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## Student Groups Promoted at Activities Fair

BURTON BREWSTER  
Regular Contributor

The Activities Fair took place on September 12th and allowed students a chance to see all that Houghton has to offer in terms of clubs and other activities. The event took place inside of the Reinhold Campus Center for two hours. In total there were forty tables set up with more than thirty organizations and clubs attending. According to Michaela Graham ('20), the Executive Officer of Student Life, the Activities Fair has been going on for many years now and has become an integral part of starting off the new school year. Graham was largely responsible for putting the event together with the help of the Student Government Association (SGA).

As Graham put it, "Student interest definitely goes up more with [the Activities Fair]. So we'll get a lot of people signing up for things." Most students that attended signed up for multiple clubs and activities to be put on the email



Attendees explore student organization booths in the CC.

COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

list for updates. However, according to Graham, many students afterwards still wonder where and when activities take place that they did not sign up for. SGA is already looking into a solution for this issue with the creation of a physical calendar that will be stationed outside of Java in the Campus Center.

Groups will be able to register events on the calendar to keep students up to date on various activities. This should also help groups coordinate when to host meetings/events so that times do not overlap as much.

There were four new clubs created at Houghton this year: The Houghton Drumline (which

previously was an unofficial group), The Friends Committee on National Legislation, The American Sign Language Club, and The Peanut Butter Jelly Club.

Houghton Drumline was not able to attend the fair, but according to the Houghton website, their goal is to pro-

vide entertainment at "various events on campus including athletic events, concerts, homecoming festivities, and much more," via percussion instruments.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will be a new political group on campus. Olivia Flint ('20), who represented the group during the fair explained, "The [FCNL] is a Quaker lobby in the public interest. So essentially having an advocacy team on campus means we will partner with the FCNL organization in Washington D.C. And they have people that work with and on Congress to get firsthand info on what bills legislature is about to pass." Members of the FCNL respond by contacting local lawmakers to make sure they keep public interest in mind. "It's a Quaker [organization]... And they base what they do off the fact that they believe everyone is created in God's image."

The American Sign Lan-

See **ACTIVITIES** page 2

## Highlanders Kick Off Fall Season

CALEB PHILIPS  
Sports Writer

### Volleyball

September 6th:

Win vs. Clarks Summit, 3-0 (25-20, 25-12, 25-10)

September 6th:

Win vs. Chatham, 3-0 (25-20, 25-15, 25-22)

September 7th:

Win vs. Franciscan, 3-0 (25-18, 25-11, 25-23)

September 7th:

Win at LaRoche, 3-0 (25-17, 25-22, 25-20)

September 11th:

Loss vs. Pitt-Bradford, 1-3 (25-17, 23-25, 19-25, 24-26)

September 13th:

Win vs. Medaille, 3-1 (25-16, 25-19, 23-25, 25-22)

On the weekend of September 6th and 7th, the Houghton Volleyball team had a superb showing at La Roche, as they won all 4 of the matchups played, without losing a single set. The Highlanders won 12 straight sets. After a close loss to Pitt Bradford in their next game, the Highlanders were able to bounce back with a win against Medaille, pushing their season record to 6-1. This is the Highlanders' best start since an 8-1 start in the 2013

See **SPORTS** page 2

## Belfast FMC Organizes Community Outreach Day



#LoveBelfast participants pull weeds from a sidewalk.

COURTESY OF MARK ALESIA

ERIN MAGGIO  
Regular Contributor

The Belfast Free Methodist Church recently brought together many different people from the larger Belfast community for an event called #LoveBelfast.

#LoveBelfast took place on Saturday, September 7th. The church's main tagline for the event described #LoveBelfast as "a one-day event, aimed to

bring [the] community together around volunteerism, food, and fun. Our goal is that this event will help spur on future volunteerism, strengthen love for our town, and demonstrate that Jesus (and his church) love Belfast." The event opened with four different projects which volunteers split into and worked on. Projects included a deep clean of the Town Hall kitch-

en, clearing weeds and leaves off of Main Street's sidewalks, removing old wood paneling from the basement of the Public Library Children's Annex, and cleaning up the home of a local elderly woman who had recently broken her leg.

After volunteering, there was a "Town Feast" which was a potluck that all community members were invited to come

See **BELFAST** page 2

## Houghton To Host Equestrian Visit Day

JACIE COOK  
Regular Contributor

On Saturday, September 21st from 8:30am to 4pm, Houghton will hold its annual Equestrian Visit Day. This day is intended to provide prospective students and their families an in-depth look at the equestrian department at Houghton. The visit day will include a tour of Houghton's equestrian facilities, a tour of the main campus, a time to talk with current students and faculty in the equestrian department, and the ability to watch the Houghton College Dressage, Horse Trail, and Combined Test. Anyone interested in attending the visit day can go to Houghton's website, find the event on the calendar, and register. Additional information about the event will also be on Houghton's website. Two people to look for are Larissa Ries, the director of the equestrian program, and Hannah Williamson, the event coordinator. Both women are passionate about Houghton's equestrian program, and look forward to meeting those who

See **EQUESTRIAN** page 2



# Legal News: Bostock v. Clayton County

**CALEB KAISS AND DAVID BOWERS**

President Mullen, with the authority entrusted to her by the Board of Trustees, recently signed an amicus brief (a legal document in which parties with an interest in the outcome of a case submit their arguments to the court) on behalf of Houghton College. Houghton joins the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and forty-two religious colleges and universities in this decision. The brief concerns *Bostock v. Clayton County*, a civil rights case currently before the Supreme Court.

The parties directly involved are Clayton County, Georgia and one of its former employees, Gerald Lynn

Bostock. Bostock worked as an employee of the county for a decade, and during his tenure he served as the Child Welfare Services Coordinator for the County Juvenile Court System. At the start of 2013, Bostock, a gay man, joined a gay softball league. While participating in this league he encouraged other league members to pursue volunteer opportunities with the county. Later that year in April, after learning of both Bostock’s sexual orientation and involvement with the league, the county carried out an audit looking into Bostock’s management of County funds. Following the audit, in June, Bostock was fired.

Clayton County contends that the results of the audit led to Bostock’s firing, as it found Bostock to have been guilty of “conduct unbecoming of an em-

ployee” as is stated in the Brief for Respondent, submitted on behalf of Clayton County. Bostock disputes the claim in his brief, the Brief for Petitioner, holding that he is guilty of no such behavior and “that Clayton County’s ‘audit’ and its representations to the contrary are mere pretext for discrimination against him on the basis of his sexual orientation”.

The issue before the court, however, and that considered by the amicus brief, is whether the prohibition of “discrimination on the basis of... sex” in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 includes sexual orientation. Bostock argues that it does, and that Clayton County’s dismissal of him was a violation of Title VII. Clayton County disagrees, arguing that the language of “sex” in Title VII can-

not be read to include sexual orientation.

The amicus brief presents three arguments. First, it argues that the Court’s ruling could harm the ability of religious institutions to fulfill their mission by depriving them of funding and the freedom to set standards for behavior for their employees. Second, it argues that expanding the definition of sex in Title VII to include sexual orientation and gender identity would complicate the interpretation of the binary language contained in Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (regarding the rights of “one sex” and “the other sex”). But the brief’s central argument is that LGBTQ+ civil rights are best negotiated by Congress. The Supreme Court, the brief argues, is not equipped to make

nuanced, balanced decisions, and upholding the lower court’s ruling in this case would amount to judicial legislation.

In recognition of the controversy the decision to sign this brief has generated, SGA is facilitating a campus-wide discussion of issues related to LGBTQ+ rights in the workplace. SGA will hold a faculty panel followed by a student panel on October 15th. Student panelists may interview on October 7th and 8th, and anyone else interested in contributing to the discussion may attend the Discourse event a week later. The STAR also welcomes letters to the editor and opinions pieces addressing this topic. ★

## ACTIVITIES *from page 1*

guage Club (ASL Club) was started completely by freshmen. Maria Simonin (‘23), one of the founders, explained that they want to introduce sign language to more people. They plan on teaching sign language to anyone interested and hope that as more people learn the language, it can be introduced into games, chapel, and worship. They will be meeting for an hour once every week, but they expect that members will practice outside of that time.

The Peanut Butter Jelly Club (PBJ Club) was also not present at the event. According to the SGA Executive Officer of Community Engagement, Josh Ellis (‘21), it is a club where students make PBJ sandwiches which are then given to local families in need. This club was also started entirely by freshmen.

To sum up the event, in the words of Kendra Evans (‘23), “I think the Activities Fair does a pretty good job.” ★

## SPORTS *from page 1*

season. Senior Morgan Potempa said, “Everyone has an intense desire to see success not only on the court but in our relationships with each other and that is what has given our team the ability to play well.”

**Men’s Soccer**  
September 6th: Tie vs. Fredonia 2-2  
September 7th: Loss vs. Buffalo State 0-5  
September 10th: Loss vs. SUNY Geneseo 1-2  
The Houghton Men’s Soccer team tied and lost twice during the past two weeks of play. Against Fredonia, the Highlanders were able to hold a tie through 20 minutes of extra time. Ben DiCrasto (‘20) scored twice in the tie to begin his senior season. After a tough loss to Buffalo State, Houghton played an

undefeated Geneseo team and lost a close matchup. Daniel Bussey (‘20) recorded the lone goal against Geneseo. “Coach McColl continues to push us to play to a high standard every single day, in training and in game days,” senior Ben DiCrasto said. “I really feel like we are in a good place [heading into Empire 8 play].”

**Women’s Soccer**  
September 7th: Loss vs. Brockport 0-2  
September 11th: Win at Pitt-Bradford 8-0  
September 13th: Win vs. D’Youville 2-1  
The Houghton Women’s Soccer team endured a tough loss in Brockport this past week, in their third game of the season, losing 2-0. The team bounced back with a win over Pitt-Bradford, as they controlled every facet of the game, winning 8-0. Sierra Nedd (‘22), Sarah Potocki (‘23), Stephanie Beattie (‘21), Elisabeth Tate (‘21), and Anna Kalivoda (‘23) each recorded goals for Houghton in the win. Houghton then picked up their first home win of the season defeating D’Youville by a score of 2-1. Stephanie Beattie recorded her second goal of the week and Kealy DeForest (‘21) netted the game winner to propel the Highlanders to the win. Senior McKenzie Marti said, “I know our team is more than capable of competing with every team that is on our schedule. We will continue to take our season day by day, and we will continue to strive to build upon success.”

**Field Hockey**  
September 4th: Win at Keuka 2-1  
September 7th: Loss at #9 Rochester 0-8  
September 11th: Loss vs. SUNY Oneonta 1-3  
Houghton’s Field Hockey team had their first win of the season on the road last week, winning 2-1 against Keuka. Peyton Bentley (‘23) recorded the first goal to tie the game, and Sydney Jameson’s (‘20)

goal in the second quarter gave the Highlanders a lead their defense would not relinquish. The Highlanders ran into a tough matchup in their next game facing the ninth ranked team in the country in Rochester, losing 8-0. Against Oneonta, Lindsey Waters (‘23) recorded the lone goal as the Highlanders came up just short.

**Women’s Tennis**  
September 3th: Win vs. Oswego 5-4  
September 6th: Loss vs. Cortland 2-7  
September 12th: Loss vs. Fredonia 1-8  
Houghton’s Women’s Tennis team opened their season with a 5-4 win over Oswego. Elise Swanson (‘23) was named the Empire 8 Women’s Tennis Player of the Week for her showing in her collegiate debut, winning her singles match 6-3 and 6-0. The Highlanders wrapped up their final two games before beginning conference play losing to both Cortland and Fredonia.

**Men’s Tennis**  
Houghton’s Men’s Tennis team begins their fall season on September 19 at home against Oswego, as they look to punch their ticket to a fourth straight Empire 8 tournament.

**Cross Country**  
September 13th: at Penn State Behrend  
The Cross Country team traveled to Penn State Behrend last Friday, and were able to pull out two strong showings as both the men’s and women’s squad recorded 2nd place finishes. Tyler Deuschle (‘20) won the men’s race as he looks to defend his Empire 8 title and John Vernick (‘20) finished 5th. Shelby Langlois (‘20) finished 7th and Emily Blosdale (‘20) finished 9th for the women’s team. ★

## BELFAST *from page 1*

to for a free warm meal. This was followed by a Festival and, later, a family movie night with a showing of *The Chronicles of*

*Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* to conclude the day. The Festival included free snow cones and cotton candy, Ga-ga Ball, games, prizes, exploding Diet Coke bottles with Mentos, a T-rex pinata, and even a Spiderman appearance.

Jacob Bailey (‘20), who helped to plan the event for the church and community, said a highlight of the event was the amount of families that attended. “People of all ages impacted the community in such meaningful ways,” he noted. Not only did families show up for the fun events later in the day, but many helped with the community service projects in the earlier part of the day. Bailey also emphasized that meaningful work was accomplished through this volunteerism.

Another main organizer of #LoveBelfast, Calvin Smith, also pointed out the progress made due to volunteers and the various projects they worked on. When noting what he has heard from community members since the event took place, Smith recalled a comment praising “how nice the Main Street sidewalks look,” as well as a comment from someone who “learned that it’s possible to get rid of weeds with a blowtorch.” The 2-hour service project time to open the day was productive in improving spots around the Belfast community.

Approximately 80 to 100 community members attended the various activities throughout the #LoveBelfast event. Both Bailey and Smith, when recounting the day, called attention to the relations of different community members throughout. Bailey said there were a lot of connections made, and Smith noted “how good it was to get neighbors together”—especially those who normally do not bump into or interact with one another. In addition to individual community members, many local churches worked in conjunction with Belfast Free Methodist Church as well.

This was the church’s (and town’s) first attempt at such an event and they are looking for-

ward to hosting it again in the future, with improvements. Smith says that they hope to better integrate different parts of the day so that even more people will be able to interact. ★

## EQUESTRIAN *from page 1*

attend.

Several Houghton students are assisting with this event. Equestrian students Angela Chandler, ‘21, and Kristina Berlin, ‘21, have been preparing for this event and continuing to work on their horses. During the Visit Day, Chandler will be showing her personal horse, Choya. She and Choya will be competing beginner novice at the horse trails; this includes all three events: Dressage, Stadium Jumping, and Cross Country. Chandler says that horseback riding “requires many sacrifices from you. You sacrifice sleep, money, time, and energy. This sport is all consuming. You must give your whole heart and soul.” But dedication is not a loss for Chandler; instead, it is a part of the gift of horseback riding. She says, “Horses will give you their whole heart, but you have to be willing to put in the work and time to gain their trust and respect. This is my passion and it is what God has called me to do, and I will give my all to Him and my horses.”

On the Equestrian Visit day, those who attend will have the opportunity to witness current students, faculty and staff showing their dedication to making Houghton College a place where hard work and wholeheartedness comes into play together to serve God and to serve others. ★



# Humans of Houghton

## Zach McKay



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

ALLY STEVICK

Zach McKay is a sophomore from Washington State, majoring in math and English. However, when he started his freshman year his plan was to major in physics. “I liked math a lot, and I knew that,” he tells me, “but I also knew that I didn’t want to just do math. Physics felt like the most obvious way to do a science while still basically doing math.” But during his first semester of physics Zach realized that science wasn’t the route he wanted to take after all, and he started considering his other interests. Inspired by his older sister who recently graduated from Gordon College with a math and history double major, he considered an option in the humanities. “I like books a lot,” he explains, “so English felt like the obvious option.”

Zach particularly enjoys books by Western American authors. “I keep buying more and more books from home, every time I go back,” he tells me. “About the local area, literature specific to the Pacific Northwest—which is a school [of literature] that doesn’t really exist, but I like to imagine it does. And some other people also like to imagine that, so they write about it and I read it.” Zach loves the Pacific Northwest, particularly his home state of Washington. He jokes that he has been called a “Washington nationalist.”

Zach says that going to college on the other side of the country makes a bigger difference than students from the East Coast might expect. “I think that people from the general area have a very different experience from those of us who live 300+ miles away: people from the other side of the country, but even more so international students. I think those are two experiences that people don’t really see all the time. It’s definitely shaped me a lot to have so much distance between me and my community, the people that I

know.”

When I ask Zach to characterize his experience of the differences between the East and West coasts, he explains that the biggest difference is how people interact with the land. “The actual physical area of Houghton doesn’t feel as grounded within the community,” he tells me. “Back home, if people are going out to do something, they’re going to the mountains to go for a hike, or they’re going down to the ocean.” At Houghton, on the other hand, “if people are doing something,” Zach says, “it’s kind of within themselves, or, it’s more relational.” Zach thinks it would be good for people to be more connected to the land, but he does appreciate the relational focus of Houghton. “If I went to school back home, I wouldn’t really throw myself into anything social, just because that’s not really the kind of person that I am,” he explains, “I’m very introverted usually. But being on Houghton’s campus has made me want community a lot, so it’s let me meet a lot of cool people.”

Zach and I talk for about half an hour, during which time he tells me more interesting things than can fit into this article. But one of my biggest takeaways is how much Zach cares about this connection to the land that he has been describing. It’s something that’s also important to one of Zach’s favorite writers: Wendell Berry. “I’m a very big Wendell Berry fan,” he tells me, “and I think everyone should read *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry.” When I ask Zach why he thinks everyone should read Wendell Berry, he explains that it ties back again to the relationship between people and land. “I think a lot in terms of place,” he tells me, “and Wendell Berry is all about a community being within its place, a community as a group of people who are in a specific location at a specific time.” Zach tells me that Wendell Berry’s writings are agricultural, theological, and environmental, with a focus on people caring for the land they cultivate. “It gives you a warm fuzzy feeling when you read Wendell Berry novels,” he says. Zach mentions that he knows Professor Benjamin Lipscomb taught an honors seminar about Wendell Berry a few years ago, and he tells me (half-joking) that he would like to put in a plug for Professor Lipscomb to teach the class again. ★

# International Voices

## Ignorance and Grace

ELIZABETH STONE

My name is Elizabeth, and I grew up in mainland China for the first 18 years of my life. I first really transitioned to the United States when I came to college at Houghton two years ago. Initially trying to adjust to the USA as an international student can be discouraging. The United States is a country with a strong and sometimes intimidating personality, and it is frustrating to be ignorant of things everyone else knows or expects you to know. But listening and giving grace on both sides can go a long way toward making this transition less difficult.

The United States is often very different from the places where international students come from. People in the USA are direct and assertive, rather than diplomatic and concerned with saving face as in some other countries. Individual identity and success are more highly valued than loyalty to a group; the media criticizes the government unlike in so many countries where this is unheard of; and people are rule-oriented and value being on time, rather than valuing relationship strength first. These drastic differences can be disorienting and discouraging to people who are new to the USA.

It is also frustrating to be ignorant of things people assume you should know. It can be frustrating to always have to ask, “What does that mean?” and “Wait, I’ve never heard of that, can you explain it?” I remember thinking more than once how sick I was of not knowing slang and movies and pop culture references and having to ask about them. It is easy to feel dumb when first entering another culture. In addition to that, people often consider you an expert

on the place you are from, and when you cannot answer their questions, that can be discouraging, too. They often will ask what the view of the people in your home country is, instead of asking your view or even what you think the general viewpoint might be from your experience (and no one’s experience is complete). This feeling of ignorance can be both frustrating and threatening to self-esteem during the process of transition.

Because of all these challenges, it is important for there to be grace on both sides: grace from the international student for what the local students do not know and grace from the local students for what the international students do not know. No one has the monopoly on ignorance; neither group knows the whole story of the other, so people should try not to jump to conclusions when something the other group says rubs them the wrong way. This is why it’s important to listen to each other. When my American friends listened to my stories, it made me feel cared about even though I knew they could not fully understand the details. When I listened to my American friends, I found that our stories were much more similar than I would have thought possible. Taking time to listen and think outside of your own box builds relationships, helps resolve misunderstandings, and helps you have a sense of belonging in a strange new place.

Transition will always be a bit painful and frustrating. It can be difficult to deal with a vastly different culture along with your ignorance and the ignorance of those around you. But giving grace and listening to those around us can help us go a long way toward making it better. ★

Have an idea for  
a regular column?  
We’d love to hear about it!

Email the Columns Editor at  
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This issue was copy edited by  
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Email us at editor@houghtonstar.com to help next time!



# London Honors Cohort Returns

ALEXANDER DEARMORE  
Regular Contributor

This past spring, Houghton students spent the semester in London studying from an integrative curriculum that included philosophy, art, music, theology, and literature. It focused primarily on the growth and spread of Christianity throughout Western culture.

Their studies began every morning with a Plenary (a three-hour lecture) or a Colloquy (a discussion based on a text read the previous night). After their morning class, the students would depart to different museums or architectural locations around London. These excursions, Collin Zehr ('22) reflected, "allowed us to see things we might not otherwise experience." They also reflect an aspect of the program that Professor Peter Meilaender commented on, saying that Honors in London is a "very intense integration of academic content with immersion in the location... in a way that is unusual. At night, the students would all come back to their place of residence, The Highbury Centre, and eat dinner together, exemplifying a "good sense of community" that Prof. Meilaender said is a big part of the program.

An important aspect of the program is what a stu-



The London cohort in the back garden of the Highbury Centre.

COURTESY OF BRIANNA ENGLER

dent takes with them after the program is over. "Any student would benefit from [the program]," said Prof. Meilaender. "It supplies foundation for content skills and learning habits...you are going to need to be able to talk sometime." Sophia Yescott ('22), an Honors in London student, said that the program "overall gave [her] more confidence in classes" and helped her to "feel more confident to speak in class." Brendon Seney ('22), another student who went over

with the cohort, commented that the program taught him "the art of skimming...and finding what is important in the text."

Along with academic growth, many students also found new friendships blossoming and growing stronger. Yescott said of her cohort, "we got really close, a lot of us," and that she "came out with a lot of friends from London." Seney reflected that the "memories [he] made with the cohort will last a lifetime" and that one of

his fondest memories was after a paper when "everyone would be in celebration." Students were able to travel, and many did so in groups. Some went to places such as the Cliffs of Dover, and Oxford, while others stayed after the program to travel to different countries in Europe. Seney said that taking a trip to the Cliffs of Dover with a fellow cohort member "was a good change of pace."

Most important was the spiritual growth that many cohort members felt during their

excursion. One of the things that the program does really well is it prompts you to "mature as a person," said Prof. Meilaender. Yescott commented that she "grew a lot spiritually in London." Some of the students felt that the academics and content of the semester were what really stimulated this growth. "There was no way you couldn't think about it," said Yescott. Seney added that the readings he had been given over the semester enabled him to "contemplate God more deeply." One of the most helpful things for Zehr was "getting a clear understanding of where we, as today's Christians, come from." All these things were built right into the structure of the program.

Students also found their location helpful to their spiritual life; many found churches around London, and had a great variety of experiences due to the city's size and diverse population. Yescott said that she was able to "try so many churches...I went to at least five different churches...I loved the accessibility."

Honors in London offered students the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually, have great experiences, and foster close bonds with others. ★

## Faculty Exhibit Opens in Ortlip Art Gallery

ANNA WRAY  
Regular Contributor

Two weeks ago, the Annual Art Faculty Exhibit opened to the public. Located in the Ortlip Gallery, this year's exhibition displays a wide variety of works by art professors Ted Murphy, Alicia Taylor-Austin, and Aaron Harrison. They use various types of media such as wood-working, printmaking, oil, watercolor, and pastel. The other two art professors—John Rhett, who is currently on sabbatical, and Ryan Cooley—are not exhibiting their work this year.

Upon entering the gallery, there is one piece that will likely catch the viewer's eye immediately. Titled *Seven Octaves and a Minor Third*, it is a deconstructed grand piano made by Prof. Harrison. The top board is open, revealing the strings inside, and the keys hang from the ceiling above it. When asked about the inspiration for this piece, Harrison said, "They've [pianos] become like these commonplace objects that we live with all the time, and we don't even really consider everything that goes into their construction and their intent... It has a historical, cultural sort of meaning to it." Harrison

also has two large wood-working pieces in this exhibition that feature LED lighting. He began conceptualizing these pieces in April and May and spent three weeks constructing them.

Prof. Murphy has three groups of work in this exhibition. The first is a series of non-objective realist pieces that are about grief, joy, mortality, and family. The second set was done plein air with his students or while traveling. The final group are mixed-media narrative pieces done in collaboration with his brother, Tim Murphy. They feature clay heads made by his brother, which Murphy imagines a context for and incorporates into a painted piece. He is "interested in what people think is symbolically suggested by the juxtaposition of elements....Surrealism and narrative are a dance of meaning." Murphy chooses which pieces to exhibit based on whether they resonate with him emotionally while he is creating.

The final aspect of the Faculty Exhibition is Prof. Taylor-Austin's printmaking. Some of these prints are on paper that she made from plants she grew herself, including dye made from marigold flowers and avocado pits. Taylor-Austin explains, "These details are important to my process. I learn from the plants as I work



COURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

Aaron Harrison's pieces *Seven Octaves and a Minor Third* and *Illuminated Minimalism*.

with them, to transform the parts that they no longer need to live." Julia Wilmot ('22), a studio art major, was personally inspired by this process. Wilmot is currently taking Taylor-Austin's papermaking class and says, "It interests me in making my own paper, and then using that paper to make my own art."

An opening reception was held on September 6th, and provided an opportunity for

students, faculty, staff, and community members to observe the art while interacting with the artists who made it. Shannan Johnson ('21) attended, and particularly enjoyed the 3-D pieces. A memorable part of her experience was standing inside Harrison's cube-shaped sculpture, *Illuminated Minimalism*. Johnson said, "The view from it is a lot different than from the outside because he had lights

that were going through the cube." She also appreciated Murphy's painting *Nancy Weaving*, which was part of the plein air work and shows the artist's wife working on a loom.

The Faculty Exhibition will run until October 2nd. The Ortlip Art Gallery is open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday, and is located off the atrium of the Center for the Arts. ★



# Second-to-Last EMW Cohort Reflects on Mayterm Experiences

ELIZABETH ABD00

Over the course of three semesters and a Mayterm traveling along the Balkan coast, a diverse selection of students experienced the East Meets West Program: an interdisciplinary curriculum, of history, theology, literature, and political science which traces the development of Western ideas and culture over the first millennium.

The successful London Honors Program, founded prior to the inception of East Meets West, helped inspire its formation. Dr. Peter Meilaender, who contributes his political science expertise to the program, recalls that he, Dr. Meic Pearse, and Dr. Stephen Woolsey sought to create a second program that would duplicate some of London’s important features, including being interdisciplinary, team-taught, writing-intensive, and having a travel component. While similar, the program was meant to be distinctive. “It would have a slightly different thematic focus and modified structure, to allow us to appeal to an even wider group of honors-caliber students,” said Meilaender.

The program’s study of the West’s development is interwoven with that of the “West’s interactions with its neighboring cultures--the Orthodox and mostly Slavic world of Eastern Europe and the Islamic Middle East,” by which Meilaender hopes that “students will grow toward a more critically apprecia-



COURTESY OF MEIC PEARSE

The EMW cohort with a statue of Pope John Paul II outside a cathedral in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

tive understanding of their own Western culture.”

The Balkan coast, stretching from Macedonia to northern Italy, is the cultural faultline of Western and Eastern cultures. These coastal countries are rich in history but have witnessed intense conflict, erupting from the fundamentally different, clashing cultures. Dr. Meic Pearse brings indispensable firsthand knowledge of Western-Eastern cultural relations to the program. During his time as a professor in Osijek, Croatia, in 1995, Pearse recalls how newscasts did not comprehend or convey the gravity of the Balkan situation. Westerners failed to realize of residents of the Balkans that “completely different ways of

looking at the world and at their own lives characterized these people. Understanding that was necessary to understanding what was going on—and in anticipating what was likely to happen next. East Meets West is about helping students to understand what the inner life of different cultures, and their interactions, really means.”

Pearse’s experiences support Meilaender’s statement, despite recent globalization, that “Americans have always been fairly insular—more or less uninterested in other countries, cultures, or languages,” which has hindered this generation’s ability to properly understand world affairs. This program tries to remedy what Meilaender

describes as the “breathtaking ignorance” of college students who have little knowledge of history or other cultures by helping students “get inside the heads of other cultures,” especially the Orthodox East and Muslim worlds.

To break down how this correction is executed, Meilaender, Pearse, and Woolsey take on their own disciplines. As mentioned before, Meilaender manages the political science aspect, involving readings of modern political scientists such as Samuel Huntington and Francis Fukuyama. Pearse tackles the theology and history portion, focusing on as early as fourth century Rome, and finishing with the state of the Balkans in

the 1990s. Lastly, Woolsey conducted the literature portion, with content that varied among known greats such as Shakespeare, more obscure but culturally enriched short stories, and war-time Balkan literature.

Members of past cohorts shared how they believe the program has impacted them. Olivia Tetta (‘22) states that visits to both Sarajevo, Bosnia and Vukovar, Croatia were “where we saw the most damage from the war, saw the most people who were in need, and the bullet holes in the buildings that were tangible reminders of how recent the war was” making what they had only heard about in class very real. Zachary Thompson (‘22) says that the program exposed him to a “part of the world that was overlooked in my prior schooling,” and allowed him “the opportunity to experience a culture different from our own, both in the classroom and then in person during Mayterm” and inspired a desire for future travel.

The East Meets West program fans the flames of curiosity by allowing students the opportunity to examine the extensive history of the clash of fundamentally different civilizations. As a result, they become more sensitive to the viewpoints of other cultures and broaden their understandings of the world. The experience is one that cannot be duplicated, and the Mayterm trip brings class discussions to life. ★

## The Presbyterian Church of Wellsville (PCA)



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We are a welcoming, encouraging, Reformed congregation that is proclaiming Jesus Christ through the doctrines of grace and exalting Him in Christ-centered, Biblically-grounded worship.

### Need a ride?

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// mdachilles@frontiernet.net

David Bowers  
// david.bowers21@houghton.edu



# Pursuing a God-Centered Life



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE  
CORY MESSERSCHMIDT

College often feels like the time of year when my relationship with God is most strained. Free time is at a premium, and there are many distractions. It is almost as if I have to spend extra time in God’s Word simply to maintain my focus in a season when I have the least amount of time. Grounding ourselves in the gospel can help us retain God-centered lives.

Maybe you’re like me; maybe you’ve lost your focus and are not redeeming or making the most of your time (Eph. 5:15-17). Maybe you

spend more time quoting vines or inadvertently making yourself the center of attention than you do stirring up one another “to love and good deeds” and making God the center of attention (Heb. 10:24-25). If so, I understand; this is an area I need to grow in as well.

The Bible provides us with a foundational reason for God-centered living in 2 Corinthians 5:15, Christ died for us and rose again. All of us stand before God with a weight of sin that deserves eternal punishment. We lie, covet, disobey parents, commit adultery of the heart, envy, steal, and

God is just and holy, He promises that there will be judgment on sinners (Rom. 2:5-6; 6:23, Matt. 12:36, Heb. 10:30-31). Christ, who was without sin, lovingly took on Himself the punishment that we deserve by dying a painful death on the cross. Every one who repents and puts their faith in Christ will be saved because He died in our place.

I would encourage you to seriously consider whether or not you have repented. If you have not or aren’t sure, please reach out to me or a trusted Christian friend. It is a matter of great importance; I would

“We should live to serve God out of gratitude, working joyfully, not out of legalism or an effort to save ourselves, but because we have been saved.”

blaspheme. We are unthankful, unmerciful, and we make other things more important than God. This is just the start of our lawbreaking, and because

love to talk sometime. However, if you have, you ought to be following Paul’s admonition to the Corinthians that “those who live [through Christ] should

“Let us thank God for His grace in the areas and times where we fall short. Above all, let us seek to be people that truly elevate God to the place He deserves.”

live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” We should live to serve God out of gratitude, working joyfully, not out of legalism or an effort to save ourselves (Rom. 3:28), but because we have been saved.

Dean Jordan recently spoke to us in chapel about the importance of Christian community. So, here’s my challenge for us, Houghton. As a Christian community, let’s be intentional this semester. Those of us that are saved, let us seek to set our minds on things above (Col. 3:1-4). Let us dwell on things that are true, noble, and pure (Phil. 4:8-9), choosing our words wisely (Eph. 4:29). Let us make Christ Lord in our hearts and plead with others to be reconciled to God (1

Pet. 3:15, 2 Cor. 5:20-21). Let us not be afraid to “offend” others with the gospel for the sake of their eternal destiny, even those who name the name of Christ but show no evidence of salvation (Matt. 7:18-20). Let us thank God for His grace in the areas and times where we fall short. Above all, let us seek to be people that truly elevate God to the place of importance He deserves in our lives, making Him central in all we do.

*Cory is a sophomore majoring in business administration and accounting.*

## “Go in Peace”: Loving the Lord and One Another



COURTESY OF CHRIS MOORE  
JESSICA MEJIA

Like many things in both everyday life and spiritual life, I feel as though compromises are what we all consciously strive for. The issues that we as Houghton students face, especially when dealing with opinions that differ from our own, tend to make us shut down or become less receptive to what we’re hearing. Instead, we often act as if we are more superior than the message given. I think that as long as we treat every idea just as relevant as our own opinions, we will become better

Christians, and as a result better reflections of Christ.

For example, if a chapel speaker comes and shares a vulnerable message, should the people with an opposing view get upset about what was said? I mean, think about it: the chapel speaker has travelled a long way to speak to us, usually in unfavorable weather, and their story will always be one sided due to their own testimony. They don’t just come to our campus to speak and then leave; they normally stay and eat lunch on campus and make themselves available and open to interacting with us. Yet, sometimes we get stuck on a topic that we don’t agree with from the chapel speaker’s message.

When things like this happen, I think of the ministry of

“I think that as long as we treat every idea just as relevant as our own opinions, we will become better Christians, and as a result better reflections of Christ.”

Jesus. He was often approached by other people that questioned what he had preached on. Some of these people may have viewed Jesus as one sided, or maybe even forceful in the way that he communicated his theology. In short, people asked him questions about his opinion on topics, how to treat others, and what principles to live by. Jesus always dealt with the

people that questioned his teaching with knowledge, counsel, wisdom, and understanding, all of which are the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I think this is an unconventional way to look at Jesus and his ministry as well as his communication of the gospel.

I don’t think many people discuss the ones that had the audacity to question God, whether it was out of malicious intent, or due to genuine ignorance. What about the Pharisees, Sadducees, and those that have been living with sick family members in need of healing? We normally see these people throughout the gospels as lesser than us, ignorant people, or faithless. What we don’t do, however, is look at

them as opinionated people. Simply put, that’s exactly how I view some of the biblical characters through their stories and interactions with Jesus. They may have accepted Jesus’ principles or they may have not. I’m not saying that questioning the things that occur around you is a bad choice. In fact, I encourage outside-of-the-box-thinking and the boldness that often is reflected through questioning the academic, spiritual, and overall purpose of life. But, being able to accept other people’s views without an immediate or harsh response is my definition of compromise. At times, here at Houghton we lack in this skill. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to go in peace to love and serve the Lord, while also loving those that are preaching his gospel.

*Jessica is a junior majoring in writing and communication.*

“...go in peace to love and serve the Lord, while also loving those that are preaching his gospel.”



# See You in Heaven



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

OLIVIA BULLOCK

Kingdom of Heaven.

I had the privilege of serving five different camps through Houghton's Summer Ministry Team. Each week, a ministry team would join the counselling staff at a Christian camp and serve with other volunteers who were willing to give up their time to minister to the youth. It was a blessing to serve alongside people who prioritized serving God's children and communicating the hope of the gospel through small groups, games, mud pits, foam slip & slides, and laughter. Not only that, but it was incredible to have the opportunity to love on these kids for a whole week. I ate with them, sang with them, and rolled

around in the mud with them. I loved them so dearly, and knew God loved them even more.

At the end of each week, I was confronted with the same dreadful feeling, "Oh no, I have to leave this wonderful place and I may never see these sweet people again." God taught me to remember each week that one day I would be with these believers again, forever, praising our good and loving Father. God also led me to pray a prayer that went like this: "God, thank you for a week with these precious campers and counselors. I commit them into your hands and know you love them and are with them for the rest of their lives."

**"God turned this season of goodbyes into a season of trusting in Him; a season where I learned to cling closer to the hope of eternity with Him and with his people."**

From week to week I trusted the Lord deeper and I saw that he had been faithful in drawing people close to his heart. He loved and took care of these people even as I had to walk out of their lives. Before I knew it, a new season had come and God had other work for me to do.

The phone rang.

Dad called me and told me Grandma had cancer.

It came with no warning.

It was terminal.

Following the heartbreaking news, we drove to Michigan to be with my lovely grandma. As she lay in the hospital bed with her eyes closed, we sang hymns and read scripture to her. Little did I know, my grandma was only a few days away from being with the Lord. I considered what I would have to do as I left the hospital room for the last time. I hugged her and said in my heart, "I'll see you in heaven one day Grandma." Then as I walked out the door, I looked back at her beautiful face with tears in my eyes. What do I do Lord? I can hardly bear this.

Through my pain, I remembered what I had done all summer and the prayer that remained on my heart: "Lord, I commit Grandma into your hands. As she drifts out of my life and into your presence, I am assured of her salvation and I am confident in your faithfulness."

I realized after this season of life, that the Church never truly has to say goodbye. We believe in eternal life with our loving God. The one who was raised from the dead made a way for us to be with him forever. There is hope of eternal fellowship not only with the Lord himself, but also with the grand company of believers.

God turned this season of goodbyes into a season of trusting in Him; a season where I learned to cling closer to the hope of eternity with Him and with his people.

*Olivia is a senior majoring in Bible.*

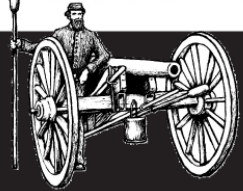
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September 28-29, 2019

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# Artist of the Week

## Tim Paschalis

// Senior Applied Design and Integr

// Senior Applied Design and Integrated Marketing Major



“I began my studies at Houghton College as a Chemistry major hoping to focus on chemical engineering, though I always enjoyed working on art and design in my free time. To say that first year was a challenge is an under-

statement. I realised fairly quickly that this was not the work God had in mind for me, and I felt a strong mix of uncertainty and worry as I slogged through my second semester. If not chemistry, what will I do with my life? I thought about history, literature, music industry/production, and even other STEM disciplines but did not feel God's pull in any of those directions—until my Dad suggested I study design. It was an option that caught me by surprise, but (after so much waiting and worrying) I finally felt that pull from God and took the jump. Some days I feel like I am still jumping; there is still so much more to learn than I can ever imagine—but I thank God that I am blessed with the opportunity to study what I love and to grow in the gifts He has given me.”

