

**MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**  
News, p. #1-2

**DISNEY CHANNEL**  
News, p. #1

**SORINOLU**  
Feature, p. #2

**PUZZLES**  
Activities, p. #2

**VOLLEYBALL**  
Opinions, p. #3

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
Columns, p. #4

## HOUGHTON'S NEW MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

ABIGAIL BATES ('26)

Houghton's new men's volleyball program began playing in 2023-2024, under its Head Coach Lindsay Seddon and Assistant Coach Dave Bourne.

"When I decided to attend Houghton," Elijah Sproull ('26), a setter and rightside hitter, commented, "I had accepted that I was leaving Volleyball behind, it was hard but I felt that this was where the Lord wanted me to be. I know now he has many reasons for having me here and being a part of this team is one of those."

Lindsay Seddon, a volleyball alumna of Houghton University, returned in May of 2023 to serve as the program's first Head Coach, with Coach Bourne later joining her in August. While women's volleyball has strong roots at Houghton, men's volleyball was only an active club sport during the 1990s and early 2000s. The current team consists of 14



Houghton's Men's Volleyball team practicing

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

players—Jerry Buno, Devin Burns, Luke George, Caleb Holscher, Gabriel Lucena, Thomas McGlynn, Anthony Panboon, Jonah Sissel, Elijah Sproull, Jase Stone, Elijah Studt, Devin Tullar, Jared Wright and Luke Yelle—who all entered the program with different levels of experience.

"Coach [Lindsay]," out-

side hitter Caleb Holscher ('26) stated, "has done an incredible job of getting our program off the ground. She was tasked with taking a team of competitive volleyball players, athletes who had only played pick-up and Athletes who had never played the game and she made a team out of us."

Due to the program be-

ing new, the coaches have been developing its foundations during the current season.

"Our focus this season is to cultivate who Houghton Men's Volleyball is: and that's representing Jesus by doing good work in all that we do, together," Coach Seddon emphasized.

Holscher put it as a motto of "More of Him,"

which he explained as focusing on more of Jesus and less of themselves. He has expressed pride in how his teammates have embodied this attitude through honoring Christ first, building one another up, working hard to improve, preparing the program for future athletes and their brotherhood that encourages one another to be better men of God.

"The team has been amazing," Sproull declared, "it has been awesome to see the exponential improvement from every player. We are the fastest improving team and that is so cool to be a part of."

The team's daily practices begin by warming up and stretching, and then they do partner control drills that focus on refining technique. Coach Seddon explained that when she and Coach Bourne spot weak points during their review of matches from the day prior, they will implement drills during practice

See **MEN'S VOLLEYBALL** page #2

## Gillette Hosts Disney Channel Throwbacks

ANNA CATHERMAN ('24)

If you walk through Gillette Hall on a Monday night, you're more than likely to hear laughs on at least one floor. Second New is no exception. Laughter and eyerolls both abound on Mondays starting at 9:30 p.m., when the floor has its weekly event: Disney Channel Throwbacks.

Every floor in Gillette has its own events, tailored by each floor's Resident Assistant (RA) to the residents. When Emily Fausnaught ('24) became the RA of Second New, she turned to a bulletin board in one of Gillette's

corners for inspiration. A musical themed board featuring Troy Bolton stirred up her nostalgia for Disney Channel originals.

"There's something a little cringey...and also wonderful about them," Fausnaught said. "I wanted to share that with everyone else."

The first week of the movie nights began with the classic Disney Original, "High School Musical." A few dedicated watchers joined Fausnaught in the floor's lounge. Week two featured the "Princess Protection Program." It was met by an even larger crowd, with couches and floor space filled. Attendees munched on popcorn and pretzels.

One of the enthusiastic attendees was Gabby Wiltse ('27). She scoured the internet for lists of Disney Channel originals, so she could suggest what the floor should watch next.

"I kind of love Second New," Wiltse said.

Others were less thrilled, but still supportive. Adelaide Sullivan ('24) noted that she is an avid anime watcher. Watching Japanese-style animation, such as Demon Slayer, One Piece and My Hero Academia, taught her to analyze things closely. She finds the drama in the Disney Channel Original Movies to be a little over-the-top.

"It's hard not to over-analyze High School Musical," Sullivan said. "It was not a terrible movie, but I think it could have been a more complex [storyline] instead of having drama just for drama . . . it was easy to tell what the bullies were going to do because their actions were predictable, as were the actions of others."

Disney Channel Throwbacks will continue every Monday throughout the rest of the semester, with selections announced week-by-week prior to the event. The next gathering is on Feb. 5.★



Disney Channel Throwbacks poster

COURTESY OF EMILY FAUSNAUGHT

## Feature: Babafemi Sorinolu

Anna Catherman ('24)

“Coming to Houghton wasn’t really much of a shock to me,” Professor Babafemi Sorinolu, born and raised in Nigeria, said when asked if it was a challenge coming to rural western New York. Sorinolu, who has spent most of his life in cities, likes the close community that Houghton has to offer.

“As long as there’s people where I am at, I’m good,” he added.

This is Sorinolu’s second semester at Houghton. He graduated with his Master’s in Computer Science from the Stevens Institute of Technology in May 2023. When job hunting, he searched for a position that would allow him to use his Christian faith in the classroom. Finding Houghton was “like a divine connection.”

According to Provost Dr. David Davies, Sorinolu was initially brought on as a visiting professor for the year but recently accepted an offer to stay on in a tenure-track position.

Sorinolu is currently the only faculty

member dedicated to Computer Science. He has been embracing the challenge of teaching in a small department. He said Dr. Katrina Koehler, Dr. Brandon Bate, and Dr. Jill Jordan have been especially influential in his transition. Koehler teaches Programming and Data Science, and required courses for the Computer Science major.

Koehler expressed gratitude for Sorinolu’s enthusiasm and for his help in developing courses. “We share syllabi and assignments and double check expectations, which I find incredibly valuable, since teaching is such a solo activity,” Koehler said.

Outside the classroom, Sorinolu said he has made many new friends. Several faculty members have invited him over for dinner. Houghton Wesleyan Church and campus chapel services have also provided opportunities to meet people. Besides spending time with friends, he enjoys listening to music, especially Gospel songs.

Sorinolu’s favorite part of his new job is being in the classroom, interacting

with students, sharing knowledge, and answering questions.

On Tuesday afternoon, January 30, when some labs are filled with chemicals, Paine 212 is full of clacking keyboards. Students type out lines of Java code as Professor Sorinolu walks around the classroom. He stops and offers help to those struggling to get the desired outcome. Once they’re all on the same page, he flips his PowerPoint slide, revealing more lines of codes.

“It’s confusing,” he admits with a laugh when one student questions his rationale for the coding situation. Then he explains it again, in more detail.

Sorinolu has big dreams for the Computer Science department in the future. “My hope is to collaborate with students in such a way that we can do some research,” he said. Right now, though, he sits and plans lessons in a little yellow office and prepares to train the next generation of programmers. ★

### MEN'S VOLLEYBALL from page #1

to help the team perform better in those areas.

“Our guys are the best!” Coach Bourne expressed. “There is a great deal of cohesiveness and respect amongst all players. They value their relationship with God first and foremost. They work very hard and we can also share some laughs and lighter moments, too. We have many first time volleyball players that have taken learning the game very seriously. This is evidenced by the amazing improvement we have seen by all. All this has been nourished by Lindsay’s coaching and leadership.”

Holscher and Sproull both commented on how

amazing their coaches have been this season, with Coach Seddon starting the program and Coach Bourne bringing his vast knowledge and experience to the team. Holscher added that a quote of Coach Bourne’s is “the ball doesn’t hit the floor without a body hitting the floor with it,” exemplifying how Coach Bourne keeps the atmosphere of the team light, while never being afraid to push Holscher and his teammates to give their best, no matter the circumstances.

“When the team [is] dialed in and focused, they are a force to be reckoned with and can keep up

with teams who are more established,” Coach Seddon remarked.

The men’s volleyball team had their first match win against Maranatha Baptist this last Saturday Jan. 27 and will be up against Roberts Wesleyan on Saturday Feb. 3. While the team has played Roberts Wesleyan twice without winning yet, Holscher explained that they are excited to get “another shot at it” this weekend.

“So be at Nielsen at 2:00 this Saturday,” Holscher stated, “cause if we beat Roberts you’re gonna wish you had been in the building.” ★

## EVENT CALENDAR

**FEB. 3** / Trivia Night / Java 101

**FEB. 5** / Bible Study (Gospel of John) / Van Dike Lounge

**FEB. 6** / Student Council Meeting / Student Engagement Center

**FEB. 8** / ArtBound Initiative Internships / Virtual Event

# Puzzles

All Sudokus provided by sudokuoftheday.com

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

Difficulty: Easy

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

Difficulty: Merciless

# Volleyball: The Sport For Life



LINDSAY SEDDON ('13)

I remember my first day of modified volleyball practice when I was in 7th grade. My mom, who played volleyball in high school and here at Houghton, encouraged me to give it a try. I remember the majority of my friends heading to the soccer field while I headed to the outdoor makeshift volleyball court since the girl's varsity team had priority for gym time. I remember in those first few days of practice finding the sport really hard, but I wanted to keep trying since it captured my interest. I couldn't get my serve over the net, passing and setting to target was nonexistent, and a "kill" wasn't even in my vocabulary at that point. However, volleyball was different from other sports I played throughout my life, and it was the beginning of what became (and still is) a

huge part of who I am.

You see, volleyball is so positionally technical, yet each member of the team has a very important role in the sequence of the game. You can't get a swing without a set, and you can't get a set without a pass. Everyone needs to work together to make an organized play happen. Culturally, it's always been a very polite sport since it's non-contact, yet the power and aggressiveness especially when going up for a swing or serve can be brutal. When you break it down, volleyball is all about being organized as a team, dominating your position, and keeping the ball in play on your side at all times. I love that.

They say volleyball is a lifetime sport, and I agree. For example, our assistant coach for the HUMVB team, David Bourne, plays for a 55's and over team who qualified for nationals this past fall. The

*"When you break it down, volleyball is all about being organized as a team, dominating your position, and keeping the ball in play on your side at all times."*

keeps them one step ahead, positioning exactly where they need to be on the court at all times. Another example is our very own Men's Volleyball team. We have a range of experience levels as a beginner program. However, when they brought home their first win in program history this past weekend, it proved you can pick up the sport and succeed when you train hard and

as six individuals behind a 7'4" net working close together in a 30x30ft perimeter court. We knew each other's tendencies and thought processes. Our setter tailored sets perfectly to each hitter for a flawless swing resulting in a kill. We knew when we were going flat how to reset and pick one another up; finishing what we started together. If we were out of system on the court, we knew as a team we had each other's backs to better the ball for the next person to keep it in play. I had full faith in our defense because I knew they would never let a ball touch the floor. As a team we weren't perfect, and we had our losses, but we built trust and respect for one another through it all, and that took us to heights we never imagined. I can see why this person thought it looked like a dance, because we knew how to work together.

After modified volleyball, I began the pursuit of earning an athletic scholarship when making the varsity team my freshman year. During those four years we won sectionals, regionals, and went to states. I played club volleyball all year round where we participated in tournaments across the country, and a dream was fulfilled when I received an athletic scholarship to play for the women's volleyball team here at Houghton (this is when we were NAIA). To say I loved every minute of it all would be a lie, but how do you learn to work with others and

grow in character when you aren't challenged or go through setbacks? Sports in general are a great teacher of that. However, there is something about volleyball that is so unique.

Volleyball is a game that takes you on emotional and mental highs and lows. In soccer or basketball a mistake can be quickly erased by stealing the ball back, etc., since the game is in constant motion. If you shank a serve in volleyball, that's it. The point is gone forever and given to the other team. Between every point in the game of volleyball is the opportunity to mentally train yourself to keep moving forward or dwell on mistakes that can bring a whole team down. Momentum, communication, anticipation, and organization are key, and if you lose it, a team needs to work fiercely to get it back.

Seeing the sport grow over the last decade is proof that it's rapidly capturing the interest of generations to come. 2023 saw the highest number of men's volleyball programs added in the NCAA (including Houghton!). In August, a Nebraska Women's Volleyball match broke the world record for the largest crowd ever in a women's sporting event, beating the Women's Soccer World Cup final crowd record just a few months earlier. And last week was the launch of the Pro Volleyball Federation, a professional league for women's volleyball here in the USA. I love sports, but I love volleyball the most. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think volleyball is the sport for life, and I'm so thankful to know it. ★

*Lindsay Seddon is the Head Men's Volleyball Coach at Houghton University. She graduated from Houghton with a BFA in 2013 and a MFA from University of Chester in 2020. She loves her family, art, and volleyball.*

*"As a team we weren't perfect, and we had our losses, but we built trust and respect for one another through it all, and that took us to heights we never imagined."*

game changes as you get older, but that doesn't mean you can't play. Often you see older teams beat younger teams because their game IQ is so high from playing for so many years. They know how to change up the pace and read the opposing offense which

work together as one unit. Someone once said that watching our high school varsity volleyball team play looked like a ballet. Not because of its delicate nature, but how we flowed and synced as a team on the court. That's how organized we were

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT  
Victoria.Arndt25@houghton.edu

## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO  
star@houghton.edu



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

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | STAR@HOUGHTON.EDU | FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

The Houghton  
**STAR**

2023-2024 Staff

- JOSH CARPENTER // Co-Editor-in-Chief
- CHRISTIAN WELKER // Co-Editor-in-Chief
- ABIGAIL BATES // News Editor
- CALEB TIEDEMANN // Columns Editor
- SAVANNAH STITT // Media Editor
- VICTORIA ARNDT // Opinions Editor
- AMANDA ZAMBRANO // Faculty Advisor



## Movie Review

### The Creator (2023)

Joseph Schmidt ('24)

Set in 2070, 15 years after a nuclear detonation in Los Angeles that started a war against AI, Sergeant Joshua Taylor, played by John David Washington, an ex-special forces agent, is recruited to hunt down a mysterious terrorist going by the name Nirmata, or "Creator". The United States military has gained valuable information that Nirmata has created a super weapon which could cause the US to lose the war against the AI threat. But when Joshua discovers the super weapon is a robotic child, he finds himself at a loss of what to do.

"The Creator" honestly surprised me as a movie. When I first saw the trailers for the movie, it looked like it was nothing more than a Star Wars rip off, which I suppose is what happens when you get the fantastic Gareth Edwards, the same director who created "Rogue One". But when I first watched the movie, I was pretty interested in all the concepts of robots, humans and AI all interacting together in a shared universe, only to have AI become the main threat. However, "The Creator" shows an interesting perspective from both sides of this war against the AI. It shows the fear and anger of the US and the US military, who have vigilantly fought against robots, simulants and AI in order to make sure there is no more threat of nuclear extinction, but it also shows the perspective of New Asia, the country harboring and supporting the robots, simulants and AI because they believe that these beings are as real as humans are. Yet, the story never shifts away from Joshua and the super weapon child known as Alphie, played by Madeleine Yuna Voyles.

Joshua's reason for going after this super weapon is because he's trying to find his wife, who is in New Asia and supposedly helping the New Asian forces create Alphie. Joshua's mission was to collect the super weapon or destroy it in order to find his wife and return home with her. However, after the mission goes wrong, Joshua and Alphie must find their way across New Asia and avoid the New Asian forces look-

ing for them both. As Joshua understands what's at stake, why begin to see and understand more of the perspective of New Asians and how that convinces Joshua to switch sides over the course of the movie. This was something I appreciated, that Joshua didn't have a quick moment where he changed sides in the middle of a battle, but instead slowly began to understand why Alphie was created as a defense for the New Asians, not an offense.

Overall, "The Creator" is definitely one of my new favorite movies. A compelling story, a new approach of conflict and love and trying to understand that just because something isn't alive doesn't mean it's not real. We watch Joshua struggle as a soldier taking care of Alphie as she learns the world, trying to avoid threats while guarding what he had considered a threat. We watch Alphie gain more understanding of her enhanced abilities and how they impact the people of New Asia in many different ways. We watch the brutality of war, the tactics used in the midst of fear, and the sacrifices and losses that come as a result. No one in this movie is safe. It made the movie seem so real despite being set in 2070.

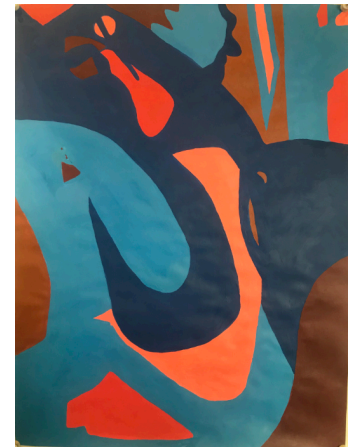
However, some things were predictable in the movie. While deaths are inevitable and some are definitely shocking and surprising, some events are incredibly predictable. In fact, some are pretty stupidly coincidental as well. And while these coincidences and predictable events aren't relied upon for the story to continue, it did make me a tiny bit disappointed by such cliché scenes.

In conclusion, I did enjoy the movie. I loved this movie. It surprised me, made me emotional on my first watch through in a few parts, and played into tension beautifully. Not to mention that the cinematography was impressive. It's definitely worth the watch if you're a Sci-Fi fan, and it keeps you engaged from start to finish. Seriously, watch it for yourselves! ★

Final Grade: 8.7/10

## Artist of the Week

### Halle Karlson ('26)



**Hello!** My name is Halle! I am a double major in Studio Art and Inclusive Adolescent Education. My artistic journey is a reflection of my colorful personality and the challenging aspects of life. Ceramics and oil are my favorite mediums, though I find joy in exploring all forms of art. Each piece is a testament to my ability to confront and express both the light and shadow within me. I believe that God has blessed me with the ability to create, and I hope my art inspires and heals others as much as it does for me.

