

Student Life Debuts Initiative to Promote Intentional Residential Communities

PHOEBE MULLEN
Regular Contributor

The Office of Student Life is introducing the Randall Student Engagement Community, an initiative to combine student interests with intentional community living. "It can be the things that you already do. If you're in a club that already does these things, it just adds a live-in aspect to it," said AC Taylor ('14), Director of Student Engagement. Students select a focus area under which they can clarify their specific interest within the overarching theme, or focus.

Focus areas include but are not limited to:

- Creation Care
- Engaging the Arts
- Spiritual Formation
- Global Engagement
- Vocation & Calling
- Athletics & Wellness

Students will be expected to engage in their topic inside and outside of their house. Once a semester, each house will engage the community in some way, either putting on a themed event, or putting up a table in the campus center or posters



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

The Randall Townhouses will become centers for student engagement communities.

across campus. Funding will be provided for each group for that purpose. Taylor notes, "It's not like 'Here, figure it out,' it's 'We have money for you to do your programming.'" Taylor also pointed out that the Randall houses will cost less than regular townhouses next year.

The students will live in the Randall Townhouses, but a group of students does not have to fit in a single townhouse--it can be smaller or bigger--and it can include both men and women. The members of the group can be split into two or more townhouses depending on the group's size and gender ratio. As stated on the application page, "Students can apply as individuals, roommate pairs, half filled houses, or full 8 person houses. Those without full houses would be able to select other incomplete houses to form a full house with multiple themes."

There have been similar themed living arrangements at Houghton in the past, including sustainability themed townhouses, and a faith & justice themed house; that group lived in Brown House, the brick

See **RSEC** page 2

New Clubs Draw Participants, Older Ones Struggle

BURTON BREWSTER
Regular Contributor

Many clubs on campus have been created since the beginning of last semester and seen success in acquiring members, yet some of the older clubs on campus are currently struggling to stay afloat.

The Gospel Choir is a returning club that originally formed 9 years ago before being reformed last year. Contrary to what one might expect, the majority of club members are non-music majors. According to the president of the club, Jordan Simmons ('22), the biggest challenge in starting the club came from "learning how to teach a group of people in a field I'm not familiar with." Gospel Choir was featured in the MLK Chapel service and according to an anonymous source, "They did a superb job".

One of the other new clubs on campus is the Disc Golf club, currently being headed by President Zachary Paris ('20). "The

See **CLUBS** page 2

Center for Sustainability Enjoys Major Renovations to Office



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

Sustainability Intern Honus Wagner ('20) reads in the new Center for Sustainability space.

ALEX DEARMORE
Regular Contributor

This semester, the Center for Sustainability that is located in Chamberlain Center overwent massive renovations. The room,

which can be found on the third floor of the building, has more space than it had before, additional and more comfortable seating, a brand-new counter area, and will "have tea avail-

able for students anytime," according to Brian Webb, Houghton College's Sustainability Director. Additionally, you can sign out movies or books about

See **SUSTAINABLE** page 2

CAB Hosts CABob Night

JACOB KNUDSEN
Regular Contributor

As the first week of the spring semester drew to a close, many students chose to celebrate by gathering in the Gillette lounge for "CABob night." This event featured a long table full of skewer-able snacks, a chocolate fountain, a Wii console, and a number of other board and card games. Students from across campus visited to enjoy the free food, as well as socialize in a relaxed environment. CABob night was conceived and produced by Houghton's CAB team, which had planned this event back in the fall semester and had been prepping for it since returning to campus.

The Campus Activities Board, most often just referred to as CAB, is the Houghton organization responsible for planning and staging many of Houghton's events. It consists of five students hired by Student Life and the Director of Student Engagement, AC Taylor

See **CABOB** page 2

News: Houghton Celebrates 3rd Annual MLK Day

VICTORIA HOCK AND
RILEY GASTIN

Houghton College celebrated their 3rd annual Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 20th. This event was a day filled with guest speakers, a chapel service featuring the Houghton College gospel choir, break-out sessions highlighting Dr. King’s life and movement, a dinner catered by LaVerdad Cafe in Buffalo, and an evening of jazz provided by the Sonder Jazz Trio. Monday was a day to learn and celebrate the life of Dr. King. In the words of President Mullen, it is a way to “honor

Martin Luther King Jr. and his role in our country’s history.” Dean of the Chapel, Michael Jordan, revealed that it was once thought that an event like this would not be feasible. He stated that, “Initially, it was just like any other day. However, we knew we wanted to do something to celebrate, but we did not think we could due to requirements about how many days students were expected to attend classes.” President Mullen was able to shed more light on why it was originally difficult to celebrate MLK Day. “We have not typically taken

the day as a holiday—just as we don’t take Labor Day as a holiday in September. This is not because we don’t think these days are important in what they seek to honor, but because they typically come just as the semester is beginning...In the end, we thought it would be more appropriate to make the day a special day of programming on campus about the history and context of Martin Luther King’s legacy.” One of the events was a performance from the Gospel Choir. This year, the choir is headed by Jordan Simmons (‘22). Simmons expressed enthusiasm about the event

as a whole, stating that he liked how “different cultures are represented.” He then went on to express excitement regarding the Gospel Choir performance. He explained that when it came to song choice, they had a group of songs they could choose from, but “If there’s something the group wants to do, then we will try and do it.” Johanna Florez (‘21), a member of the choir, explains that “The chosen songs reflect different angles of Christian and African-American experience. The spiritual ‘I’ve Been ‘Buked’ is about suffering as a Christian, and presumably as a slave, and

also about maintaining faith through that. On the other end of the spectrum, ‘Hosanna’ is about praising God for how he’s blessed us. So our song choices reflect multiple aspects of having faith in difficult situations.” Overall, the event was a success, and enjoyed by many. Plenty of unique learning sessions were found throughout campus, and in addition to learning, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was also a time for celebration, as Dean Jordan stated: “This isn’t just a day about learning, but a day about celebrating.” ★

CLUBS *from page 1*

club right now is just a group of people who love the game and when the weather is permitting,” Paris says, “The difficulty [we] faced was the weather and being able to get out and play.” The club has managed to acquire a passionate following of disc golfers. Many of the clubs formed last semester have been doing quite well. The PB&J Club, for instance, has seen reasonable success since its conception. For those unaware of the premise of the club, as club President Billy McCrae (‘23) describes it as “a service club meant to help solve the hunger problem that exists in the world specifically targeting the impoverished in Buffalo.” As the name suggests, the club makes peanut butter and jelly sandwiches during its meetings which are then distributed throughout the Buffalo area. As of January 18th, the club has already made a total of 2,874 sandwiches, making a record amount of 504 in a single meeting. Despite this success, the club is still in search of drivers to help transport sandwiches to Buffalo. The American Sign Language club, which formed last semester has also seen progress in its endeavor to teach sign language to members. In an interview with the president of the club, Maria Simonin (‘23), she explained, “It’s awesome! Teaching such an important language to other people is amazing, [however,] it was hard preparing lectures and making sure people followed all the rules ASL has.” Regardless, the club has already learned the basics of the language and are now “preparing Christian signed songs

[for] multiple campus events,” as Simonin says. Another club formed last semester is Campus Advocates for Peace and Justice (CAPJ) which is being led by president Olivia Flint (‘20). Flint says CAPJ was formed “to both teach and empower students to communicate with their representatives on issues that they care about.” So far the club has sent letters and phone calls to Tom Reed about the so-called “Muslim ban” and plan on eventually lobbying to Reed in person. On the other hand, The Gadfly Society (also known as the philosophy club) has been struggling with attendance. The Gadfly Society is the longest running club on campus; however, meetings have only been ranging at about three to four attendees. In the words of club president Anna Judd (‘21), “From what I understand, a lot of clubs have been struggling with attendance recently. We got a few new sign-ups at the activities fair [but] the spring fair is a lot smaller than the fall one.” Judd went on to say, “The Gadfly Society is intended not just for philosophy students. Meetings are very relaxed; we sit down over tea and have a conversation, jumping off from a particular topic, but letting the discussion flow where it flows.” As Maria Simonin put it, “I saw a lot of interesting clubs [at the fair] that I will definitely try to find time to attend!” ★ **SUSTAINABLE** *from page 1* sustainability from the Center. One of the problems with the old center, according to EcoReps intern Mary Chichester (‘22), was that “there was nowhere to sit.” With a more spacious room and couches that

come “from SGA” (Student Government Association), Mary says that the EcoReps “want people to come in, sit down, and chat.” Furthering this sentiment, Webb comments that “we want to create a place where students feel welcome.” He adds that “you can come in and we’ll chat about sustainability, or you can just come in and say ‘hi’, have some tea, or study.” Owen Hardiman (‘22), a student who attended the Center for Sustainability’s open house last Friday, says that the new space “feels open and really nice. There’s lots of sunlight.” When talking about the importance of the renovations, Webb says that “visibility is the key piece...having a space where students are constantly walking by is an important visual cue that makes it obvious that this is something that the institution values.” Funding for the project came primarily from the Center’s “normal operating budget,” per Webb. The Center for Sustainability is open until “3:30 on most days,” according to Webb, and “students are welcome to come in anytime.” ★ **CABOB** *from page 1* (‘14). CAB typically produces one major event each month, in addition to the events on the first weekend of the school year and a handful of other smaller events. Regular events include the After Prism Party, which provides sweets and drinks for campus following the Prism event; Clue Night, in which participants must race to solve a mystery inspired by the board game Clue, in order to win a prize; Film Fest, in which student-made films are showcased

and voted on by participants; and Midnight Breakfast, in which Houghton staff and faculty serve students food the hour before midnight on the last day of classes. CAB is also responsible for designing and running each year’s Purple and Gold Week. In addition, CAB produces the weekly Coffee House events that occur each Thursday in Java. Those who regularly attend athletics event may be familiar with CAB Club, the branch of CAB which runs a raffle for a free pizza roughly once a week at an athletics event. The next big CAB event this semester will be the Game Show, held in the Wesley Chapel January 31st. According to the CAB member taking point on this event, Angelica Robinson (‘22), it will be run in the style of Family Feud, where “teams will compete to win prizes that appeal to all sorts of people.” CAB is also in the process of preparing more events later in the semester, including Clue Night, Roller Skating, and Film Fest. Despite CAB’s frequent interaction with the student body, it is one of Houghton’s more nebulous organizations. Even for CAB members it required some research to discover exactly how CAB fits into the larger scheme of Houghton organizations. It’s similar to a typical club, in that it is almost entirely student-run and student-driven, but its members are selected by Student Life and paid a stipend at the end of each semester. However, it’s not fully a part of Student Life either, as it is technically a student association and it operates with minimal oversight. Ultimately, CAB is its own unique organization. “It stands between two worlds,”

as described by AC Taylor, who is the only faculty member of Student Life who directly interacts with CAB. It provides students with the ability to work with faculty and the college’s resources in order to provide the campus with interesting, community-building events. However, CAB didn’t always fill this niche in Student Life. AC Taylor described CAB as originally serving as the umbrella name for all student-driven parts of Student Life, performing the function that the Student Programs Office does now. This included the Student Government Association and all other clubs. However, elements of this organization that specifically designed and produced campus events were separated and combined into their own, specific organization, creating the CAB we have today. Now, CAB works independently from other parts of Student Programs and primarily produces events with the sole purpose of engaging students and fostering a sense of community. ★ **RSEC** *from page 1* house behind Luckey Building. At another time, a group of women lived together in a set-aside group of rooms in Gillette. “Part of the problem you can see right there in the statistics, it was mostly women,” said Paul Young, our academic dean, “so this new approach is designed to be flexible for that, but with definite hopes of having more men and women involved.” Applications are now open for the Randall Student Engagement Community and can be found under the Student Programs tab on the Houghton College website. ★

Have you been thinking of writing for the STAR? We always welcome new contributors! You may write a single article with guidance and support from the editorial staff and without any commitment to future writing. Or if you want to make this a resume piece, you can join the writing team on an ongoing basis each semester. Whatever you’re interested in, reach out by emailing editor@houghtonstar.com anytime!

Comics: On Snow

Heart and Brain

NICK SELUK



The Awkward Yeti

NICK SELUK



Heart and Brain

NICK SELUK

Humans of Houghton

Elijah Tangenberg

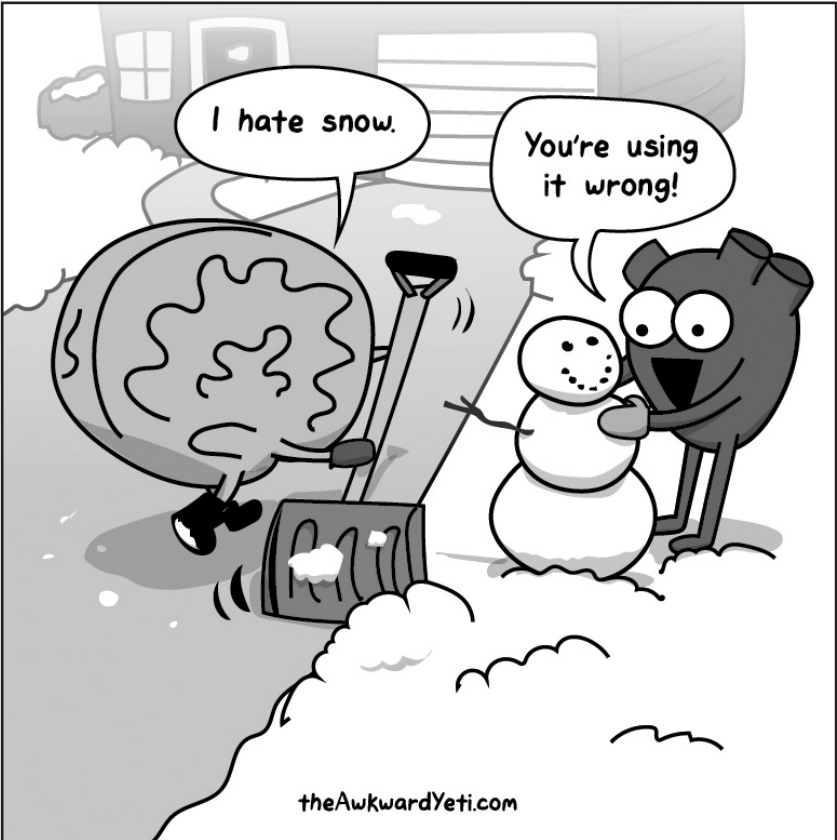
ALLY STEVICK

Elijah Tangenberg is a senior at Houghton, majoring in political science with a minor in economics. After Houghton, Elijah says that he hopes to do work related to water supply and national security. He explains that some of the goal with this is to “try to help us live more sustainably, while also preserving most of our current uses for water.” Elijah tells me that he first started thinking about water when he was growing up in California. “I think that my dad unintentionally started a water management mafia,” he jokes, “it’s a thing that he got really into when we moved to California. He got a job with the Council for Watershed Health in Los Angeles. I spent most of my childhood talking with my dad about water issues—things he was looking at at work, really frustrating things that were happening with policy at work, really cool things that had happened and how they worked.” Even though water was something Elijah thought and talked about a lot growing up, he says he didn’t initially think of focusing on water as an area of study in college. “I was actually much more interested in international relations,” he says, “but I took a class with Professor Ron Oakerson my second semester of sophomore year, and when we started talking about water issues I suddenly started getting really interested.”

Elijah tells me that some of the unique challenges of water particularly appealed to him—such as public perception about feasible water supply solutions, balancing the expense of different methods, and how water behaves differently from other natural resources. “It does things that no other natural resource we use does,” he says. “Like for fuel, gas, whatever, you burn it and it’s gone, it’s some other form, it’s in our atmosphere, but we’ll never see it become oil or wood again. We can kind of guess how

those processes work, and try to encourage them, but it doesn’t happen nearly instantly. For water, it just falls from the sky, goes through a river, goes through the ocean, and can be back above our heads the next day. It’s really flexible.”

In his spare time Elijah likes to work on his hobbies. He tells me about the three hobbies that he’s spent the most time on: journal systems, music, and reading ancient Japanese and Chinese poetry. Elijah explains that he got into haiku because of his cousin, and from haiku he made his way to ancient Chinese poetry. “Ancient Chinese culture is something that I’ve always been a little bit interested in,” he says. “Partly because of their culture’s relationship to government, but also natural spaces at the same time.” Elijah explains that the way the ancient Chinese related to their natural resources and to their government is often expressed in their poetry. “What the poems convey is this kind of embattlement between natural elements—this transcendence of nature, these divine forces—in connection to their relationship to government, their families, as well as their relationship to their selves. And all of those elements together have just really spoken to me as I’ve gone through political science, since frankly no other culture has poems about government—just even saying that makes people laugh.” However, Elijah says he thinks that connecting political science to art is really important. “Without the artistic element you lose a lot of creativity,” he says, “especially with natural resource policy, where you need to be balancing so many different needs at the same time, that really require really creative solutions—not just so that you can get to a really great outcome, but so that you can get to a survivable outcome. You need to have this respect for your subject that can only really be conveyed in art.” ★



Get Involved With Houghton Local Ministries

ERIN MAGGIO
Regular Contributor

Houghton College, along with partnering organizations, offers many opportunities for students to get involved in ministry and outreach, both locally and internationally. Service opportunities include work with Alleghany County Outreach (ACO), Global Christian Fellowship, One Mission Society International (OMS), the Salvation Army Student Fellowship, SIM (Serving in Mission), Young Life, Youth for Christ, Houghton Wesleyan Church, and working on school year or summer ministry teams.

One of these opportunities is One Mission Society (OMS), which is a mission society that works in over 70 countries around the world. They are primarily focused on evangelism, church planting, leadership training and partnership. Specifically, on the Houghton campus, Rev. Robert Bruce Hess is the director of the Intercultural Outreach Center (IOC), which is a ministry branch of OMS based in Houghton.

OMS's international headquarters are in Greenwood, Indiana, but here in Houghton Rev. Hess and his son Mateo Hess chair a "coordinating team" of the IOC. Several cur-



COURTESY OF MATEO HESS

A group from Rochester on campus for a "back to school rally" on September 14, 2019.

rent students have involvement with the IOC's annual "coordinating team meeting" and work with other organizations in aims of helping to fulfill the IOC's mission. In addition, each year at the end of May, a team from Houghton's OMS travels to Bogota, Colombia to work in a K-12 Christian school there.

On a more local scale, OMS Houghton also has a Bible study on the book of Matthew each Thursday from 5 to 6 pm at the Hess's home, along with a "Monday Night Supper Table"

from 5 to 7 pm to connect with Bruce and his wife Donna. If interested, Mateo Hess advises "see[ing] Bruce and Donna Hess from 5 to 7 pm (Mondays) in the dining room to connect."

Houghton Wesleyan Church (HWC), right across the street from the college, offers much opportunity for student involvement. Many students serve on the worship team and in children's ministry at the church. Current students help in the nursery, in the three-year-old class, in kindergarten, in lead-

ing music in the Junior Church and Valley Preschool, as well as in Kid's Club on Wednesday, helping to lead games, music, and crafts.

Emily Spateholts, one of the two Children's Ministry Directors at the church, says that HWC "can always use more student involvement and can find places where [student's] gifts can be used." She noted specific areas where help can be used, including calling for more people on Wednesday nights to lead music; someone to be a teacher's

assistant on Sunday mornings; and students—maybe those studying special education—who could be a one-on-one aid for differently-abled children and adults, to give such people the opportunity to be more involved in Sunday school and more visible in the church, while also helping their families have more space to participate in activities. Students can email Spateholts for more information at emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org if interested.

Students can also get involved in Alleghany County Outreach (ACO), a chapter of the more well-known nationwide Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. In ACO, students connect and serve children in Alleghany County by pairing up with a child and mentoring them throughout the school year. Anna Hardiman ('20) is involved in ACO and says that "Upon joining the club, Houghton students undergo an orientation process that equips them to be mentors and soon they are assigned a local 'little' to befriend and regularly encourage."

Students can find more information about various opportunities on the Houghton College website under the page "Service Opportunities." ★

What It's Like to be a Teacher's Assistant

BURTON BREWSTER
Regular Contributor

The teacher's assistant is a minority on Houghton campus. Often they can go under the radar, yet they are vital to making sure that the classroom runs smoothly.

"I almost came in as an art major," explained Lisbeth Crompton ('21), "but my senior year [of high school] I decided I didn't want to do that so I took a gap year and decided on chemistry."

Lisbeth Crompton is a teacher's assistant for Professor Karen Torraca in the chemistry department. Specifically, Crompton helps with organic chemistry – a subcategory of chemistry which deals with the basic structure of organic compounds. "I'm usually on the fourth floor," she explained. "That's where the chemistry floor is."

When asked to define what a teacher's assistant (TA) was Crompton explained, "A TA here at Houghton is someone usually that helps in the science labs, if they are a science TA, or they lead help sessions and review sessions." But as it just so happens, there can be flexibility in what jobs a TA is assigned to do. Crompton, for instance, does not grade papers, but focuses more on helping students in the classroom. As she put it, "I enjoy seeing the students do better!"

Phoebe Trush ('21) is another TA on campus who works in the science department. "I really like the idea of healing things," she explained. Trush originally planned on studying in the pre-veterinary department to care for animals, but eventually switched to humans. "I want to work with kids and help them, because doctors can be scary, you know what I mean!" It is for that reason that Trush is majoring in Biology to become a physician's assistant.

For a TA in the biology department, the responsibilities are many. She explains, "You kind of do a little bit of everything. There are basic labs where you gather all the materials, you're there for lab, you help them, explain what's happening and why it's happening, and if they have any questions then they can come to you. We grade all their handouts, we grade lab practicals, we take care of all the animals [and] we teach students to take care of the animals." Yet all of this preparation and work is what enables professors to walk into the classroom and say, let's do it, without wasting class time. "I think we do a lot more than some other TAs because our professor is like, "You're going to need this experience some day."

According to Trush, the greatest struggle as a TA, aside from the time commitment, is that "the biology department is very unorganized. That's where



COURTESY OF GERI EDWARDS

From left to right: Marc Alfonce ('20), Lisbeth Crompton ('21), and Phoebe Trush ('21).

most of my hours came from. You have to wander throughout all of Paine!"

"As a TA you're not there to reteach the class," says Marc Alfonce ('20).

Alfonce is majoring in Theology, and as a result, is TA-ing for Professor Ken Schenck in Biblical Literature. One of his major responsibilities is in leading weekly help sessions for students that want to study the subject more. According to Alfonce, "One of the challenges I've faced is just going [to the

help sessions] and no one shows up. I'm excited to talk about the Bible!" When it does turn out that way, a TA is required to wait twenty minutes before they are allowed to leave. Outside of help sessions, Biblical Literature TA's are not required to sit in class.

Alfonce's advice for other potential TAs: write down your answers. "One of the things I regret from the first time I was a TA is not writing down the answers I had. Because the following year when I was teach-

ing the same class I had to re-read the material to be able to answer [people's questions]. Also, don't answer everything. Try to get the student to answer the question. It's really fun and very rewarding, especially if someone who comes to sessions does better."

As Lisbeth Crompton says, "I just see it as an opportunity to make connections and make friends and help people!" ★

Editorial Staff Reflects on Experiences So Far

The STAR editorial staff is back in action for second semester. As we begin to put together issues for the new term, here are some of our experiences so far:

Co-Editors-in-Chief Johanna Florez (‘21) and David Bowers (‘21) reflect on their leadership positions on the paper. Florez comments, “... The role of Editor-in-Chief has stretched me a lot to grow in skills beyond writing and editing. I’ve practiced coordinating a team so we can collaborate despite different schedules; I’ve learned the business side of running a newspaper (and working with financial offices on campus); I’ve used technology and programs that were completely unfamiliar to me before the start of this year.

“But I’ve also become so much better connected on campus, aware of what’s going on when and who to contact for almost any information you could want about anything related to Houghton. I think editor-in-chief is a great position for anyone who is organized and able to organize others; for anyone who is aware of their strengths and weaknesses and able to bring together a team who can balance all of those out and learn from each other.

“It is one of the most rewarding jobs ever...years from now I won’t remember the stress of having this job as an otherwise already busy student, but I’ll still have a couple dozen issues of a newspaper that I helped create to be proud of.”

Similarly, Bowers says “Being Editor-in-Chief has been both incredibly rewarding and deeply challenging, but ul-



Web and Photos Editor Caleb Fesmire (‘21) and co-Editor-in-Chief David Bowers (‘21) working on newspaper layout.

timately, a deep privilege. I’ve learned how to delegate tasks (something I did very poorly before taking on this position). I’ve become a more competent interviewer. I’ve interviewed sources and written an article in the space of 6 hours when another story fell through at the last minute.

“I’ve also experienced in a really unique way what it means to be part of a team, something group projects and mission trips I’ve been part of don’t quite emulate: both lack the creative independence, clearly defined roles, and tight schedule involved in editing a newspaper.

“As an editor-in-chief, I’ve learned how to lead a team in two ways that will continue to serve me for the rest of my life. First, I’ve learned to make quick, confident decisions when

it’s demanded. Second, I’ve learned to trust the members of the team I help lead, to lift up their unique strengths and step away when I recognize they’re better suited to a particular task than I am. My teammates’ talents are remarkable. Without them I’d flounder.”

Caleb Fesmire (‘21), the returning web editor and current photo editor says, “working on the STAR has given me the opportunity to utilize the skills I have been developing in my classes- which is reassuring, to be able to put them to practical use, while I’m still learning them. There’s a satisfaction every time the new paper comes in: to see the product of our work tangibly, and to be able to flip from page to page is very rewarding.”

News Editor Riley Gastin

(‘21) and Opinions Editor Owen Hardiman (‘22) also tell us about stepping into their roles mid-fall semester.

Gastin says, “working at the STAR has been a great experience so far! The staff are all very helpful and made jumping in mid-semester quite easy. I appreciate how the job has challenged me...it can be stressful at times, especially when you are working with ten articles and writers at a time, but it all gets on the press and that’s ultimately what matters.

“I’m looking forward to editing this semester, especially now that I (mostly) know what I’m doing. We have some exciting things in the works!”

In Hardiman’s experience of going from copy-editor to editor, he says, “working for the STAR has been an incredible

adventure; not only has it given me valuable experience working as part of an organized team, but it also has simply been a fun on-campus job. I would highly recommend that others consider joining the STAR team!”

Features Editor Geri Edwards (‘21) says, “being an editor has been really great and beneficial. Working on the paper really expands your organizational skills and your ability to collaborate with others to create a final product. Features is a fun section, because it requires you to find creative topics to report on, and I’ve really enjoyed working with the staff and all of the writers!”

And last but certainly not least, Columns Editor Josiah Wiedenheft (‘22) remarks, “Working as an editor for the columns section has been a great experience, if a little hectic at times! Columns is definitely a ‘bit of everything’ section, which means it can sometimes be a bit up in the air what might go into it for any given issue, but everything always works out in the end.

“With the finished product of each issue, and surveying the totality of what I’ve worked on the past semester, it’s been really cool to see so many people contribute their experiences and the things they’re passionate about. The columns section is always open to writers who have something they’re interested in and who want to share it with the rest of Houghton.”

Working for the Houghton STAR is an invaluable experience that expands your professional skill set and integrates you even deeper into the Houghton community. ★

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

We would really really appreciate it if Photo of the Week actually represented unsolicited photos from you guys. So you. The person reading this now. Pull out your phone and send us the best photo you’ve taken this week. We’ll give a

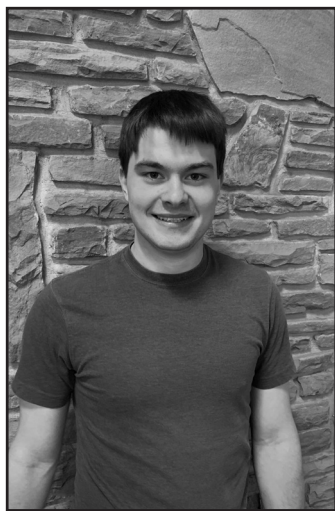
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to the first 10 people who send us a photo before Friday the 31st.

Micah Condie ‘23 stands by the edge of Moss Lake on Sunday afternoon following a long drive up a steep hill on a no-winter-maintenance road with 8 inches of snow.



Why is Science Up For Debate?



COURTESY OF BRYCE PRESTON

CLAYTON HARDIMAN

One of the most divisive and bitterly fought over issues that Americans face today is the issue of climate change. As we look back through the last decade, we can see just how partisan this issue has become: President Obama committing the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement in 2016 only to have President Trump withdraw from the very same agreement in 2017 (making the U.S. one of only three member states of the United Nations not to be involved in the treaty,

along with Syria and Nicaragua). This can also be seen in the Trump administration's rollbacks of established environmental regulations, ranging from Obama-era strict carbon dioxide emissions standards for coal burning power plants (December 2018), to clearing U.S. federally controlled waters in the Arctic for offshore oil drilling (October 2018), and more recently, a dose of now frequent verbal attacks on water saving standards in new appliances (especially toilets) from the current president himself.

But why has this seemingly scientific issue of climate change bled into the realm of politics? It may be the same reason that many issues which

humans, through the burning of fossil fuels and the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, are contributing to (if not downright causing) the average global temperature to rise—exacerbating issues such as wildfires, rising sea levels and extreme weather events—one would presumably modify one's behavior in order to lessen their impact on these events. (Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps heat by absorbing infrared radiation from the sun and storing it.) Here lies the problem: coal and oil have been creating jobs and creating millionaires since the Industrial Revolution, when coal was first burned to power steam operated machinery. When some-

your acknowledgment, damages yourself in some way.

President Trump ran on a platform appealing to many blue-collar workers in the so-called Rust Belt, promising to return to coal and recreate the jobs that had been lost in that industry. This message may have been responsible for his winning in key swing states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan in the presidential election in 2016. If candidate Trump had acknowledged that the burning of fossil fuels and the subsequent release of carbon dioxide contributed to rising global temperatures, and vowed to regulate emissions and coal burning, he very well may have never even secured the Republican party nomination, costing him the presidency.

On the same line, national and even local representatives running in districts historically supporting the coal industry have a smaller chance of getting elected if they recognize that the burning of coal and the release of carbon dioxide have a direct link to rising global temperatures. This is simply because their rhetoric

goes against an important (albeit harmful) pillar of the local economy. Voting for or electing that anti-coal candidate would go against that district's own self-interest, and if there's one thing that human nature tells us, it is to protect our self interest above all else, perhaps at the expense of others—or even our environment.

Climate change is difficult to talk about. It can cause arguments, fracture relationships and cause deep divides to form between people and political affiliations. While I respect those who disagree that the burning of fossil fuels and the release of carbon dioxide causes changes to local climates and the global environment, I also invite them to think about why they believe this, and to research the many thousands of scientific articles, papers, and journals dedicated to this subject. ★

Clayton is a sophomore majoring in biology with an environmental emphasis.

“...why has this seemingly scientific issue of climate change bled into the realm of politics?”

seem far from political become flashpoints in political discourse: acknowledgement of the issue would demand a fundamental change in behavior. If one acknowledges that

thing has the potential to allow you to make a living or even to become wealthy, it is very hard to turn your back on it and no longer support it, because your change in behavior, caused by

New Decade, New Us?



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

JACIE COOK

It's a brand new decade! Hopefully the years 2020-2030 will bring all of us great joy, fantastic memories, and a deeper relationship with Christ. The past ten years haven't all been horrible; there were some interesting years, some sad years—but there were happy years too. For myself, 2010 seems like forever ago—I was ten years old! I had no idea what I was doing with my life, and I certainly didn't know I was going to be attending Houghton within the same decade that I survived middle school (oh boy... I do not miss those days of colorful shorts and little black mustache designs everywhere).

Ten years is a long time. A lot of changes can happen, in fact a lot has changed. My suggestion? Let's figure out what things we'd like to leave in the last decade and what things

we'd like to start doing for the next ten years.

I'd like to start by addressing a phrase that I personally struggle with. Have you ever been discussing a serious matter with another Christian and it leads them to say this phrase: “Oh, that's awful. I'll pray for you.” This is right up there on my list of top pet peeves (right under when tall people get in front of me and then proceed to walk slower than a snail). To the recipient of that flippant phrase, it sounds like the listener either doesn't care, or doesn't want to take immediate action to help. While nothing is inherently wrong with this phrase, perhaps in this new decade instead of saying we will pray for someone, let's take a minute and pray right then and there! Either with the person or by yourself for them if they are uncomfortable with doing so. It can be quite intimidating, but I think it's worth trying.

Another thing we can leave behind is the need to say something is okay when it really isn't. Allow me to explain: too often, I have found myself hearing news that I didn't want to hear. My response to these types of situations is typically saying “oh it's okay,” to avoid making the other person feel bad. While the gesture is sweet, it can become very taxing on yourself. For example, let's say it's as simple as someone canceling plans at the last minute that you had planned months prior. A typical assumption would be to reply with this phrase, rather than saying what we really feel. For myself, I'm working on the ability to be more honest. It's not rude to explain why and how

“Let's figure out what things we'd like to leave in the last decade and what things we'd like to start doing for the next ten years.”

something negatively affects you; of course, you don't need to “cancel” the person, but if you tell them how you truly feel, they will know how to handle the situation better in the future.

That brings me to my last suggested item to leave in the previous decade—canceling someone. Last semester, I was meeting with a professor in Java and the topic of “canceling someone” came up. Together we agreed that it is a harsh thing to do, especially from a Christian perspective. But even for those who don't consider themselves religious, it can be a horrible habit to get into. What exactly does a person have to do to become canceled? Where does forgiveness fall, where is the line between something simply being offensive and something warranting being canceled? Many more questions come to mind with this recent ideal; I implore you to think it over. Have you canceled someone or a group of people before? Was it worth it? If you haven't, do you think there would be a situation that justifies canceling someone? These are good questions to think about as you begin your journey into this new decade, and perhaps the new you.

Alright, time to turn our minds to the future—to 2020 and be-

yond! What might we continue to do, or maybe start doing for the first time, in this new decade? Well, this list can be quite extensive, so I have simply name a couple of my personal suggestions. The first: learn when to say yes and when to say no.

Differentiating between the two can sometimes be a challenge; we don't want to disappoint anyone, so we agree to do things we secretly would like to turn down. On the flip side, we say no to things that we want to do for the sake of others and their personal desires (or we spent so much time doing the things we said yes to that now we are too exhausted to participate in something we actually want to do). So how do we know when to say what?

Personally, I believe the choice comes down to how I truly feel. While it can be kind to think of others, it's important to also think of yourself. Constantly thinking of others can lead to a person becoming drained—learning your own personal limit can be a 2020 goal! In fact, a friend of mine was discussing this very problem at lunch. As I was listening to her, I realized both how important it was for her to grow in the ability to differentiate between saying yes and no, and the importance of myself be-

ing aware of the temptations and struggles of others around me.

You may be thinking “Jacie, you're contradicting yourself! How am I supposed to think more about my own needs and become more conscious of others' needs too?” I'll admit, the two ideas do seem to oppose each other, but the key is balance. Yes, it is wise to be able to look after yourself, and pay attention to your physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs, but don't forsake paying attention to others. This is not to say that you are responsible for others, but it is suggesting that it doesn't take much to carefully analyze how your personal actions could affect someone else.

Perhaps now would be a good time to wrap things up, as I'm sure you have a lot more to do (watch Netflix, socialize with others, take a nap... maybe do some homework, if you're feeling ambitious). I can leave you all with two short lists.

Things to leave behind in the last decade: using the phrase “I'll pray for you” in place of real concern/prayer, saying things are okay when they really aren't, and canceling people. Things to start/continue doing in the new decade: learning when to say yes and when to say no, balancing self-care and awareness for others, and last but not least, taking time to focus on the new you. Happy 2020 everyone, good luck in this new decade! ★

Jacie is a sophomore majoring in psychology and writing.

Journalistic Speculation: Responses to Predictions from 2010

JOHANNA FLOREZ /
EDITORIAL STAFF

On January 20, 2010, the STAR staff published observations of current events at Houghton and their predictions for the coming decade. Here we respond to the accuracy of their predictions and offer a few of our own for what 2020-2030 holds in store for Houghton College.

“Sciences - The new science wing will be built, but not before 2015. Hopefully the new wing will give Houghton the kind of reputation that will make it a candidate for conferences and conventions about environmental sustainability and technology in Western New York.”

In 2010, Houghton was fundraising to expand Paine with a new wing near Luckey. More recently Paine was going to be expanded to add a fifth floor. In the past year individual departments have downsized and reorganized within the building, making expansion unnecessary. Instead, the funds raised to support the sciences have been used to renovate and upgrade existing classrooms and labs within the building.

“Conversation Topics - Chapel requirements, drinking, and smoking will continue to be annual sources of conversation. Of the three, the chapel requirement is the least likely to be relaxed (excluding the pos-

sibility of moving to a Tuesday-Thursday chapel schedule).”

Houghton has showed no sign of shifting its stance against drinking and smoking or loosening its two-thirds chapel requirement. But as smoking has been alternatively demonized by broader society, then accepted again in the form of vaping, and then attacked once more for its health consequences on teenagers, it’s unlikely that people will push the college to allow tobacco use.

“The Color Green: Environmental and Economic commitments will create tension. Because money is and probably always will be tight, the school will have to be creative about its environmental commitments. Although it won’t become a marketable ‘distinctive’ until the money is there to fund dramatic investments in environmental technology, Houghton will, for the time being, focus on smaller scale environmental sustainability. Look for local food production, the Science Honors program, and partnerships between Recreation & Leisure, Sociology, and the Sciences to provide exciting ideas.”

Sustainability has continued to come more into the spotlight as far as causes Houghton promotes. The past few years have seen small changes such as the installation of energy-efficient lightbulbs, and some more labor-intensive programs such as the planting of the campus garden, which during the fall

semester supplied the Campus Center Dining Hall with fresh herbs. The Center for Sustainability has also opened its new office/lounge space on the third floor of Chamberlain, allowing sustainability to become a more visible component of daily life at Houghton.

“First Year Honors Programs Science Honors and EMW will remain the same while London will either be dropped entirely or replaced by another Mayterm-model program. Enough people at Houghton are suspicious of Honors study that attempts to start a new Honors program will face an uphill battle all the way.”

How the tables have turned. This May, the last-ever East Meets West cohort will depart for the Balkans. Meanwhile, the class of 2023’s freshman London Honors cohort is currently studying in England, and recruitment for future cohorts is underway. It remains to be seen whether proposals for new honors programs will be met with significant resistance.

“Foreign languages - All foreign language majors will be completely cut and will move to an entirely minor/concentration based program. However, other languages that are rising in frequency and practicality (Mandarin, Chinese, Arabic) will be added.”

As predicted, Houghton no longer offers foreign language majors. Additionally, Teaching

English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and Linguistics programs are being phased out. Spanish, French, and German are offered as minors (and Spanish as a concentration for Inclusive Childhood Education). However, the History and Political Science department is moving towards requiring foreign language experience for its majors.

“With the now-complete implementation of the four-credit system, and the increased time investment this system requires within one’s specific field, students who become unsure of their degree track in their second or third year will be unable to change majors without a significant amount of rescheduling, and possibly extra semesters and tuition costs incurred. One of the negative effects of this will be to create students who are dissatisfied with their majors, unenthusiastic about their departments, and to increase the amount of transfers to other schools.”

In 2010, Houghton had transitioned from mostly 3-credit courses to more 4-credit courses. By the time most current students enrolled, it was stepping back to a largely 3-credit system. Prof. Laurie Dashnau, who has taught at Houghton for 20 years, says that the experiment complicated transfer credits. It allowed professors to dedicate more time and attention to each individual course they taught, but departments found it more

difficult to offer enough discrete courses to round out majors. A 3-credit system may not make it an easy matter to change majors as a sophomore or junior, but the current mix of 3-credit classes with some 2- and 4-credit courses (and even a handful of 1-credit seminars) seems to allow adequate flexibility for students to pursue their degree tracks and interests with an appropriate workload.

In the coming decade, Houghton will continue to search for ways to increase community engagement and worldwide connections in an endeavor to bring more investments into its shrinking main campus. It will need to consider the accessibility of the campus to diverse students. The steep hills separating Shen and Roth from the quad are natural obstacles which the college will be asked to creatively overcome. Serious renovations will have to occur in order to install elevators and other physical accommodations to buildings, especially the dorms. Houghton will also have to continue examining its practices surrounding gender identity and sexuality-- how to apply housing rules to gender nonconforming students and open hours restrictions to same-sex couples. Even at what will remain a small college, there will be enough diverse students to call for practical solutions to issues that Houghton has not had to account for in most of its history. ★

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.

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STAR

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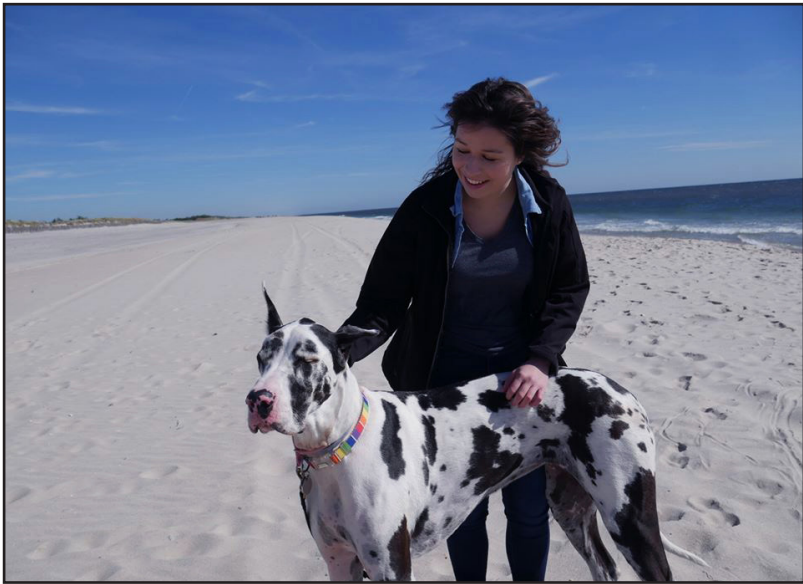
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Artist of the Week

Elisabeth Harris

// Senior Art Major



When I was a child I would tell anyone who would listen that someday I was going to be an artist, a missionary and a nurse. I knew then, as I do now, that throughout my life art would be a central focus. I create art because it is the most effective way for me to communicate and comprehend. When it seems that I cannot put something into words, it comes out in an image. I enjoy making art just to make art, but it is also my desire to use art to foster communication and understanding among people in the world around me; perhaps to show us that we are more alike than we are different.

