

**LEADERSHIP**  
News, p. #1-2

**WRITING**  
Feature, p. #1-2

**MLK DAY CHANGES**  
News, p. #2

**COVID & COMMUNITY**  
Opinions, p. #3

**AOTW**  
Columns, p. #4

## SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RETURNS

ELISE KOELBL ('22)

It was gone but not forgotten. After a year of strict COVID-19 guidelines forcing its absence, February 4 marks the return of the Sophomore Leadership Conference, just in time for its 5th year. The Sophomore Leadership Conference is an event for sophomore students to further understand their strengths and show them their abilities as a leader. This year's theme is titled "Activate: Leadership, Gifts, and the Kingdom of God," which is notably different than in past years where the theme was "Oh The Places You'll Go." This continues to be a program designed to promote leadership in young students.

The person in charge of organizing the event is Rachel Wright. When asked about the decision to direct this event to-



Houghton students attend the Sophomore Leadership Conference held in 2019. COURTESY OF RACHEL WRIGHT

wards sophomores, she stated, "This event has focused on the Sophomore year as students near the time to officially declare their major and there were already existing opportunities like Transitions, Senior Seminar courses, etc. for students during other years. Because of the pandemic, the event was can-

celed in 2021, so we are opening this year up to those who would have been Sophomores last year." The event itself goes from the evening of Friday, February 4 to all day Saturday, February 5. There will also be an exclusive dinner with Kind-schi Faith and Justice Symposium guest Rev. Dr.

Soong-Chan Rah on Monday, February 7 for all of the conference attendees.

Adelaine Morgiewicz ('24), who is currently a sophomore, plans to attend the event. Like many sophomores, she received an email from Houghton's Office of Vocation and Calling informing her of this event. As someone

who is still undecided in her major, she is excited to attend to gain a better understanding of herself as a leader.

Highlights of what is included at the conference with the \$20 registration fee include: participants completing the Clifton Strengths Finder Assessment; students completing a Positive Change Project during the event, which can feasibly be enacted during their time as students; as well as Conference swag; and Saturday meals.

Guests this year include Dr. Greg Bish, the Key-note speaker, who is also the Chief of Staff at Houghton College; Dr. JL Miller, the Associate Dean of the Chapel at Houghton College; and the Strengths Coach, Dr. Ellen Marmon, a Professor of Christian Discipleship and the Di-

See LEADERSHIP page #2

## Feature: The Writing Center

JACQUELINE JOHNSON ('23)

One of Houghton's wonderful academic resources is the Writing Center. Located in the Center for Student Success in the Chamberlain Center, the Writing Center assists students on any writing assignment or paper. They are open from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Mondays and Thursdays, and 3:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. During these times, Students can book slots with their choice of four wonderful student consultants: Megan Brown ('23), Rachel Huchthausen ('23), Jacob Lajza ('23), and Elaine Starling Leeli ('22).

The Writing Center is designed to assist stu-



Jake Lajza ('23) working as a consultant in the Writing Center. COURTESY OF RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT

dents at any point in the writing process from the planning stage to finishing refinements. Whether it be gathering ideas and organizing thoughts or reviewing any stage of draft, the Writing Center consultants are there to help with many different types of assignments, from formal research papers, to personal essays,

to lab reports. In addition to a variety of assignments, the Writing Center is also well-versed in a number of styles including MLA, APA, and Chicago.

The Writing Center is advised by Professor Laurie Dashnau, who is also one of the writing professors here at the college. Professor Dashnau

expresses her joy of the Writing Center, along with high praises of the consultants on both their writing skills and their encouraging nature.

Jacob Lajza ('23), one of the Writing Center consultants, talks about some of the benefits that he has seen through working in the Writing Center. "Consulting al-

lows me to collaborate with my peers, not only to produce an A+ paper but to produce lifelong writing skills." He continues by saying, "Our goal at the Writing Center is not to proofread, edit, and send you away. Instead, it is to guide you through strategies and improvements that will, hopefully, be helpful throughout your college career and beyond."

The Writing Center has recently welcomed Rachel Huchthausen ('23) as its newest addition to the consultant team. She is eager to begin helping people hone their writing skills. "I am looking forward to discovering the writing processes of the individuals who come to Houghton's Writing Center and learning how to tailor each ses-

See WRITING page #2

## MLK Day Changes Wrought by Snowstorm

ANNA CATHERMAN ('24)

Across the nation on Monday, Jan. 17, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was celebrated with a variety of activities. Houghton College had planned to commemorate the day with a variety of special programs in lieu of classes. Unfortunately, a blinding snowstorm with a foot of snow put Houghton's plans on pause. The chapel speaker, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Peeler from Macedonia Baptist Church, was unable to reach

Houghton safely, and other planned events were canceled as many faculty members worked remotely.

Prior to the event, the STAR interviewed President Wayne D. Lewis about what he was looking forward to about the day. He explained how growing up, he went to various services commemorating the day over the years, and expressed deep appreciation for how Houghton sets aside a day away from classes for the occasion. "The day for me is really spe-

cial because it gives us the opportunity to pause what we're doing and reflect on his life and his legacy, just as a leader who's had an incredible impact on our country."

Though the day did not look like it was planned, Houghton still invites students to pause and reflect. Posters were hung around campus, and they remain up for students to read. From academic departments to the dining hall, these posters inform

passersby of the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr., as well as other prominent black figures. David Stevick, Director of Library Services, explained that in lieu of the planned poetry and children's book readings, the library has set up displays of books for students to peruse throughout the coming days.

Some of the other festivities, including the chapel service, will be rescheduled. According to Dean of

Chapel Michael Jordan, Rev. Dr. Peeler's talk is now scheduled for Feb. 21. The Dirty Bird Chicken & Waffles food truck's visit has not been rescheduled at this time. Also in limbo is an evening concert by Priscilla Ozodo-Acedo ('10) and her band.

Despite the inclement weather, Houghton was still able to honor Dr. King and reflect on his legacy. ★

### LEADERSHIP from page #1

rector of the Doctor of Ministry Program and Asbury Theological Seminary, who will be Zooming in to the Conference; Sharon Mulligan, the Director of Academic Support and Accessibility Services at Houghton College, who will be leading an Ideation Session; and Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, a Robert Boyd Munger Professor of Evangelism at Fuller Theological Seminary, who will be having dinner with Conference participants on Monday.

The administration is excited the Sophomore Leadership Conference was able to return after its absence last year. With a variety of guest speakers, attendees will experience a helpful and informational event. ★

### WRITING from page #1

sion to each person's own areas of strength and areas of growth." Huchthausen has also expressed how her experience with the Writing Center so far has expanded her insight on the writing process and everything that goes into making the Writing Center what it is.

The Writing Center is truly something that can help any student improve and hone their writing craft. From advanced writers to those who are just starting to develop their voice, any student who walks into the Writing Center will be met with kind and encouraging student consultants who are there to help you along the way to reaching your writing goals. ★

## Center for Sustainability Hosts Open House

MEGAN BROWN ('23)

On a bitterly cold Friday afternoon in late January, while most students were heading back to their residences or leaving campus for the weekend, I trudged up Roth hill on my way to an event occurring on the third floor of the Chamberlain building: the Center for Sustainability Open House.

As I entered this cozy room in Chamberlain, decorated with recycled paper chains handcrafted by Mary Chichester ('22), an intern at the Center for Sustainability (CFS), I was greeted by a room full of people playing an environmentally-themed game of Kahoot, eating cookies, and getting to know each other. Both the space and the people were welcoming. The large windows revealed a bright and beautiful winter scene outside, framed with a variety of plants perched on the windowsill. In the corner, a bookshelf was full of a range of items, from an impressive collection of literature about sustainability and social change to Russian nesting dolls. Music gently played in the background. The room not only serves as an office for the Center for Sus-

tainability but also provides a delightful hangout space for students and interns alike. It additionally serves as the office for Brian Webb, who heads the CFS.

When I asked what he loves most about his job working on issues of sustainability on campus, Webb remarked, "I love Houghton students, getting to work with them, and building connections with them, both in and out of the classroom." He acknowledged the many difficult challenges that our planet is facing, but noted that "the passion our students have for sustainability and protecting God's creation gives me hope for the future."

The first CFS intern with whom I engaged in conversation was Clayton Hardiman ('22), clad in his signature ball cap and sipping a steaming cup of hot chocolate. He encouraged me to help myself to the array of snacks being served, and he even offered me a bottle of local honey. On the down low, he also invited me to take one of the mugs that the coffee and other hot beverages were being served in. Hardiman serves as the Garden Coordinator for the

CFS, a position that he noted mainly consists of planning during the winter months. When asked about what the CFS means to him, he shared that the CFS "brings the issue of ecological care and creation into a Christian perspective."

After chatting with some other interns and students attending the open house, eating some delicious cookies, and drinking a hot cup of coffee, I left the CFS with a complimentary bottle of honey and a smile hiding behind my mask. Next time you're on the third floor of the Chamberlain Center, I encourage you to also stop by to visit the fine people at the CFS. You can sit down to parooze a book about environmental issues, have a meaningful conversation about sustainability with people who are well-versed on the subject, and perhaps have a spot of tea. ★

S U D O K U			4	9	5			
		1				3		
			9				3	2
		5				6	1	8
		2		5		1		6
		7	6	4				5
		9	7				2	
				6				3
					1	4	8	

Solution will be printed in next week's issue!  
FROM SUDOKUOFTHE DAY.COM



# Covid, Community, and a False Sense of Spirituality



Haylee Conrad ('22)

On March 13, 2020, Houghton College sent out an email that marked the change for the rest of our lives. Now at the start of year three, we would think things would be different; the pandemic would be over, we wouldn't need to wear masks anymore, but look at where we are.

When that email was first sent out to campus, I was down in North Carolina at a three-day-long Women's Holiness Conference. I was there with Dr. Derck, Dr. KLP, Katie Allen, and Olivia Flint. The night we received the news that we would be sent home when we made it back to campus didn't feel real.

It turned out to be the night I would feel closest to God in a really long time. I was in the same room with over 500 other women, each who loved God and each who wanted to show God's light in the world through ministry. The band had gotten special permission from Kari Jobe to play her new song, at the time, "The Blessing," which was so new, it hadn't even been released on Youtube yet. I know that song is well overplayed by now, but it has become my absolute favorite worship song. That's because when I heard it for the

*"That is what true Christian worship is: gathering together to worship God and to love those around you."*

first time, the women in that room were singing it. It was real, it was true, and it was genuinely filled with love for one another and for God. That is what true Christian worship is: gather-

*"Instead, they are putting the mental health and physical well-being of their students at risk just to maintain a false sense of spirituality on campus."*

ing together to worship God and to love those around you.

In September, we started gathering in chapel twice a week, each week, shoulder to shoulder as if Covid wasn't still running ram-

forcing a reality of normalcy in a world where normal is no longer an option. There are thousands of people dying on a daily basis. There are hospitals so full, people who need medical attention for heart attacks and strokes can't be seen. There are schools where all their classes are being taught by subs because every teacher has Covid. Yet we're expected to go back to normal just because it's Houghton College and we're a "community"?

I am, according to medical professionals, in the "high-risk" category. I know many other people on campus who also fit into that category. The new expectations on campus make us uncomfortable and make us feel unsafe. I get anxious about getting food from the dining hall to take it back to my room and eat. Imagine how I feel having to sit in a building with poor ventilation, surrounded by people I don't talk to on a regular basis, to listen to speakers who seem not to recognize the reality of this

deadly virus. As a member of Houghton's so-called "community," I do not feel safe or cared for. As a member of this so-called "community," I wish the situation surrounding Covid was taken more seriously.

As Christians, we are called by God to love those around us. Right now, in the situation we're in, loving your neighbor means pulling your mask up above your nose. It means giving the people who aren't comfortable being in chapel the permission to watch it synchronously or asynchronously from a different location. It means being gentle with those who don't feel safe in a world that is putting their health at risk. Yet Houghton doesn't seem to think the same thing. Instead, they are putting the mental health and physical well-being of their students at risk just to maintain a false sense of spirituality on campus.

Houghton College wants its Christian campus to go back to "normal," but how far will they go and at what cost?★

*Haylee Conrad is a Biblical Studies and Theology major with a concentration in Pastoral Ministry. She is also one of the Student Directors of the Koinonia Worship Ministry on campus.*

Have an opinion  
you want to share?

CONTACT  
christian.welker24@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 College 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

## 2021-2022 Staff

MEGAN BROWN // Co-Editor-in-Chief

VICTORIA HOCK // News Editor

RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT // Media Editor

AMANDA ZAMBRANO // Faculty Advisor

OWEN HARDIMAN // Co-Editor-in-Chief

MARY HANNAH KENNEDY // Columns Editor

CHRISTIAN WELKER // Opinions Editor

## In Review

## Spider Man: No Way Home (2021)

CALEB TIEDEMANN ('25)

**MAJOR SPOILER WARNING:** Spider-Man: No Way Home was one of the most hyped-up and anticipated Marvel movies to come out this year. All of this was primarily thanks to the rumors and the advertisements that Marvel practically forced down your throat until you could not go anywhere without hearing or seeing it. After a year of average Marvel, I was starting to feel burnt out and hoping the future would be better. Little did I know that Jon Watts was going to drop one of the best Marvel films of all time right into my lap, to cap off 2021. I arrived home for Christmas break and caught church and breakfast with my friends. Then we went to the mall and mentally prepared ourselves for better or worse. Two and a half hours later, we all came to the same conclusion, "WOW!" I do not think it is too far to claim that Spider-Man: No Way Home is nothing short of a masterpiece.

No Way Home picks up right where Far From Home left off: Mysterio revealing Spider-Man's identity to the world. With Spider-Man/Peter Parker's (Tom Holland) friends and family at risk, he seeks help from Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch). When Strange tries to cast a spell that makes the world forget Peter Parker is Spider-Man things go horribly wrong and dangerous foes from alternate dimensions appear to put him to the test. In the end, Peter learns the true cost of what it means to be Spider-Man.

Similar to the other movies I review, there are many amazing details to go over. Let's start with the elephant, or elephants in the room, the names that everyone wants to hear. The appearances that made the people in my theater scream, clap, cry and shout: Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield. The appearance of these characters sent me into an insane frenzy of love and joy. Being one of those 2000s kids, I grew up with Maguire and Garfield, and seeing them back in their titular roles was jaw-dropping and nostalgic. Their intro was not superb but I loved it way too much to be annoyed. Tears and shouts of joy filled the theater on that day. A moment and feeling that cannot be matched. I felt young again, I felt nothing but joy to see them back in action.

You could tell that Maguire and Garfield were both thrilled to return to their roles as they both acted with all their heart, making it seem as if they never left. Tom Holland gives his ultimate performance in this film as Peter is driven to the edge of his sanity, broken and beaten, by trying so hard to be the friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Alfred Molina's return as Doc Ock is another smile-inducing moment. When he is turned good, he is so wholesome and happy, being able to truly be Alfred Molina instead of Ock. Then there's the other villains: Rhys Ifans' Lizard, and Thomas Haden Church's Sandman. Both get further personality development and fun moments as classic villains. Jamie Foxx's Electro also stood out as an awesome performance. Despite not being blue or balding, Foxx was given a great opportunity to make amends for the previous butchering of Electro.

Now, we get to talk about the MVP-Green Goblin. Willem Dafoe returns as the titular Spider-Man villain, the one who started it all. Dafoe's performance was nothing short of legendary. He truly

brought his crazy back without a second thought. I personally loved him so much more through this movie as he adopts a very similar personality to that of Heath Ledger's Joker. The way Goblin tanks punches all while smiling and laughing is one of the most bone-chilling scenes. It gives off the Batman/Joker interrogation scene vibes from the Dark Knight. Instead of having an ulterior motive, the Goblin just wants to break Spider-Man in any way he can, and he almost does. He kills one of the people closest to Peter, driving him nearly mad with grief and instilling vengeance within him. Similar to how Maguire and Garfield had to learn to deal with the grief of losing Uncle Ben and Gwen, so must Holland. Due to the Goblin, Peter is brought to the edge of his sanity, almost losing who he truly is along the way. This was one of the most heartbreaking, surprising, and emotionally well-done things in this movie.

Visually, this movie is stunning. The CG is believable and works well. The Doctor Strange fight is beautiful. Getting tossed back into the mirror dimension is always a visual treat. The cinematography is jaw-dropping. The humor was also fantastic. The interactions between the villains are funny, and the interactions between the three Spider-Men are hilarious. The movie does an excellent job of balancing humor with heart. The humor never feels out of place and never overstays its welcome. Small little details can be revealed in the shortest of sentences. They even got Willem Dafoe to say, "I'm something of a scientist myself," again. I mean, come on, how could you not like this movie?

Now, for the plot. Previously, the Spider-Man movies have been nothing but fun and adventure, with no real stakes and no real character. This does not mean they are bad by any means, but it makes them lesser than, especially if Peter is the exact same after six movies. In this movie, there are stakes and so much development, and not just development for Peter, development for a whole cast of characters from the last twenty years! For once, Spider-Man can't just get out of trouble by swinging away and making a quip. He is stuck, trying to help everyone and balancing the weight of the world on his shoulders. In the end, he has to make the ultimate sacrifice and let everyone forget he is Spider-Man to save the universe. The ultimate sacrifice that really cemented his reign as a legendary hero.

**Final Grade: A**

## Artist of the Week

## Aubree Flewellyn

About the Artist

Aubree Flewellyn is a sophomore, double majoring in art and psychology. Her favorite medium is watercolor, and she enjoys painting portraits (people and pets). She also likes to draw—with both a pencil and digitally—and sculpt with clay, wood, or metal. Aside from art, you can find Aubree listening to music, spending time with family and friends, reading, and of course, studying. You can check out more of her work on her Instagram account: @aubreescreations