaced

EMILY MERZTLUFFT

Plans have been put in place for the outdoor recreation and physical education majors to be phased out and replaced with a sports recreation and wellness management major. The new major is a hybrid of the old majors, but adds new requirements, including some business courses.

According to Linda Mills Woolsey, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, outdoor recreation and physical education are two of the oldest majors offered at Houghton. After periodically evaluating all the majors, these two were put under consideration to be critically examined, due in part to their curriculum being outdated.

Both outdoor recreation and physical education are

See **MAJORS** page 2

## College To Be Visited For Re-Accreditation

MARY CRONIN

Next week, Houghton College will be toured by its accrediting institution for the once-a-decade re-accreditation visit. The process for re-accreditation began in the 2012-2013 academic year and will most likely come to fruition in the next several weeks.

The Middle States Commission for Higher Education (MSCHE) is the regional body, part of a much larger national composite, which accredits Houghton College and most of the other accredited institutions in the Middle Atlantic states. According to President Shirley Mullen, accreditation is like "a seal of approval from your peers." Accreditation is also as if a group of your respected peers said, "We see that you are doing what you say you're doing." She noted, "The way we validate higher education institutions is uniquely American. We



LUKE LAUER

*The Middle States Commission for Higher Education team will tour Houghton next week as part of the re-accreditation process, which began in 2012.*

do it on a peer-based system, while other developed states often conduct accreditation through the federal government."

"There are fourteen standards by which the MCHSE evaluates an institution," said Mullen, regarding the

process of re-accreditation. "In preparation, Houghton does its own self-study of how we are doing on each of those standards." The standards include things like "Mission and Goals," "Institutional Resources," "Student Admissions and Reten-

tion," and the like. The self study for this round of accreditation began in 2012.

Students play a significant role in the self-study. According to Linda Mills Woolsey, vice president for

See **MSCHE** page 3

## President Mullen Becomes U.S. Citizen

BRITTANY HARK



ANTHONY BURDO

*President of Houghton College, Shirley Mullen, has been living in the United States since 1966, but was born and grew up in Canada.*

On February 19, 2015 President Shirley Mullen officially became a United States citizen. Her previous citizenship before this date was in Canada, where she was born and grew up. She explained that she has been living in the U.S since 1966, but chose to wait to gain citizenship partially because she has a sentimental attachment to where she grew up and also felt there was a chance she would go back to Canada at some point in her life. She stated, "As I've realized that I'm probably not going to go back to work in Canada ever, it just seemed like the sensible thing to do, to make the change by becoming a citizen."

See **MULLEN** page 3



# INTERNATIONAL // Iraq Militia Counter ISIS



ANTHONY BURDO

JOE POYFAIR

The Iraqi military, alongside thousands of Shiite militia fighters, began a wide-scale offensive on Monday March 2, 2015 to retake the city of Tikrit from the Islamic State. This was not the first time the Iraqi military has sought to retake Tikrit in the months since the city,

Saddam Hussein’s hometown and a Sunni stronghold, fell into rebel hands during the Islamic State’s blitz through the country after seizing the northern city of Mosul in June of last year. Several times since then, the Iraqi army and allied Shiite militias have begun counteroffensives, only to abort them shortly after. These counteroffensives were sometimes in the defiance of objections from American officials, who would warn the Iraqi military of a blood bath should they try and enter Tikrit. By sundown Monday, March 2, 2015 fighting raged in the areas surrounding Tikrit, but the army and militia fighters had not yet pushed on the city’s center. ISIS, during this time, released a video that was intended to terrify the citizens who were considering aiding the advancement of the Iraqi military forces. The video clip showed the execution by gunshot of four

men dressed in orange jumpsuits. These men were said to have been local tribesmen collaborating with the Iraqi Military. In a speech Monday to Parliament, Mr. Abadi echoed the words of President George W. Bush in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, saying that the residents of Tikrit were either with Iraqi or with ISIS. “There is no neutrality in the Battle against ISIS. If someone is being neutral with ISIS, then he is one of them.” The fight against ISIS has brought the United States and Iraq into an awkward alliance in Iraq. While the United States’ effort has been in airstrike campaigns, Iraq has taken the most prominent role on the ground. In a statement that addressed the worries over militias taking retribution on the local population, the United Nations representative in Iraq, Nickolay Mlad-

enov, said Monday that “Military operations reinforced by international and Iraqi air support must be conducted with the utmost care to avoid civilian casualties, and with full respect for the fundamental human rights principles and humanitarian law.” Rebels undertook a series of attacks in and around the Iraqi Capital Baghdad on Thursday, March 5, 2015 killing at least 16 civilians. These attacks by armed insurgents were mostly targeting civilian areas as Islamic State militants (ISIS) in the country’s north, set oil wells ablaze in an attempt to slow the Iraqi Government forces that were battling to reclaim territory. In separate attacks on an outdoor market in the Baghdad suburb of Nahrwan, thirteen civilians were killed. At least thirty-nine individuals were wounded in a residential area in the southern district of Dora and in a market in Mahmoudiyah only

twenty miles south of Baghdad. An attack targeting a military patrol in a northeastern district, a bomb killed three soldiers and had wounded seven. These armed attacks continue to come as government forces, Iranian-backed Shiite militias, and Sunni volunteers continue their fight to recapture areas around Saddam Hussein’s hometown, Tikrit, which fell to Islamic State Militants in June of 2014. On Thursday, March 5, 2015 militants set fire to some oil wells outside the city. The smoky fires were apparently meant to obscure targets from government bombing raids. The Iraqi government took part in wide-scale operations that began Monday, March 2, 2015.★

Joe is a senior political science major.

## MAJORS from page 1

the only majors at Houghton that have not had development since the major was initiated, according to Woolsey. Many students who declare this major seek to be employed in careers such as camp directors or physical education teachers. However, according to the data gathered by Woolsey and her team, the career outlook for those with degrees in outdoor recreation and physical education is slim. The job market for those interested in this industry is aligned more

with sports and wellness management, an industry that includes jobs such as fitness instructor, professional team manager, nutritionist or dietitian, and physical therapist. Creating the sports recreation and wellness management major will enable students to have more options when deciding on a career. The new major’s collaboration with the business department will give students the opportunity to enter into a wider variety of management positions, including the traditional camp director or national park specialist. “The business department at Houghton does a very good job in setting up our students to be socially and ethically responsible,” said Woolsey.

The incorporated business courses will capitalize on a student’s complete set of skills. The decision to phase out the outdoor recreation and physical education majors was first brought to the Academic Council, which, for this particular change, included Professors Sandy Johnson, Andrea Boon, Ken Bates, and two students. After the council approved the change, it was sent to the faculty to be discussed at the first of two monthly meetings. If the faculty approve the new major, it will then be brought to the New York State Education Department to be approved. Woolsey plans to have the major available for the incoming fall

class of 2019. The old majors will be completely phased out by 2018. Woolsey encouraged those who have already declared an outdoor recreation or physical education major, “We are committed to students in the major currently and want to hire the most qualified people to help and be attentive to those students’ needs.” Due to Professor Thomas Kettlekamp’s retirement at the end of this semester, Laura Alexeichik, who has previously taught at Houghton, will be stepping in as an adjunct professor for the department. Alexeichik has a Ph.D. in recreation with interests in intercultural studies and a dissertation on an “experiential learning environment.” According to Woolsey, students who typically go into this field, whether with the old majors or the new hybrid, are people who want to serve. These students are not just interested in finding a job, but more so in helping and serving those in their community through things such as physical therapy or summer camp management. Woolsey stated, “We are, at the same time, phasing out old programs and building in new ones. This is the way any thriving college should operate, practicing frequently examining all programs to meet the career needs of its students.”★

# Crossword of the Week

- Across**  
1. What he is  
5. Inscribed pillar  
10. Bygone royal Russian  
14. Greenspan of the Fed  
15. Walks back and forth  
16. Opera with elephants  
17. THREE CITIES UNITED  
20. Remove antlers from  
21. Chocolate drink  
22. More, in a saying  
24. Be off base  
25. Word with role or house  
28. Lincoln’s son  
30. Female farm fowl  
35. Rhapsodic rhyme  
36. Avoid cancellation  
38. Large margin of victory  
39. THREE CITIES UNITED  
42. The Jackal, e.g.  
43. Steel or pewter  
44. Word with deep or tight  
45. Foyt’s org.  
47. Vestry vestment  
48. “Look here, old chap!”  
49. “Waking Devine” (1998)  
51. Writer Waugh
53. “White “ (2002)  
58. Thermodynamic concern  
62. THREE CITIES UNITED  
64. Kind of curiosity  
65. Coneshaped heaters  
66. Openly declare  
67. Legendary crime fighter  
68. “Oh, give me “  
69. Rounded hammer part  
**Down**  
1. Sober motorists org.  
2. Wheelhouse direction  
3. Stucco backing  
4. Inscribe  
5. Old maid  
6. Work at lacemaking  
7. Back talk?  
8. Skiddoo  
9. Steep slope  
10. Like a sourball  
11. California valley  
12. Somalia’s gulf  
13. Rattling breath  
18. Vein glory?  
19. “So soon?”  
23. Dancer’s director?  
25. Barbarian of tales
26. Quested in “A Passage to India”  
27. Partner of Martin or Clark  
29. Perry’s secretary  
31. Latin 101 word  
32. Homes for drones  
33. “Maria “ (popular tune)  
34. Like Dilbert’s character  
36. Actress Arquette  
37. When doubled, a Washington city  
40. \_\_\_\_Man (video game)  
41. High birth  
46. It had a part in the Bible  
48. Polar feature  
50. Pool measure  
52. Disney deer  
53. Norse god of war and poetry  
54. Put in a cargo hold  
55. Rightangled shapes  
56. Pub potations  
57. Las Vegas rival  
59. Act the nomad  
60. Winner’s emotion  
61. Kitten’s plaything  
63. Where some vets fought

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64						65						66			
67						68						69			





LUKE LAUER

MSCHE from page 1

academic affairs and dean of the college, “The college is always trying to keep tabs on what we are doing, so we

gather data every year. Students help us by participating in surveys like NSSE and by filling out IDEA forms... during the 2012-2013 school year we began to plan for our review, appointing Dr. Paul Young to form a steering committee in consulta-

tion with President Mullen ... to supervise the self-study. In 13-14 groups made up of faculty, staff, and students conducted the studies needed for the report.”

Dr. Paul Young, associate dean for social sciences and psychology professor, added student involvement in the study made it “a better process and document.”

This could have several tangible, practical effect for typical Houghton students.

Young stated, “Studying at an accredited institution, which Houghton has been since 1935, opens doors not only to financial aid but also to graduate and professional schools.” Graduate and professional schools generally place greater weight upon the quality of a candidate’s education if he or she attended an accredited undergraduate school.

President Mullen expanded on this point, saying, “Pell and Tap grants may only be spent at accredited institutions.” In this way, the state and federal governments issuing these funds may know that “their money is being spent well.”

Woolsey added, “employers and graduate schools are more likely to trust the quality of a degree from an accredited institution. Accreditation can also be important when we are asking donors to invest in us or seeking grants from regional and national foundations.” These grants directly impact Houghton students.

President Mullen, who has served as the chair of review committees for other institutions seeking re-accreditation, noted that she believes the “Mission and Goals” standard is that which the quality of the proceeding 13 standards flow out of. “I would be most concerned about an institution which did not have a clear mission” by which it acted upon, she said. She also said she believed the area in which Houghton has improved since its last re-accreditation is in assessment of student learning. She was quick to note, however, that she believes Houghton is doing very well in all the areas by which the college will be evaluated.

There is evidence of this, as Houghton has had no problem with re-accreditation by MSCHE since it was first accredited in 1935. “I want students to know that this is a normal process that every accredited institution must undergo every ten years, and that we have never had a problem in re-accreditation,” stated President Mullen.

Woolsey, speaking of the upcoming visit (the week of March 15) said, “The MSCHE visitors will be very interested in what students have to say about the quality of their education and their experience at Houghton. If they are like past campus visitors, I am confident that they will find the quality of our students the best testimony to our effectiveness in carrying out our mission.” ★

MULLEN from page 1

Mullen explained that while she was waiting for her interview, which happened in Buffalo, she was surrounded by people who were seeking citizenship to gain refuge in America. She shared that it was a fascinating experience. “I was more affected by the process than I thought I would be,” said Mullen. “There were people from 16 different countries represented the day of the interview. It was moving to see the value of American citizenship through the eyes of people who in a sense needed this... We take safety and freedom for granted.”

To become a U.S citizen one must undergo a process called naturalization. Some of things that can come along with citizenship include taxation, voting rights, military service, and jury duty. According to the official website of homeland security, one must firstly fill out an application which includes questions about family, traveling, and other practical questions. The next step in the process is a background check where they take fingerprints. After this is a test of American history, which is followed by an interview. The last step of the process is a formal swearing in.

Mullen said the experience was a great realization for her of the culture that we experience every day in the U.S and too easily take for granted. People from all over the world are blended together in the same place to find freedom. In most countries there is a sense of never giving up citizenship, but the American citizenship is seen by many as more of a man-made process. Anyone can come to find hope of a bright future.

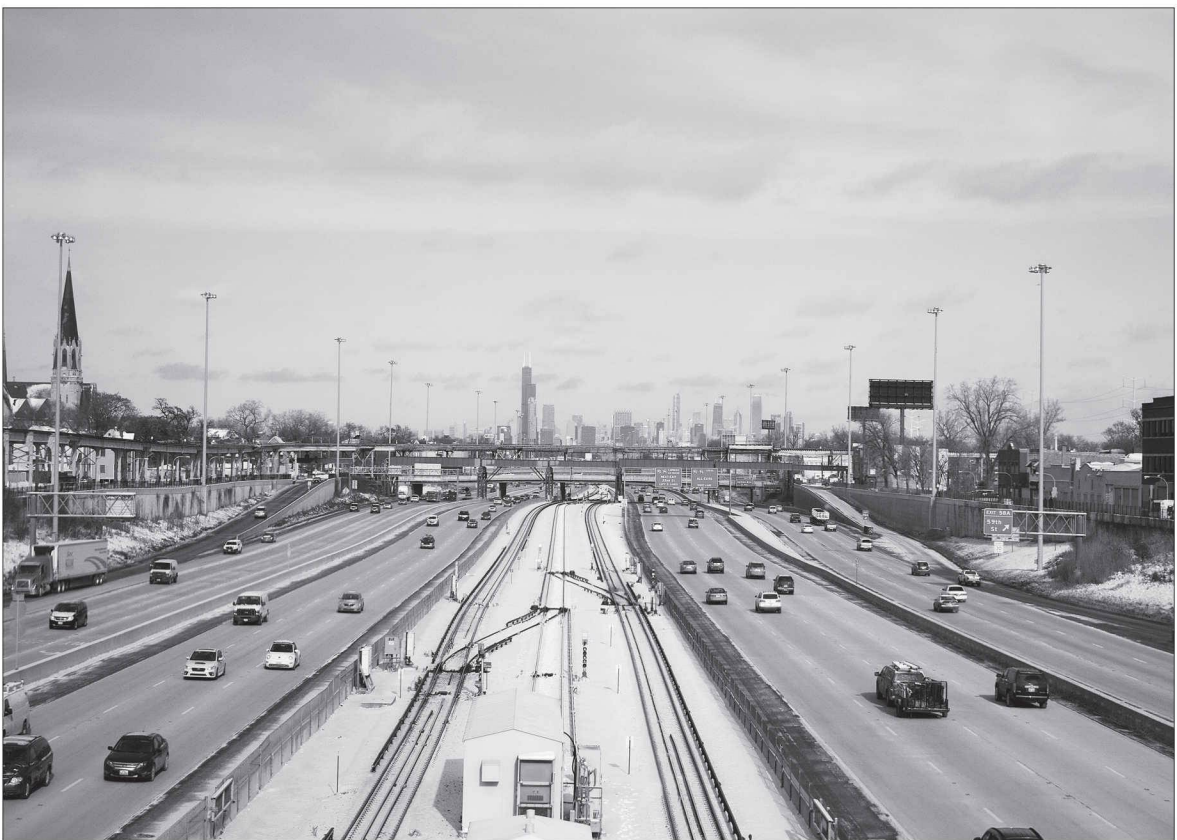
President Mullen was also reminded that although our citizenship to a country is important “Our citizenship to a country is always secondary to our citizenship in God’s Kingdom.” ★

March 20th, 2015 | 8:00pm  
Kerr- Pegula Athletic Complex  
Brought to you by HSE + Intramural Sports

Photos of the Week

WINNER///  
Jensyn Elliott ‘17

Chicago, Illinois





# Rodman in North Korea: Satire and Truth Through Opera

ROBIN MCLAUGHLIN

Satire is, at its core, a means by which truth is communicated. Humor and exaggeration are used to highlight the facts of a situation, and in doing so, help an audience to understand them. Satire draws attention to the facts by presenting them with absurdity - but what do you do when you are satirizing a situation for which the facts are already profoundly absurd?

*Rodman in North Korea*, composed by Houghton’s Sarah Hutchings, professor of composition and theory, was presented last Saturday evening in Wesley Chapel. Most of the musicians involved were Houghton students, however, two outside professionals were hired for the two leading roles. Carl DuPont, bass-baritone, portrayed the iconic and somewhat inebriated basketball player Dennis Rodman, and Ray Chenez, counter-tenor, took the stage as the Supreme Leader himself, Kim Jong-un. The principle cast was filled out by Houghton junior Tim McGowan, playing the supporting role of Kim Jong-un’s assistant, Kim Won-hong.

“I would be lying if I said that it was not intimidating,” McGowan said, “However, it was a huge honor to sing with Chenez and DuPont. The two guest artists were very kind and



LUKE LAUER

The world premiere of *Rodman in North Korea* showcased a high level of musicianship and featured the serious, yet absurd story of the inebriated Dennis Rodman’s encounter with infamous North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

professional. I was able to ask them so many things about the life of a professional opera singer which truly is what makes having guest artists so valuable to aspiring student-singers like myself.”

The reality of the North Korean situation has been brought to us through numerous media over the last several years, including news coverage, and more recently in the movie *The Interview*. But what does the less-familiar medium of opera

bring to the table when it comes to describing a situation? “There is another plane by which we can access expression and emotion when using opera,” said Hutchings. “The combination of vocal athleticism and drama that we find in opera can be very compelling when paired with the right story...A common assumption is that opera will always be dark and serious. In *Rodman in North Korea*, we have elements of “dark” when referring to the

suffering of the Korean people, however, we bring levity to the characters and in the music to tell one of the most unusual stories in modern times.”

The libretto, or the text of the opera, written by Mark Sonnenblick, and Hutchings’s score worked together to convey the seriousness, as well as the absurdity, of the situation. The opera opens with a rallying chorus of the Korean people singing to the tune of a corny melody about

how “all the world loves our Marshall,” something that we as the audience know to be a lie that has been fed to them by propaganda. Kim Jong-un cares more about whether his phone is plugged in correctly (to receive a phone call from Obama, no less) than the plight of his people. When the government runs out of chicken for a banquet, the chorus solidly cadences on the statement “more wine!” - as if that could really be a conclusive solution to the country’s perilous food shortage.

*Rodman in North Korea* is unique among other dramatizations of the situation in that it went to lengths to portray the humanity of everyone involved, including not only Rodman and the Korean people, but also Kim Jong-un himself. “I was impressed with Dr. Hutchings’ treatment of the subjects,” said graduate student Ricky Gessler. “I thought we would just be making fun of Kim Jong-un and Dennis Rodman...but she actually approached them with sympathy and compassion. That is a sharp contrast with the movie *The Interview*, where Kim Jong-un is brutally killed (or so I’m told.)”

Overall, *Rodman* was a stunning performance, not only because of the high level of musicianship from all involved, but because it offered a creative response to global engagement.★

# Recent Graduates Return as Assitant Coaches



ANTHONY BURDO

Recent graduates Nathan Hatch, John Carpenter, and David Richards are the atheletic department’s newest assets as assistant coaches.

SAVANNAH DOVIAK

Each year Houghton openly welcomes back its graduates as they accept jobs in all departments, especially athletics. This year, six 2014 graduates returned for jobs on the Houghton athletics coaching staff, while numerous alumni from previous years still hold jobs in the athletic department. Stepping straight into the

professional world directly after graduation can be a big step that not everyone is ready for or wants right away. Having the opportunity to be an assistant coach at Houghton often acts as a buffer for postgraduates. It gives them time to take a breath, have fun, and figure out what is next in an environment they know and love.

For Kaiden Bowers, assistant coach of the Houghton baseball team, that was exactly what he needed. When discuss-

ing his role on the baseball team he said, “Post-graduation, many students struggle with adapting to the “real-world” which entails starting a career and becoming an adult. Working with the baseball team does not feel like work as I thoroughly enjoy and love being on the field.”

For those who graduated last year, the role they play for their team is exactly their title; they assist. “Coach Hager [head cross-country and track and field coach] describes me

as his ‘right hand man,’ I work with him a lot to make his job easier,” said David Richards, assistant track and field coach.

“As a student-athlete, you are unaware of all the behind-the-scenes aspects of coaching,” said Bowers.

Though an assistant coach is strongly a part of the team, the first role of their job is to help the head coach. “I do a lot of administrative work, like submitting trip itineraries to the Athletics Department Administrative Assistant and sending out orders when people want to order running shoes,” explained Richards.

“I’ve definitely gained a lot of experience in recruiting prospective athletes, as well as the administrative duties, such as budget management, scheduling, and inventory planning, just to name a few,” Bowers added.

Yet despite the monotonous office work, the love these coaches have for their team is apparent. “The best thing about being a coach for this team is that we have a great group of guys that are fun to be around and I enjoy watching them get better at lacrosse everyday,” said Nathan Hatch, assistant men’s lacrosse coach.

For Richards it is, “attending meets, where [he] can see the athletes [he has] helped coach push themselves to better and better performances.”

Yet, when talking to the coaches it also became apparent that the very thing they love about their job also makes it difficult. “It has been tough trying to find a balance between [being] a coach and friend,” explained Bowers.

Being on a team means creating lifelong relationships, and when you return to coach those very people, being viewed as a coach can prove to be difficult. Bowers went on to say, “As much as I want to continue developing close relationships with my friends, I have had to hold back and remove myself from situations that may be misconstrued as a conflict of interest.”

Hatch expressed similar feelings when he said, “Being a coach that was a player the year before, you tend to have some players that might not exactly like having you as their coach, but the guys on this team have all been respectful towards me in my new position.”

Despite the long hours in the office and the changed relationships, these coaches took the job for the same reason: for their love of the sport and the people it comes with. Bowers put it best, “This opportunity has truly been a blessing as I continue to gain valuable coaching experience and build my resume, but doing so in a familiar environment.”★



# The Expected Virtue of *Birdman*

## Winner of the Oscar for Best Picture Lives Up to the Hype

JACKSON WHEELER

The newest inductee to the lucrative Best Picture club is Alejandro G. Iñárritu's *Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*. With such a high honor being bestowed on a film there is often ample skepticism as to its actual quality. Is *Birdman* truly better than *American Sniper* or *Boyhood*? The plot summary is this: Riggan Thomson, played by Michael Keaton, is a former blockbuster star, made famous and beloved for his roles as Birdman, a superhero in the 80s and 90s. Having fallen from stardom and faded into relative obscurity in the public eye, Riggan attempts to jumpstart his stagnant career with a self-directed, self-written, and self-acted Broadway production in hopes to once again find relevance in the entertainment industry.

While the story may seem simplistic at face value, what makes *Birdman* truly great is its execution. This is one of the most artistically invigorating and emotionally stimulating films that I have ever seen. Every convention of good filmmaking is present here and done to the highest level of quality.

The casting of Michael Keaton as Riggan is no coincidence. Many probably remember his role as the brood-

ing caped crusader himself in Tim Burton's *Batman* in 1989, Keaton reprising the role in 1992 in *Batman Returns*. Given his history in the industry, Keaton's casting in *Birdman* makes his struggle a deeply personal one as an actor fighting to stay relevant and be taken seriously.

Riggan's character is effortlessly relatable. He is nervous, unsure of himself, erratic, and emotionally unstable, making him an easy target to be written as the token underdog character. Thankfully, the movie transcends that trope by refusing to make him spotlessly perfect, Riggan is human after all. He is divorced, has an estranged teenage daughter, has issues maintaining relationships, and can at times be a little bit of a jerk. As a character who receives the viewer's sympathy, reprehension, and respect all in one movie, Keaton absolutely shines playing Riggan, making his Oscar nomination for the Best Actor especially justified.

While Keaton is the one most in need of an encore, by no means is the rest of the cast undeserving. Most notably are Emma Stone as his cynical, sarcastic, just-out-of-drug-rehab daughter, Edward Norton as a last minute cast-replacement playing a hysterical parody of himself as a brilliant actor who is difficult to work with on and off the stage, and Zach Galifianakis, of all people, who takes a surprisingly nuanced turn as Riggan's best friend and production manager.

*Birdman's* tone fluctuates between reality and the surreal, garnered by Riggan's unique perspective of the world around him and grounded by his more "level-headed" cast members. Whether the camera traverses the stage during rehearsals, follows Riggan through his daydreams or certain cast members through the tight corridors of the theatre and down the streets and alleys of New York, the shot composition is hypnotizing. The camera is always rolling, never cutting, making *Birdman* resemble one enormous tracking shot that would make even Wes Anderson blush. The more ethereal scenes are accompanied by full orchestras playing muted symphonies, lulling the viewer into its dreamlike atmosphere and for the majority of the film, *Birdman* marches along anxiously and excitedly to the pulsating beat of drums, pounding in cacophonous syn-copated rhythms, able to carve out the tension of the scene unaccompanied.

Seeing Murphy's Law take effect as more and more things continue to go wrong for Riggan takes its toll as it becomes apparent that this play is his everything. Through all of the melancholy, the personal drama, the selfish desire to sell out and be thrown right back into the blockbuster formula, Riggan's stress is shared with the viewer. If the play bombs, the rest of the cast might emerge embarrassed but relatively unscathed, but for Riggan this



The comedy-drama *Birdman: Or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* won Best Picture at this year's Oscars.

is his last chance. "We should have done that reality show they offered us," says the voice in his head, forcing him to turn back, but there is no going back. For Riggan, this is all or nothing.

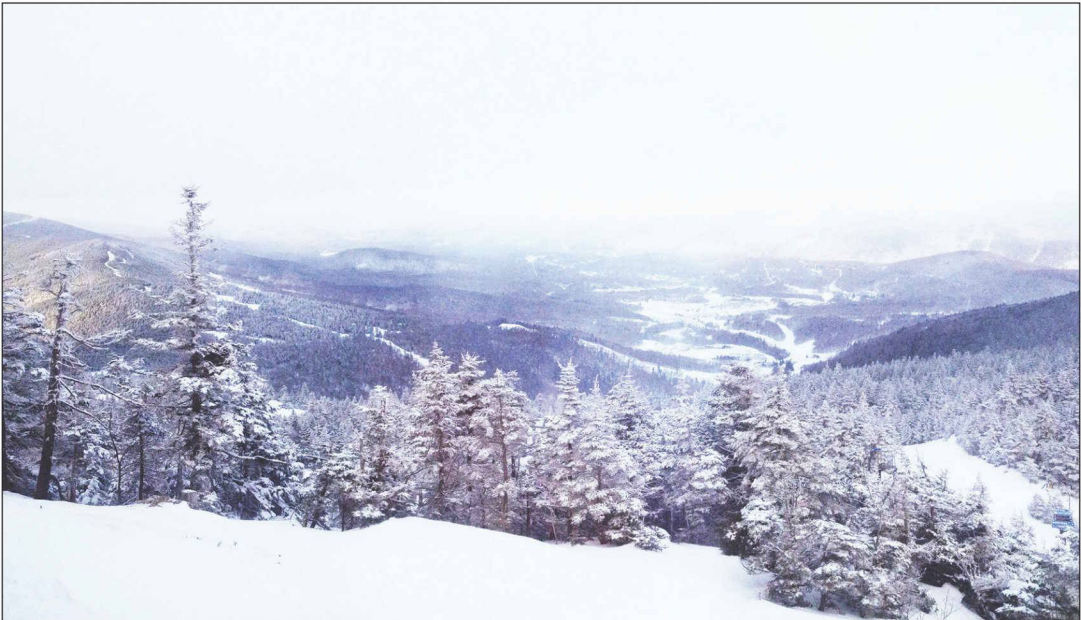
*Birdman* is a superb film regardless of what awards the Academy heaps upon it. From the first frame to the very last, *Birdman* attempts to fly and it soars.★

# Activity of the Week

KATHERINE TOMLINSON

"Warm is bad, cold is good. Sun is bad, snow is good." This chant echoed across the snow as Professor of Recreation and Physical Education Thomas Kettlecamp's cross-country skiing class began their first day of swishing through the snow on slick runners.

During a winter in which temperatures plummeted and remained at the bone-chilling -30 degrees, the opportunity to catch a little fresh air without freezing your lungs seems like a distant memory. Though this winter has been record-breakingly cold with frigid temperatures that froze boogers in between classes and paralyzed productivity, activity on the trails and at the ski hill has been bustling.



Taken from the peak of Killington Mountain in Vermont.

For skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers alike this winter has been ideal. The cross-country and downhill skiing

classes did not get canceled once, a new record according to Kettlecamp.

Participating in outdoor

activities such as skiing, snowshoeing, or snowboarding provides an opportunity to stretch out the legs and unflat-

ten the behind. Skiing is one of the most beneficial activities to participate in, since it targets muscles all over the body much like swimming. It is also a physical activity that can continue into older age as other exercises become more difficult or too damaging to the body. While snowboarding or snowshoeing may not provide as complete of a workout or may take a larger toll on the body, they are nevertheless popular sports that provide a refreshing break from what can become the dreary days of winter.

As we lift our heads to the wind to sniff long anticipated signs of spring, do not forget to catch the last few days on the slopes before the snow melts! Send out winter with a wave and the mantra that all Kettlecamp's classes do: "Cold is bad, warm is good. Snow is bad, sun is good."★



# LGBQ Inclusion: Community Covenant Amendment



ANTHONY BURDO

LUKE LAUER

The words “homosexual behavior” need to be taken out of the Community Covenant. Placing “homosexual behavior” within this context equates it to premarital sex and adultery. It is a vague statement which singles out lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning (LGBQ) students.

Houghton College’s Statement of Community Responsibilities reads: “We believe that Scripture clearly prohibits certain acts, including drinking beverage alcohol to excess, stealing, speaking or writing profanely or slanderously, acting dishonestly, cheating, engaging in occult practice, and engaging in sexual relations outside the bonds of a Biblical understanding of marriage, including premarital sex, adultery and homosexual behavior” (emphasis added).

Equating “homosexual behavior” with premarital sex

To stand in solidarity with their LGBQ peers, students should bring this amendment proposition to the Student Life Council, in the form of a petition or in person at a council meeting.

and adultery hyper-sexualizes LGBQ students’ lives. Recent Graduate, Wynn Horton, said, “By condemning homosexual behavior alongside these others we denigrate it in certain ways,” pointing out that it makes it sound only lustful and foolish. Premarital sex and adultery are both explicitly sexual acts, but “homosexual behavior” is not exclusively about sex. There is much more to a “behavior” than sex.

There are straight students kissing, holding hands, and snuggling around campus. Whether these public displays of affection are desirable is besides the point. The point is they are happening and no “rules” are broken. What does

Equating “homosexual behavior” with premarital sex and adultery hyper-sexualizes LGBQ students’ lives.

this mean for LGBQ students? The vagueness of this brings many questions. What does “homosexual behavior” mean? What about two men dating on campus, a lesbian student with an off campus fiancée, or, perhaps in the future, a married lesbian or gay couple enrolled on campus? Additionally, how will lesbian or gay alumni couples feel about returning for homecoming and reunions? In an attempt to answer some of these questions, Michael Jordan, dean of the chapel, said, “I want to be clear that the Community Covenant by itself does not restrict LGBQ dating behavior that is not explicitly sexual.” The issue, however, is that the language of the Community Covenant does

not adequately communicate this and so these questions still raise doubts in the minds of LGBQ students.

The college’s Same-Sex Attraction: Our Community Voice document outlines community beliefs, acknowledges differing views, and says how people should be treated. It states “... we ask for [LGBQ] students to respect our perspective for the sake of our communal life together. This would mean being especially sensitive to public displays of affection.” While this document is progress, this passage further perpetuates the view that LGBQ students must hide in the “closet,” while their straight peers do not.

While the intention may not be to single out LGBQ students, it nonetheless does. By saying “homosexual behavior” and not mentioning heterosexual “behaviors,” the Community Covenant alienates LGBQ students from their peers. Jordan pointed out, “Statements about celibacy and chastity are of course problematic for all 18- to 22-year-olds, no matter their

sexual orientation.” Yes, this is true, if the statement were about only chastity or celibacy. However, within their context, these two documents seem to be prohibiting more than just sexual relations, even if that may not be the intent.

The passage in the Community Covenant should be rewritten. Horton said the “passage could easily be rewritten to serve the college’s purpose while maintaining its loyalty to a Christian heritage.” He suggests changing the last part to “...and engaging in sexual relations outside of the bonds of marriage.” This simpler, condensed version still maintains the essential meaning, but does not single anyone out.

According to Kim Cockle, student life administrative assistant, to make such change to the Community Covenant, requires it to be brought to the Student Life Council as a policy change, then taken to the faculty, and ultimately to the Board of Trustees. To stand in solidarity with their LGBQ peers, students should bring this amendment proposition to the Student Life Council, in the form of a petition or in person at a council meeting. It would still condemn illicit sexual relations for Houghton Students, but diminish the hyper-sexualization, clear up the vague language surrounding the issue, and improve the climate for LGBQ students on campus.

*Luke is a senior communication and art double major.*

# Poverty Does Not Discriminate



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

2013: My senior year of high school. The year 45.3 million people were living in poverty. The year my family qualified for welfare. The year I was fully submerged in microaggressions when people realized I was poor.

‘College is really expensive, Dani.’ ‘You know you’ll have to work, right? Students don’t get welfare.’ ‘Can you afford a school like that?’ Peers, teachers, and advisors thought they were just ‘looking out for me.’ They meant no harm, they were just trying to prepare me for the real world, right? Wrong. Every reference to my socio-economic status and recommendation

for an ‘affordable community college’ was laced with an implied assumption of failure.

Though the ‘American dream’ has been the motto for success, America was built by and for the privileged. While there may be some exceptions, most, if not all of our founding fathers were college educated, and from middle and upper class families. Society has continually changed, however, poverty has not. It has come to be seen as the black plague of modern America; the illness one no one wants to contract, yet so many are infected with.

One specifically horrific side effect of such an ailment includes the use of government assistance. People are so afraid of this symptom that they are going hungry to avoid it. They are

The poor are not exempt from God’s love, so why does society treat them like outcasts?

ashamed, ashamed at the prospect of humiliation and judgment. Shame is defined as a painful feeling of humiliation or distress caused by the consciousness of wrong or foolish behavior. Poverty is not shameful; what is shameful is making people feel as though it should be. Defining who people are based on their socio-economic status is shameful. Treating the poor as if they are lepers is shameful. And

Accepting government assistance when you have no other way to provide for your family is most certainly not shameful.

accepting government assistance when you have no other way to provide for your family is most certainly not shameful.

Recently I saw a photo that was supposed to be a comparison between the refrigerator in a middle class home and a jobless home. The fridge in the jobless home was filled to the brim with name brand foods and drinks. The middle class fridge, however, was nearly empty, containing just a few items. The sharing of this photo on social media and online forums contributes to the stream of stereotypes surrounding government assistance. These stereotypes provide perceived justification of microaggressions.

Poverty does not discriminate. Despite popular belief, it does not just affect the lazy, the drug addicts, or the alcoholics. America is a prideful nation, we do not like to admit failure. Poverty is perceived as failure;

failure to succeed, failure to provide, and failure of fulfilling dreams. The constant reminder of failure through microaggressions is painful. Imagine if you needed a tutor to pass a class and people subtly reminded you on a daily basis that you needed someone else’s help in order to succeed. You would probably feel offended and hurt. This is exactly how people living in poverty feel when they’re subjected to microaggressions.

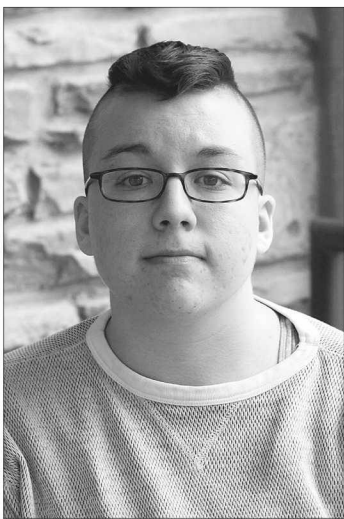
Poverty is not a disease. Poverty, like any trial presented in one’s life, is an opportunity to glorify God. The poor are not exempt from God’s love, so why does society treat them like outcasts? No more. No more shaming. No more reminders. No more judgment. Jesus did not avoid the poor, he did not cast them out, and he did not make them feel poorly about their financial status. He dined with them, he prayed with them, but most importantly, he loved them.

So be conscious of what you say. Words, judgements, and stereotypes can be sharper than knives, and just as damaging.

*Dani is a sophomore writing and communication double major.*



# Media Representation for Minorities



ANTHONY BURDO

SYLVIA MORROW

“Media cannot reflect society, if society is not reflected in the media.” This slogan for Creative Access, an organization devoted to increasing diversity in the media, is a call for greater representation of minorities in popular media.

The goal of media is broad and varied – entertainment, advocacy, education, escapism – and within media the emphasis placed on each of these goals varies. Regardless, media in all forms represent some combination of what has been, what is, and our vision of what could be. There are two versions of representation problems with minority groups in mass media: the absence of representation and the portrayal of the single story.

Failure to represent a minority is preemptive erasure. It implies that people of this

minority group simply do not exist or worse, are somehow unworthy of acknowledgement. Minorities who do not see their identity represented by people they interact with in their daily life stand to benefit the most from media representation. Representation is essential for aspects of identity that are easy to conceal such as gender identity, sexual identity, or religion. Similarly, even if racial minorities, people with disabilities, and age minorities are not isolated from other individuals of their minority group, they may turn to the media for representations of people in their minority group with relatable ambitions.

Lack of representation is an issue, for example, in popular superhero films. Superheroes are models of human ideals that have been magnified and made larger-than-life. They are utopic, god-like champions of good. Yet if film portrays superheroes almost exclusively as white, straight, cis-males, it implies that these characteristics are somehow necessary to the message – that they are part of the ideals being portrayed.

Balanced representation is essential because it is powerful: it will either polarize or unite.

The problem of the single story, as it is described by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, is the acceptance of the representation of an individual or culture by a single trait. “The consequence of the single story is this,” Adichie said, “It robs people of dignity. It makes our recognition of our equal humanity difficult. It emphasizes how we are different rather than how we are similar.” The single story is a narcotic, offering one dimension to placate our desire to understand someone while shutting our eyes to their complexity.

As a result of the Chapel Hill murders, social media and some news outlets have revived discussion of long-standing concerns about the single story the media portrays

about Muslims. Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed of the Huffington Post wondered if the reason the media did not call the murders a hate crime was because the victims did not represent “the burly, secretive, conspiring and dangerous image of Muslims so commonly thrust around in the media....European media did a better job of covering the events than American media. That in itself speaks volumes.”

Balanced representation is essential because it is powerful: it will either polarize or unite. Despite social media, mass media still holds many of the volume controls determining whose voices are heard across the nation.

Admittedly it is about as effective to throw accusations at ‘the media’ as it is to jump out

of the path of a tsunami, but all of us are to some degree in positions to affect change by being conscientious. Writers, artists, and musicians are primary contributors to popular media and, therefore, have the greatest responsibility. However people in all fields – business, communications, political science, history, psychology etc. – will in all likelihood at some point be influential in how representation is handled. Sometimes the task is as simple as choosing images for a presentation, but it is situations like these, where the images used are not the primary focus, where we are most likely to resort to a corrupt default, an imitation of flawed mass media.

More importantly, we are all media consumers. It is ineffectual to sit back and wait for mass media to change. Media content changes in fits and starts that must constructively accumulate to affect large-scale changes. Searching out multi-dimensional representations of minorities can be a challenging but rewarding task. Supporting creators and media outlets that offer better representation leads to greater quantities of balanced media being produced.

We live at a time when so much media content is available that we can easily consume large quantities of media without ever encountering a perspective that challenges us; as such, we must be deliberate.

*Sylvia is a senior writing and physics double major.*

There are two versions of representation problems with minority groups in mass media: the absence of representation and the portrayal of the single story.



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.

SPEAK  
OUT!

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should be 250 words or less

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# Artist of the Week



ANTHONY BURDO

## Titles & Media

*clockwise from top right*

Prospect's Keep, *mixed media*

Barb, *photography*

Meridian, *oil on canvas*

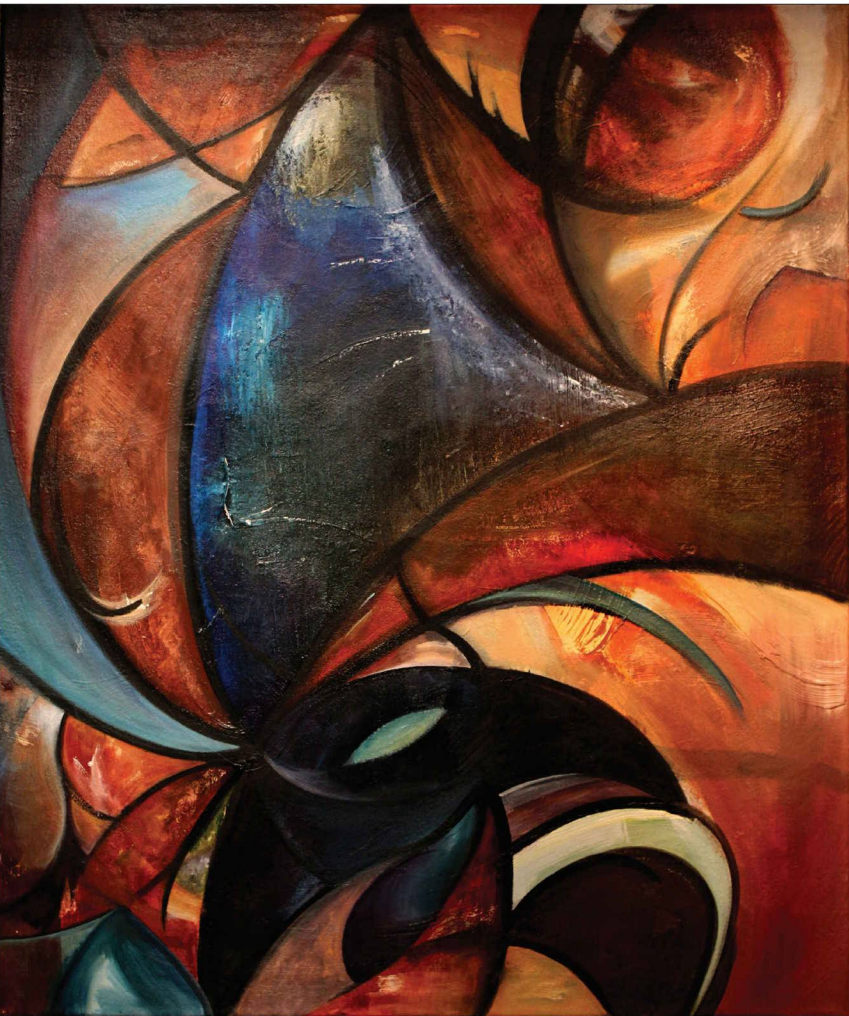
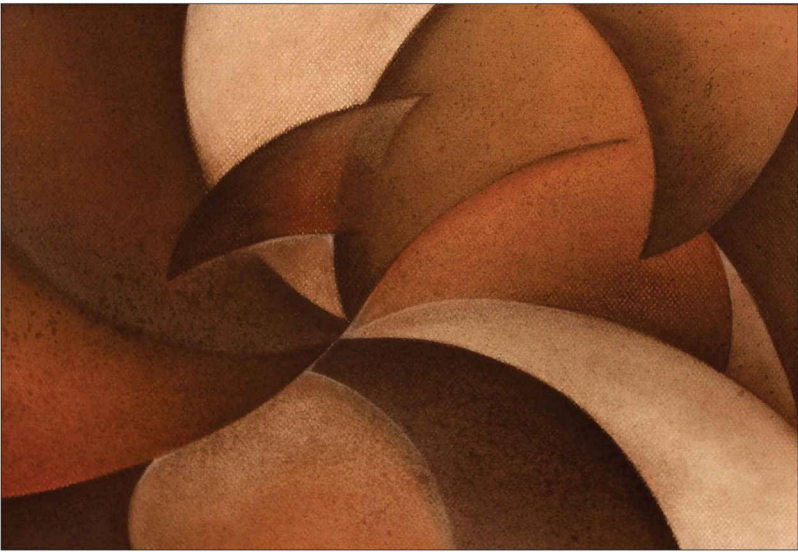
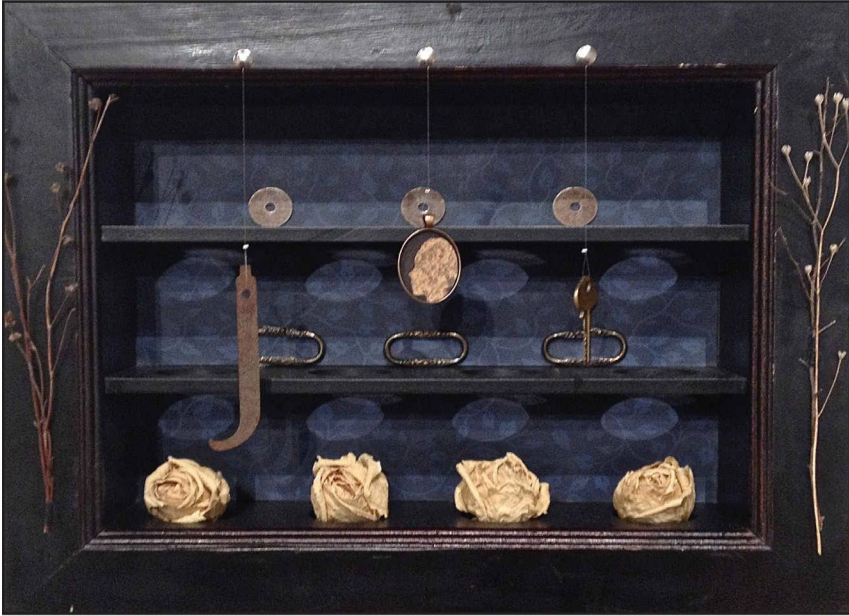
Nineteen, *mixed media*

Lament, *pastel*

# Carrolin Jackson

//senior BFA major in studio art

Art has always been about the process to me, about expression and creation, the telling of a story that is just as much felt as seen or heard. My current body of work seeks to explore the relationships between people and the past, present, and future; recognizing and accepting our moments of choice that spiral out ahead of us, altering the possibilities for the future and creating a past that cannot be changed.



“ Sometimes the questions are more important than the answers. ” -John Rhett