

# HOUGHTON

SPRING 2021

*The Fifth  
Presidency*

Shirley A. Mullen



## HOUGHTON MAGAZINE

**SPRING 2021**

**Vol. 96, No. 1**

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# President Mullen's Suggested Reading

## PRESIDENT MULLEN'S CHRISTMAS & ADVENT FAVORITES

- » **Charles Tazwell**, *The Littlest Angel*
- » **Russell Hoban**, *The Mole Family's Christmas*
- » **Barbara Robinson**, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
- » **Dylan Thomas**, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*
- » **G. K. Chesterson**, *Spirit of Christmas*
- » **W. H. Auden**, *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*
- » **U.A. Fanthorpe**, *Christmas Poems*
- » **Susan Hill**, *Can It Be True?*
- » **Madeleine L'Engle**, *The Irrational Season*
- » **Fleming Rutledge**, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ*

## PRESIDENT MULLEN'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF ALL TIME

- » **Fyodor Dostoyevsky**, *Brothers Karamazov*
- » **C.S. Lewis**, *Beyond Personality from Mere Christianity; Til We Have Faces; The Weight of Glory*
- » **G. K. Chesterton**, *Orthodoxy; The Man Who Was Thursday*
- » **Austin Farrer**, *Love Almighty and Ills Unlimited; The Essential Sermons*
- » **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, *Letters and Papers from Prison*
- » **Simone Weil**, *Waiting for God*
- » **Blaise Pascal**, *Pensées*
- » **George Eliot**, *Middlemarch; Romola; Daniel DeRonda*
- » **Marcus Aurelius**, *Meditations*
- » **Shusaku Endo**, *Silence*
- » **Gilbert Meilaender**, *Faith & Faithfulness*
- » **Dorothy Sayers**, *Gaudy Night; Mind of the Maker*
- » **Mark R. Schwehn and Dorothy C. Bass**, eds, *Leading Lives that Matter: What We Should Do and Who We Should Be*
- » **Søren Kierkegaard**, *Provocations: Spiritual Writings*
- » **W. H. Auden**, *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio*
- » The poetry of **John Donne**, **George Herbert**, **Gerard Manley Hopkins**, **R.S. Thomas**, **Emily Dickinson**, **T. S. Eliot** ...



## Courageously Living

HOUGHTON'S **TIMELESS MISSION**



« The theme and accompanying icon for President Shirley Mullen's retirement seek to illustrate the ways in which she has lived out her calling at Houghton College and within the larger world of Christian higher education during her fifteen-year tenure. Like the many Josephs, Daniels, and Esthers she has inspired throughout her career, President Mullen has courageously lived out and reclaimed Willard J. Houghton's call to "fix up the world" by providing greater access to a high-quality, affordable Christian education. As an historian, President Mullen has brought a sense of the importance of time and an awareness of those essential values that transcend time. Her determination, grit and especially her courage have served her well as she has herself embodied Houghton's mission of preparing graduates who, "effectively lead and labor as scholar servants in the rapidly changing world."

The icon features the Quad Clock, a gift of the Houghton College Class of 2003, located between the Chamberlain Center and the Reinhold Campus Center.

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# With Gratitude

When I graduated from Houghton College in the Spring of 1976—45 years ago, to be exact—I assumed that I was completing the “Houghton chapter” of my life. Imagining a second “Houghton chapter” in the corner office of Luckey Building would have been absolutely impossible! The two are nevertheless inextricably linked. The first “Houghton chapter” not only prepared me for the professional and personal journey that would lead to the surprising and quite unexpected invitation to consider returning as Houghton’s president but ultimately explains my saying “yes” to this opportunity. I came back to say “Thank you.”

Today, I want to say “Thank you” once again. It has been a priceless gift to have a second “Houghton chapter” in my own personal story. I have been privileged to serve the extraordinary faculty and students who are drawn to this equally extraordinary Christian learning community—an aspect of the gift I might have anticipated. In this chapter, I also met and married Dr. Paul Mills, whose contagious exuberance for life has enriched my own for the past 11 years and will continue to do so for years to come—definitely an aspect of the gift of this second “Houghton chapter” I could not have anticipated!

But what is most important in this moment is not what this “Houghton chapter” has meant in my personal story but what it has meant in the larger story of Houghton College that we as the Houghton community—Board of Trustees, administrative team, faculty, staff, students and alumni—have written together over the past 15 years.

We have sought together to prepare Houghton College to carry on its timeless Mission in the context of the ever-accelerating pace of change in our 21st-century world. Amid turbulent demographic, technological, economic, regulatory and cultural change, the world more than ever needs Houghton graduates prepared to be the Daniels, Esthers and Josephs of their generation—individuals grounded in their character; developed in the enduring capacities of critical thinking, creativity, communication and community building; and trained in the wide-ranging problem-solving skills of the arts and sciences.

We have sought together to imagine what it means to remain true to the longstanding trademarks of a Houghton education—deeply Christian, richly liberal arts, firmly Wesleyan, uncompromisingly high-quality, global in scope, always affordable to those who wish to come and accessible to those who need it most—in a world where the trademarks themselves can be in tension and where they are certainly not always well understood in an increasingly polarized and pluralistic world.

In this chapter of Houghton’s story, as you will learn in this magazine, we have created new programs, learned new pedagogies, reached new populations and forged new partnerships. Writing this chapter has not been easy for our community. It has meant accepting change as a necessary part of pursuing our Mission in a changing world. It has meant exchanging certain assumptions about what Houghton “has always been” in order to accept the challenge of being most distinctively Houghton for this time in history.

Writing this chapter has been an act of faith. But then, each chapter in Houghton’s story has been an act of faith. It took faith in 1883 for Willard J. Houghton to imagine a school that could transform students from Western New York to “fix up the world” for Jesus Christ. It took faith for the faculty and staff of Houghton under James S. Luckey to pursue accreditation as a Christian liberal arts college in the 1920s. It took faith for the beleaguered remnant of faculty, staff and students here during the dark days of World War II to imagine that God could bring new life for Houghton from the very veterans of that conflict. It took faith in the midst of the economic downturn of 2008 to imagine an enlarged “One Houghton” that offered to students well beyond the confines of our residential campus the rich treasure of a Houghton education.

We await today a more complete understanding of the meaning of this chapter as the subsequent chapters of Houghton’s story unfold in the days ahead. We share with all those who have been privileged to be part of God’s project in this place for nearly 140 years the full confidence that God will continue to accomplish His purposes for Houghton College and bring this work to final completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

With gratitude,



Shirley A. Mullen, Class of 1976  
President





# NOT AFRAID



One thing I have always admired about Shirley Mullen's leadership—whether as president of Houghton or as the current chair of the CCCU Board of Directors—is how unafraid she is to engage with the large and complicated issues of our time. An example that comes to mind is her participation in a 2019 CCCU conference panel discussion featuring leaders of faith-based institutions from Jewish, Catholic, Mormon, Muslim and Protestant Christian backgrounds. She navigated that conversation using her skillful ability to understand and engage with a diversity of thought in a manner that is winsome while still holding fast to her Christian convictions. In that moment, she modeled what Christian higher education strives for: developing holistic leaders who are firmly rooted in their faith in Jesus Christ and are not afraid to tackle the tough questions.

It's amazing to consider just how much has changed in the world of Christian higher education since Shirley took up the mantle of Houghton president in June 2006. Not too long after she became president, the U.S. suffered an economic downturn that impacted higher education for several years. In that time, Shirley led with courage and imagination. She has continued to do so in the decade since. Demographic shifts; changing public sentiments on the value of a college degree; a growing call for low-cost public education that impacts private education; countless regulatory shifts at the federal, state and local level—these are just some of the intimidating challenges that have arisen during Shirley's time as president.

But that is why her leadership at Houghton and on the CCCU Board has come at such a pivotal moment. As a historian and philosopher, Shirley looks at these challenges and recognizes that there is a long arc of history to consider. She inspires us as she looks to the lessons learned from the past that we can utilize even as she recognizes that we cannot be afraid to embrace the changes we must make in this present moment in order to prepare for the future.

There has never been a better champion for all the fullness and promise that is Christ-centered education than Shirley Mullen. She shared this vision so well in a video we put together about the life-changing work of Christian higher education: "If you're going to turn out people who are whole, people who are prepared to serve the world, their desire for service and preparation as a whole person has to be connected to their fundamental moral and spiritual convictions. ... Our education of the whole person [at CCCU institutions] is really about liberating all of the gifts and all of the potential that God has given to a student for use in the world."

While it is bittersweet to say farewell to Shirley Mullen as Houghton president, fortunately, she will continue to be an invaluable advocate, leader and friend through her continued roles on national boards and other networks that impact Christian higher education and the world.

Shirley V. Hoogstra, J.D.  
*President, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities*

President Mullen's leadership roles on national boards have enhanced Houghton's visibility well beyond Western New York. She currently serves as Chair of the Board of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and on the Board of the National Association of Evangelicals. During her tenure as president, she also served on the Board of the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, on the Council of Independent College & Universities in New York State, and on the Board of Trustees of Fuller Theological Seminary where she also chaired the Academic Committee.



# IN YOUR

It has been a joy to work with President Mullen. Her vision, steady leadership, hard work, caring attitude and prioritization of community engagement truly have made her a treasured asset to Houghton College.

## DR. MULLEN HAS DEVOTED HER LIFE TO STUDENTS AND HIGHER EDUCATION,

and it was phenomenal that she returned to her roots in Allegany County to take the helm of the college. She always has put the best interests of the students and their futures at the forefront of every decision and her emphasis on excellence has furthered Houghton College's reputation as a nationally-ranked Christian college. Her multitude of accomplishments made it a wonderful personal honor for me to name Dr. Mullen as a New York Senate Woman of Distinction in 2015. Her legacy and impact will be long lasting, and I extend sincere gratitude for her commitment and warmest wishes for good health and much happiness in the next chapter of her life.

- Catharine Young  
Former New York State Senator

Higher Education is undergoing a time of significant change and uncertainty, but Shirley

## CONSISTENTLY ARTICULATES THE VALUE AND PURPOSE OF EDUCATION

broadly, and of Christian higher education specifically, and encourages and strengthens others amidst the challenge and change of the time.

- Alison R. Noble  
Associate Professor, Messiah University

Shirley Mullen's presidency has been dedicated to encouraging the kind of academic discipleship that flows from—to use a favorite phrase of hers—a "courageous middle." In her own person she has shown us what it means to make our way with courage between the extremes that tempt us in our intellectual, social and spiritual lives. She has used her gifted leadership to encourage all of us who love Houghton to face new challenges and complexities, in Christian higher education and in the larger world where we are called to serve, with

## CONFIDENCE IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.

I am deeply grateful for all that she has accomplished as the president of my alma mater!

- Richard J. Mouw '61  
President Emeritus, Fuller Theological Seminary  
Senior Research Fellow  
Paul B. Henry Institute for the  
Study of Christianity and Politics  
Calvin University

## Dr. Mullen has exemplified the SCHOLAR-servant IDEALS

of Houghton College throughout the world of academics...

- Dr. Ian Lennox '51  
Former Board Chair

# WORDS

[President Mullen] truly has touched my heart, and the spot is still tender today. I think that says something about her leadership right there actually: She doesn't know the depth of my love for her, she hasn't asked, nor has she seemed to concern herself with my opinion of her in that regard, and yet relentlessly continues to empty herself to me, to open her schedule to me, and to calm my anxious heart with a prayer-filled word of hope and wisdom.

I am now convinced  
THAT MOTHERLY  
LOVE IS AN INTIMATE  
COMPANION TO  
GODLY LEADERSHIP;  
PRESIDENT MULLEN  
TAUGHT ME THAT.

- Thomas Hallman '21

What President Mullen has taught me of leadership  
is that it cannot be done well without a

WHOLEHEARTED  
PURSUIT OF  
INTELLECTUAL  
HONESTY PAIRED  
WITH HUMILITY.

- Olivia Flint '20

As a student of colour, her dedication to the

THRIVING  
OF ALL  
HOUGHTON  
STUDENTS

completely changed my outlook on servant  
leadership.

- Shaphan Hestick '19

Dr. Mullen does not lead from a position  
of power as President of Houghton  
College, but instead she mimics  
Jesus' form of leadership by being

HUMBLE,

having integrity, and looking to God for  
guidance in everything she does.

- Stephanie Beattie '21

[To sum up her leadership style] it would be articulate,  
faithful, convicted—and the unexpected humor.  
Right? Because she does come across as very proper,

and THEN ALL  
OF A SUDDEN  
SHE HAS  
A ZINGER,

and you are like WOW where did that come from??  
(which makes it actually more funny!).

- Dr. Chip Pollard  
President, John Brown University

# FOR SUCH a TIME as



Linda Mills Woolsey '74

When President Shirley A. Mullen chose “For Such A Time as This” as her inaugural theme a decade and a half ago, she could not have imagined just how turbulent the times would be. Rocked by economic and social crises, then plunged into a pandemic, these years have seen American society frayed and higher education brought to a breaking point. Like Houghton leaders before her, President Mullen has confronted these challenges with faithfulness, intelligence and grit. In doing so, she has worked hard to honor the past, serve the present and prepare for the future.

In another turbulent time, Willard J. Houghton envisioned Houghton as a lighthouse on the rock, shining its beacon over “the dangerous places” of the world. In an era of epidemic alcohol abuse, widespread poverty, lynchings, exclusion acts and resistance to women’s rights, he believed that education could prepare students for the great work of “fixing up the world.” Today, amid a pandemic and waves of economic crises and social upheaval, Houghton may be more like the command center for a satellite warning system than a lighthouse—a hub where human intelligence and technology connect to serve a world of titanic storms and shifting shoals.

The residential campus persists, lovingly tended. But under President Mullen, Houghton has extended her reach through urban study centers and online programs. Though she might have felt more at home in a lighthouse anchorage, President Mullen demonstrated the lifelong value of a Houghton education as she adapted to these perilous times. Having worked closely with her for several years, I can testify to the courage, intelligence, integrity and tenacity she brought to the task.

Dedicated to facing the data and thinking things through, President Mullen has, like her predecessors, grounded her work in prayer, service and stubborn hope for the future. Looking back over her presidency, I also see her emulating these in her tireless work—stacks of little notebooks, mountains of file folders, endless late nights, long meetings, hours and hours on the road.

As an alumna and historian, President Mullen has clearly taken Houghton’s story of faith, academic rigor and bold ventures to heart. Like Willard J. Houghton, she cherishes the Nehemiah theme of “repairing old walls” to renew them for the future. Aware of Houghton’s roots in a biblical faith that repudiated the Fugitive Slave Act of 1857, President Mullen has challenged us to continue the founding vision of a “thorough education,” grounded in Christ, guided by scripture, and offered “without regard to sex or nationality.” While keeping Houghton rooted in an ancient faith, she has oriented us toward tomorrow.

As the 2007-2009 recession created an era of austerity for American colleges, higher education was rocked by issues less visible to the public—a sharp decline in college-age students and growing skepticism about the very value of higher education. During these crises, President Mullen provided leadership not only on campus but to Christian higher education. In 2020, she reminded fellow CCCU leaders that a viable education “must speak directly to the questions of relevance and



usefulness that arise especially in times of economic and political anxiety and uncertainty.” But she also cautioned that colleges have a wider responsibility to the public good: “preparing students for a lifetime of learning.”

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Dedicated to facing the data and thinking things through, President Mullen has, like her predecessors,

## Grounded Her Work in Prayer, Service and Stubborn Hope for the Future.

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A lifelong learner herself, President Mullen believes Christian higher education should nurture “curiosity for its own sake,” pose “questions that no one else is yet asking” and invite students “into larger worlds than they have yet imagined.” She has shaped the college in ways that embody this ideal. Under her leadership, community and conversation have been central to Houghton’s academic culture. Whether gathering retirees and faculty for First Tuesday reflections or reading Christmas stories to students in Van Dyk lounge, President Mullen has practiced hospitality, welcoming us into community. Renewing the image of the college as “alma mater”—generous or nurturing mother—she has reached out to alumni and students and even created an “Alumni House” for them to come home to.

Renewing the founders’ vision, President Mullen has cultivated a more diverse community—board, faculty, staff and students. Expanding Houghton’s reach to Buffalo’s East and West sides provided an economically and racially diverse group of students with access to a Houghton education. Ties with Buffalo also enabled students at the Houghton, NY, campus to interact with racially and culturally diverse

urban communities. One result has been a growing number of recent alumni who have chosen to live, work and serve in Buffalo.

But building community has not meant avoiding the fierce questions of the day. The Mosaic Center, the Katherine W. Lindley Center for Law and Constitutional Studies, the Center for Sustainability, and the Kindschi Faith and Justice Symposium have encouraged tough conversations about things that matter. In these conversations, President Mullen has often modelled courage in the face of sometimes furious discourse and demonstrated the value of keeping the conversation going.

She has also advocated for a curriculum designed to prepare students for twenty-first-century life and work. Her own strong sense of calling and her commitment to preparing students for jobs led to establishing the Fleming-Farver Office of Vocation and Calling. Society’s need for graduates in STEM fields meant expanding the charter to include Engineering, adding a Data Science major and creating new laboratories for the Paine Science building. Programs like Criminal Justice and the MSED in Literacy Education address social needs and respond to the job market. Integrating the chapel program more fully into college life and the curriculum keeps change grounded on a firm foundation.

If a tradition is to remain alive, each generation must affirm the principles of its heritage and adapt them to a changing world. Paradoxically, to be faithful, a college president needs both to conserve and to innovate. As President Mullen passes on Houghton’s hopes and challenges to her successor, I am grateful for her faithful service and for the ways she has renewed foundations and established new trajectories for Houghton’s continuing mission in an uncertain world.

Linda Mills Woolsey '74  
served Houghton College  
as professor of English for  
19 years and as the Vice  
President for Academic  
Affairs and Dean of the  
College for more than  
three years.



But we are in the business of producing the kind of people—marked by a Houghton education—who will meet these issues in thousands of specific situations around the world each day—in the professions, in business, in community development, in ministry.

— President Mullen's Inaugural Address

# A Time for every THING

2007

Inaugurated as the fifth Houghton College President on October 5th, 2007.

2008

U.S. economic downturn

Faculty trip to Sierra Leone

Houghton marks 125 years

2009

Creation Care Initiative

2010

New program: Science Honors

Launch of Houghton Online

Celebration of the Sciences & launch of Paine Center for Science renovations

Launch of Leadership Allegany program

2011

Center for Faith Justice and Global Engagement Founded

2012

Silent Phase of IMPACT: The Campaign for Greater Houghton

Launch of One Houghton

Joined Empire 8 Athletic Conference and provisional membership in NCAA Div III

2013

Houghton College Buffalo West—Symphony Circle established



2021

First Buffalo—  
East Side  
graduates  
First MBA  
graduate

2019

2020

Through the generosity of 9,084 individual donors, we raised a total of \$70,523,420 for IMPACT: The Campaign for Greater Houghton

Announced new, transparent tuition that drastically reduced published price

COVID-19 forces college to send students home to finish the spring semester

Houghton resumes in-person instruction in the fall following COVID-19 protocols

New programs: fully online Christian Ministries, A.A.S., Environmental Studies major, Politics, Philosophy & Economics major

2018

Completed construction on the new Equestrian Center

Mosaic Center established

New program: Electrical Engineering major

2017

Launch of public phase of **IMPACT:** The Campaign for Greater Houghton

First Houghton Online graduates

2016

New program: Data Science major

2015

Solar Array completed

New program: Sport, Recreation & Wellness Management major

First Buffalo West—Symphony Circle graduates

2014

First One Day Giving Challenge

Office of Vocation & Calling to prepare graduates for lifelong success as well as their first job after college established

Completed construction on Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex

New program: Music Industry major

Houghton College Buffalo—East Side established  
Paine Center for Science renovated

Consolidated student support services within the Center for Student Success, including Academic Support and Accessibility Services, Counseling Services, Office of Vocation and Calling, and Writing Center.

Launch of the Center for Engagement and Hospitality

New programs: Master of Business Administration, M.B.A., Literacy Education, M.S.Ed., Exercise Science major

We have a great legacy. We are part of a people called to “fix up the world.” The needs of our world in this time are very great.

- President Shirley Mullen





# a Legacy *of* enlarging *the* Imagination

**A**s time unveils the legacy of President Mullen's tenure leading Houghton College, it will undoubtedly be observed that she enlarged the imagination of what it means to carry out Houghton's distinctive mission as a Christian college in this time.

From reclaiming Willard J. Houghton's original mission—exemplified in his iconic phrase, “Yours for fixing up the world”—to a unified understanding of global education and a commitment to what she affectionately calls the Courageous Middle. These emphases not only shaped the vision for the institution, but increased the relevance of Houghton's enduring mission to our time.

Houghton is here to equip women and men to be courageous servant leaders and global citizens by educating the whole person. The creation of fully online programs, the recent tuition reset and the establishment of locations in Buffalo offer three clear examples of how this personalized education is designed to accelerate students' journey to fulfill their God-given potential.

## TUITION RESET

When thinking about access to higher education, affordability is, and will continue to be, a primary consideration for students and their families.

I was fortunate to begin my work at Houghton (July 2020) at a time when the need for a response in this area was well recognized by President Mullen. The understanding that this issue required a significant response was, in fact, a core component of the 2020-23 strategic plan.

As the College approached this challenge, our goals were threefold: make the true cost more transparent so we could reach families that visited our website but never made application due to published pricing (silent shoppers), save students money (both now and over time), and remove price as a barrier to a high-quality Christian education. Facilitated by an intense period of study and analysis of the competitive landscape, we determined to

meet this need through an exceptionally bold price reset like no other in Houghton's history accompanied by a new financial aid awarding model. Tuition was reduced by 53%, and student scholarships are now funded exclusively through alumni funds. This two-fold approach to make Houghton College an affordable option was only made possible through the dedication and generosity of Houghton's alumni through the recently completed IMPACT campaign, which raised over \$41 million for student scholarships.

Jason Towers '97  
*Chief Officer of Enrollment  
and Marketing*



## BUFFALO LOCATION

When I graduated from Houghton College in May 2013 and moved to New England to pursue graduate education, I never imagined that I would return. That was until one rainy March afternoon when I met with President Mullen at a local Buffalo coffeeshop to discuss a new project. Houghton and a team of Buffalo-area leaders were envisioning an affordable, high-quality inner city college campus on Buffalo's East Side.

Buffalo's East Side is an aggregate of historic Black communities; the rigid demarcations were and continue to be forged in America's painful historical legacy of racial injustice. No college or university had experienced sustainable success in establishing lasting relationships with this community or many of its students. These students were often the first in their families and neighborhoods to attend college; they often experienced higher education as a series of obstacles and not a pathway to liberation and collective flourishing. The vision was to enhance the community's access to affordable and relevant education while providing the mentorship and support necessary for successful degree completion.

Having seen the success of Houghton College's extension program serving new Americans on the city's West Side, calls were intensifying from East Side leaders and students for a partnership. President Mullen led in answering that call and asked me to join her and Houghton College in the effort as program director.

Today, Houghton College Buffalo—East Side exists as an oasis for education access and ethical leadership development in a community often overlooked, underappreciated and misrepresented. But perhaps the most enduring homage to the significance of Houghton Buffalo East comes from a May 2021 graduate and lifelong East Sider who wrote in a recent essay, "Before coming to Houghton College Buffalo—East Side, I wondered if college was a fit for me. Not long after matriculating, I realized that my previous training had not properly prepared me for college success, but, with the support of my professors and classmates, I pushed past my doubts, worked hard to complete assignments even when I struggled and shattered self-imposed limitations. ... Now, I know that there are scholars who look like me. ... College has made me realize my purpose."

Julian Cook '13  
*Director, Houghton College  
Buffalo—East Side*



## ONLINE EXPANSION

Although we find a few exceptions, it is difficult to imagine a thriving college or university today without solid offerings in the online arena. Within the first three years of President Mullen's presidency, Houghton started to add online options to its curriculum. Unlike so many online programs, a key feature both then and to this day is that residential faculty have led the way in designing and teaching these classes. In that way, Houghton has ensured that its online classes are in sync with the high academic standards of the residential campus.

The real breakthrough took place in the fall of 2013, when Houghton's longstanding program in adult education put the Organizational Management degree online. From that point on, the offerings of the online program have only grown, spurred on by President Mullen's sense that Houghton must grow in this area. Other degrees in business and psychology were added to the repertoire in 2015. To provide residential students with opportunities for continued learning between spring and fall semesters, summer online offerings began to emerge as early as 2014.

President Mullen strongly supported the move to include online teaching within faculty loading. In the fall of 2019, three new online programs were added, including an online MBA degree and an online Master of Science in Education. Criminal Justice was the third. In 2020, an Associate of Applied Science in Christian Ministries was added. In the last two years, President Mullen has strongly advocated that Houghton use its online platform as a way to provide lifelong learning to alumni and friends of the college through webinars and the possibility of auditing online courses.

The expansion of Houghton's online face is just one way in which President Mullen has continued Houghton's legacy of a quality education in an ever-changing world. History will not only look back and credit her for the foresight to push forward in this area. It will take note of the way she insisted Houghton's online programs reflect the same distinctive identity and quality as its residential programs.



Ken Schenck  
*Vice President for Planning and Innovation*





# FOR generations TO COME

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano and Karl Sisson

The most visible legacies on college campuses are often the physical structures and gathering spaces where campus life happens: classrooms, residence halls, gymnasiums, studios, lounges and so on. These testaments remind us of community, generosity, dedication, lives of impact and the importance of places to gather. Along with those who have given generously to Houghton College, such as the Kerr-Pegula, Rothenbuhler, Lambein and Van Dyk families, we also remember those who have made significant contributions in other ways—Ken and Doris Nielsen, Frieda Gillette, Stephen Paine, James S. Luckey, and Dan Chamberlain—whose names are honored across our picturesque campus.

No less important than the donors and culture-builders are the leaders we remember who inspired the gifts and labor that led to these construction and renewal efforts. Since the beginning of her tenure at Houghton, President Shirley Mullen has worked quietly behind the scenes to bring important renovations to some of Houghton's most utilized buildings and to inspire the new construction that has already become vital to the future.

"President Mullen's influence on the landscape of Houghton goes beyond buildings," notes Dean of the Faculty Paul Young, '76.



“We now have swings, hammocks, disc golf courses, a courtyard, forest trails and a new town park with walkways—all inviting us to rejoice in the beauty of this place and contributing to our students’ emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing.”

### **WILLARD J. HOUGHTON LIBRARY CONNECTS TO THE CHAMBERLAIN CENTER**

The first major construction project undertaken during President Mullen’s tenure was the addition of a third floor to the Willard J. Houghton Library. This included the walkway connecting the library to the Chamberlain Center (formerly known as the New Academic Building—“the NAB”), which houses many faculty offices and classrooms. The third floor became home to the Religion and Philosophy Department and set the standard for classroom design.

### **KERR-PEGULA ATHLETIC COMPLEX**

Perhaps the largest and most recognizable capital project completed during President Mullen’s tenure was the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex, funded primarily through the generosity of Kim (Kerr ’91) and Terry Pegula. This complex, including the Kerr-Pegula Field House, baseball field and softball diamond, is a tribute to President Mullen’s vision for Houghton to thrive in NCAA Division III. These first-rate venues enabled Highlander Athletics to field an expanded number of intercollegiate teams and attract more prospective students who understand the vital impact of the student-athlete’s experience on personal and spiritual formation as well as becoming a hub for regional events and activities.

“The KPAC has significantly impacted our ability to recruit student athletes to Houghton,” shares Matt Webb, Director of Athletics. “Our outdoor turf fields and indoor complex are among the best in the region, which has resulted in a competitive advantage for us in multiple sports. We have also become a destination site in Western New York. Hosting both Section V and Section VI indoor high school track and field events has brought thousands of visitors to our campus.”

### **PAINE CENTER FOR SCIENCE**

The expansion and renovation of the Paine Center for Science had been on the drawing table for many years. President Mullen approached this capital project with her characteristic grace, determination and perseverance. Even when revisions and reimagining seemed to hinder and delay, she never relinquished the plan to complete this vital work in the course of her tenure. That determination will pay off for generations

of Houghton STEM students—seeing the creation of new lab spaces, new faculty offices, new spaces for collaborative student work and room for new academic programs that didn’t exist 15 years ago: Engineering, Data Science, Biochemistry and Science Honors. The two-phased reconstruction project was fully funded with generous gifts from Houghton’s faithful alumni and friends, and the final phase of work, delayed by COVID, will be completed in the summer of 2021.

“It takes a great storyteller to create a narrative around a topic so the listener walks away saying, ‘I want to be part of that.’ That was Shirley,” shares Robert Van Dyk ’75. “She shares her visions with a passion in such a way that you want to participate. Within every story and vision, Shirley set the stage contextually by beautifully describing the journey and then explaining what role we could play in helping Houghton complete that important journey.”

### **EQUESTRIAN CENTER**

Like the work completed in the Paine Center for Science, the addition of the Equestrian Event Center was completed without incurring any capital debt. The vision of Jo-Anne Young ’69, Program Director Emerita, caught the eye of an anonymous donor who contributed the lead gift. With the support of many other generous contributors, the Event Center encompasses an indoor riding arena, the Jo-Anne O. Young Competitor’s Wing and the Faith of a Mustard Seed Atrium.

Partnered with her passion for growing Houghton’s endowment, it is perhaps this commitment to debt-free construction that will be one of President Mullen’s most enduring legacies. This firm insistence to use current resources rather than borrow from the future is an indication of her gift to think far ahead and consider carefully how the acts of today will impact tomorrow.

“As Chairman of the Board’s Finance Committee,” states Gary Larder ’62, “we are delighted with the very disciplined approach President Mullen has implemented in these volatile times.”

President Mullen’s calling as an historian has provided her with a strong sense of the ripple effects of our actions and decisions. But it is her dedication, determination and perseverance that has made debt-free capital construction a reality for Houghton College. This reality will be looked upon with gratitude for generations to come.

# Inspiring and raising up women

Among the many roles President Mullen has played during her 15-year tenure at Houghton College, perhaps one of the most significant but less noticed has been that of a purposeful and dedicated mentor to women leaders. Over the years, Shirley has, with quiet intentionality, guided a host of women leaders on their journey to become confident influencers who balance courage and humility with the aplomb that she herself models so well. Shirley recognizes that she has been entrusted not only to lead the College with skill, discernment and exceptional wisdom but also to equip, nurture and foster capable women leaders who will have a significant impact within their current and future spheres of influence. The grace with which she draws out the gifts and talents of each woman is artful and encouraging; she notices and names the strengths and capacities she sees in others while simultaneously inviting each woman to recognize and live into her own unique aptitudes and abilities. By eliciting the perspectives and insights of each person, Shirley affirms the worth and value of each individual and their contributions while also bringing to the surface the vast range of creative insights needed to fully understand any given situation and to move ahead with a plan of action that reflects the best thinking of every collaborator. Shirley is the epitome of a selfless leader; she gives of her time and attention—above and beyond what would be expected of an extraordinarily busy executive leader—and invests deeply, personally and intentionally in others for their own growth, enhancement and advancement and for the flourishing of the College, the community and the Kingdom of God. President Mullen: For your intentional investment in the growth and development of women leaders across all of your spheres of influence, we offer our inexpressible thanks and gratitude! Blessings to you in your retirement;

may you continue to pour into others in this new season as you have done so faithfully to this point.

Cathy Freytag  
*Associate Dean of  
the Faculty*



Shirley had a vision for offering exceptional hospitality to our campus guests while also reaching beyond our campus to be good neighbors through positive engagement with our broader community. She encouraged and empowered me to use my gifts to help bring that vision to life, and I could never have imagined the fulfilling career at Houghton that her confidence in me fostered.

Phyllis Gaerte  
*Director of  
Community  
and Alumni  
Engagement*



President Mullen has encouraged me to have confidence and a voice. She has allowed me to be part of leadership groups to learn how to think and process for the good of the whole and not just our individual areas. She trusted me, even as a Director, to help guide decisions and be a contributor of ideas. Her willingness to be open helped me grow.

Marianne Loper  
*Director, Student Financial Services*

Betsy Sanford  
*Chief of Staff*

President Mullen has become a mentor to me in countless ways. Her challenge to reimagine and enlarge my role in a way

I hadn't envisioned was the prompting I needed to push out of my comfort zone and find a voice that I'd never fully utilized before. I am so grateful for how she has poured into me and how she modeled it every day with graciousness, sincerity, kindness, patience and wisdom.



Shirley's ability to communicate and cultivate space in the courageous middle has modeled for me and many of my colleagues how to listen for understanding and lead with the Truth and the Grace that comes from our Triune God alone. I believe that, because of her leadership and the mentoring she's provided me, I am better prepared to join my faculty and staff colleagues to remain engaged in this important work at Houghton College and beyond.

Sunshine Sullivan  
*Associate Professor and Chair of Education*

As SGA President during my last two years at Houghton, I had the privilege of getting to meet with President Mullen every other week. These meetings had such an impact on me as a leader. President Mullen exemplified leading with grace, intellect, faith and care. My best memories of these meetings are the humbling experience of her praying for me, of being sent away with books, and of seeing her care and passion for Houghton College and especially its students.

Joanna Friesen '17



One of the things that I will always carry from Dr. Mullen's leadership is how she wields her courage and faith. I would not have come to Houghton had we not run into each other at a church in Indiana, and she chose to see it as a Providential encounter and pursued a further conversation with me. Getting to serve under a female president has led me to never question my own seat at the table of leadership.

Nuk Kongkaw '11  
*Director, Mosaic Center*

I am so thankful for the mentor and kinship I had in President Mullen while a student at Houghton. She consistently supported me in positions of leadership and lifted me up with words of affirmation throughout them. Best of luck, President Mullen, in your retirement!

Hannah Sievers '20



One of the most impactful things I learned from President Mullen was the importance of what she deemed "placeholders." Being someone who had always been passionate about many causes, Shirley recognized within me the tendency to want to do it all despite never having sufficient time. So, Mullen encouraged me to have placeholders in my life—little things like checking the news or having coffee with friends, playing piano for five minutes a day or reading a book for fun—so that, no matter how busy I got, I would hold onto all of those pieces of my heart and the things in the world that mattered. Even if one certain vocation took up most of my time, I would still be a person who valued knowing what was going on in the world, a person who valued the relationships in my life, good music and learning. President Mullen taught me about placeholders, but really, her largest impact on me was that, despite her insanely busy schedule, she always had a placeholder for mentoring me.

Olivia Flint '20



Women in leadership often feel the pressure to be all things to all people, to be the Superwoman in every room. Shirley urged me to nuance my ideas of God's call in liberating ways, to listen for God's call to serve a particular community rather than to be the perfect ideal of a professor, leader, etc. She modeled for me, in concrete ways, what it looks like, instead, when a gifted woman leads out of her specific strengths and builds effective partnerships with those whose gifts complement her own.

Sarah Derck  
*Associate Professor of Old Testament; Chair,  
Department of Biblical Studies, Theology and Philosophy*

Shirley taught me so much in the five years I was privileged to serve under her leadership. Perhaps the greatest and most important was how to strike the tender balance between humility and confidence as a leader. I saw her navigate challenging situations using this artful space, and it was beautiful. Shirley believed in me, not only as a leader on her team, but as a woman and as a friend. She has served Houghton faithfully in one of the most tumultuous times in Higher Education, and, as an alumna and former employee of the college, I cannot offer high enough praise.

Sharra (Durham '94) Hynes  
*Associate Vice President and Dean of Students,  
Baylor University*





# Sincerely, Shirley A Mullen

- » You are blessed if you have been one of the students, faculty and staff that President Mullen has sent a personal note of appreciation to over the years.
- » In 2019, President Mullen created and initially funded an endowed scholarship in honor of her husband, Dr. Paul R. Mills, to support students who exude the same kind of “grit” that Paul has consistently exemplified.
- » A perpetual good sport, President Mullen has joined the fun in a series of often hilarious videos in SPOT and for the One Day Giving Challenge. Watch a few of these at:

[www.houghton.edu/mullenvideos](http://www.houghton.edu/mullenvideos)

- » Dr. Shirley A. Mullen and Dr. Paul R. Mills invited the entire campus community—students, faculty, staff and local residents—to their wedding in Wesley Chapel on June 5, 2010.

« President Mullen sends a journal with a personal note to each accepted student. That’s almost 2,500 personal notes to potential students in the last four years.

President Mullen enjoys photography and regularly shares prints of her photos on the notecards she hand-writes to people.





# Houghton's First "FIRST GENTLEMAN"

In the spring of 2009, Dr. Paul Mills, Class of 1961, called the President's Office and said that, if President Mullen was ever in Washington, D.C., he would be glad to take her to dinner. (After serving as president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University for 19 years, Dr. Mills had worked in Advancement at both Southern Wesleyan and Houghton before taking up his current position as CEO of the Wesleyan Retirement, Camp and Conference Center in Denton, Maryland.) President Mullen assumed that the invitation was an Advancement call and that Dr. Mills wanted to make a gift to Houghton in honor of his late wife of nearly 48 years, Bonnie Boggs Mills, Class of 1960, who was a supportive partner in all of his endeavors.

It was not until October of 2009, October 9th to be exact, that the schedules worked such that President Mullen could meet Dr. Mills for dinner. The carefully orchestrated evening included dinner at the Charthouse in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, followed by dessert at Mount Vernon. Later that evening, Dr. Mills indicated to President Mullen that he enjoyed planning events—and since he had time on his hands, and had heard through the Houghton grapevine that she was working too hard, he offered to plan a once-a-month outing to get her out of Houghton. He was offering, in his words, “to serve as her presidential distraction.” He claims this was a statement made entirely in innocence, though everyone who has heard the story—at least at first hearing—doubts this account!

Thus began a series of monthly “outings.” November to Niagara Falls for dinner. December to Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York City. January to dinner in D.C. during a professional conference. (One does not “date” in the traditional sense in Houghton as the president.) Each outing made it ever more clear that the relationship could be serious. In February, Dr. Mills proposed in St. Mary's Chapel in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. (He IS a planner!) It was to be a June wedding, and everyone in Houghton—especially the students—were to be invited.

According to President Mullen, Dr. Mills immediately expanded the capacity of the presidency in a range of ways. “Paul knew the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the history of Wesleyan Higher Education. He brought his experience in advancement and enlarged my connections with alumni going back into the 1950s when Paul was here at the Prep School (now the Academy). He graciously took over all the household responsibilities like shopping, meal preparation, drycleaner runs and washing. Finally, he understood the presidency and what I was dealing with in a way that no one else could. Paul never tried to tell me what to do as president. We clearly had very different styles of being president! But just his being there made so much difference!”

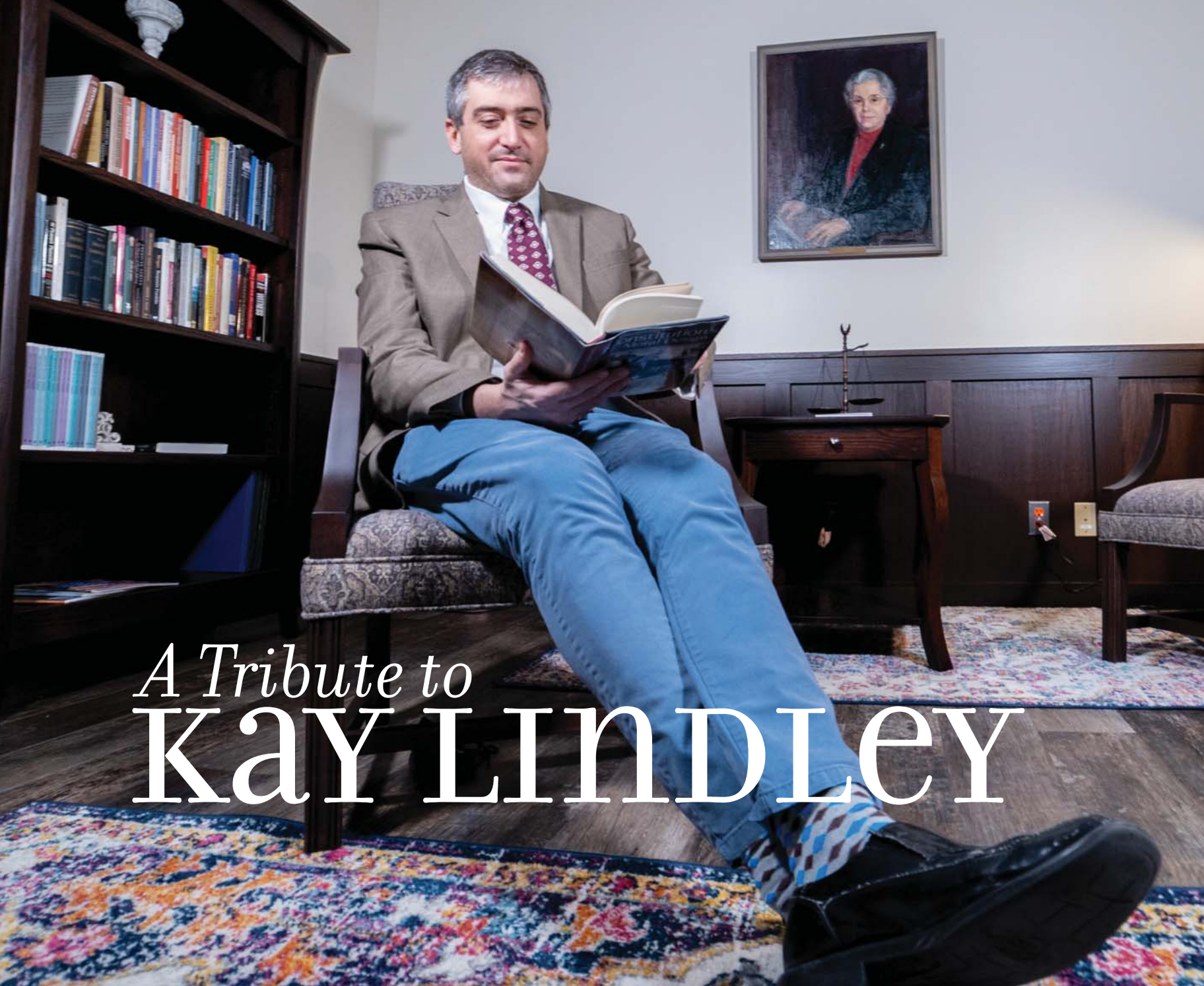
Dr. Mills brought his own background as a prominent Purple-Gold athlete to the campus. (He was recently inducted in the Houghton Athletic Wall of Honor.) He served for several years on the Athletic Advisory Board and was a regular supporter of our athletic teams, especially men's basketball.

Dr. Mills continues to plan President Mullen's “distractions” including annual spring trips to New York City to see the Yankees as well as their annual Christmas trips to Radio City. In addition to planning the house and gardens in which they will be residing—appropriately called “Home Base”—he is also planning for some retirement travel to places like Spain, Iceland and even potentially the Antarctic.

*We wish President Mullen and Dr. Mills many joyful years of retirement together.*







# *A Tribute to* **KAY LINDLEY**

A virtual celebration and dedication of the Katherine W. Lindley Center for Law and Constitutional Studies, located on the third floor of the Chamberlain Center, was held February 1 and was attended by about 100 alumni, family, faculty, staff and friends. The Lindley Center is dedicated to Houghton's pre-law students as a place for study and research, student-faculty meetings, pre-law events and home to a special pre-law library and law school preparation materials.

The space is named for Dr. Kay Lindley, who was a long-time professor of History and Chair of the Division of Social Science. A beloved professor and friend to many, she is fondly remembered for her contribution to the lives of over 100 Houghton graduates who, through her encouragement and rigorous preparation, went on to have careers in the legal profession.



**A**t Houghton's 1982 Homecoming, my grandmother Kay Lindley presented President Chamberlain with *And You Shall Remember*, the history of Houghton that she co-wrote with Dr. Frieda Gillette. A real live book, 152 pages, written by someone I loved! Grandma's name, gold-foil-embossed on green hardcover! Grandma was always larger than life to me. She wrote books, yes, but she also listened to jazz, talked politics, won awards, made a mean granola, and studied and traveled to Russia and China, bringing back books and art and recipes. In leading tones, this giant half-asked, half-told us grandkids about our "love of learning" in such a way that you learned what schooltime vignettes you should share with Grandma and which would not pass muster.

As a boy, I assumed that everyone found Grandma larger than life and that's why they liked her so much. But as I grew and eventually attended Houghton myself, I discovered that Grandma had a gift for giving herself completely to the person in front of her in a given moment. My freshman friends and I, goofy and energetic, visited and ate her chicken and dumplings. She listened, truly, with evident glee, to all of our silly stories and dumb jokes. My girlfriend Jill and I visited; Grandma had such interest in her field of study—math like Grandpa—and our budding connection. She encouraged both.

Grandma's listening changed lives. She took young women seriously when many did not, reminding them of their God-given ability and duty. She listened carefully to sermons but was not afraid to disagree when popular Christianity simplified things at the expense of real people. She insisted her students—and her colleagues—had more to give than they realized, because they had revealed their strength and gifting in conversation with her.

Many 1970s-1990s alumni credit Grandma with inspiring them to a career in law. The Christian practice of law is intimately tied up with listening: to history, government, and texts and, ultimately, to people. The law reflects and shapes our cultural self-understanding and has a tremendous impact on whether the least among us can flourish or not. Grandma had opinions on how the law should relate to individuals' liberties and responsibilities, and was not shy to share those opinions. But she inspired people of varied politics to go into law because she helped them to see that the law could serve human flourishing as well as any pulpit or lectern.

It is of course surreal and wonderful to see her name atop the entrance to the new pre-law center. Dark-wooded and reserved, it is tasteful, not frilly. It is ideal for energetic debate of the issues that will consume our attention in the next century, ideal for the listening that makes those debates fruitful instead of fatuous: listening to each other, to the

books that line the walls, and to the spirit of Houghton and its people, who still create time and space for a genuine encounter with others, with ideas, with ourselves, and with God.

Michael Jordan '99  
*Dean of the Chapel*



I am deeply grateful to those who have made possible—some through their vision, some through their generosity—this tribute to the life and work of Dr. Katherine Lindley. I am only one of hundreds of grateful Houghton graduates whose journey has been put on its lifelong trajectory by Dr. Lindley's

## Fearless CONFIDENCE

that God had purposes for our lives  
that we could not imagine for ourselves.  
The Center allows us to tell this story  
for the next generation and in that  
telling carry on her inspiring legacy.

Dr. Shirley A. Mullen  
*President*



# HOUGHTON

## news & updates



## COVID-19 Update

*Marc Smithers '08*

As Houghton College began welcoming students back to campus in late January 2021, the country, state and county were all reaching their maximum capacity for COVID-19 care. Allegany County had an alarmingly high seven-day positivity rate while New York State reimposed stricter gathering and indoor dining procedures to address the rising national infection rates due to holiday gatherings.

Despite these challenges, Houghton staff and faculty continued to diligently prepare to have students arrive on campus over the weekend of January 22nd through the 24th. By requiring students to come back to campus with a negative COVID-19 test taken within a few days of their arrival, a number of students were able to isolate at home before returning to Houghton, preventing a possible campus outbreak. After two weeks of very limited in-person contact and two rounds of campus-wide testing of all of our students, the CoronaCare Team was able to identify a handful of asymptomatic cases and isolate them without seeing any noted reports of campus spread of COVID-19 from these cases.

Since in-person classes started on February 8th, there has been no further interruption to campus life with classes carrying on with masking and social distancing; in-person programs and events including a Winter Festival (cut short a few days by some unseasonably warm weather), MLK Week, and Faith and Justice symposium activities; and even the resumption of athletic practices leading up to the opening intercollegiate competitions the first week of March. Though the campus's practice of the Big Three (masking, social distancing and cleanliness) will never feel fully "normal" as a part of campus life, our students, staff and faculty continue to prioritize these habits for the good of each other and the goal of continuing to share life together amid these unprecedented times.

## Houghton to Induct Two into Athletics Hall of Honor

*Jason Mucher*

Houghton College Athletics is pleased to recognize the contributions of **Betty (Bjorkgren '52) Denny** and **Darren Berkley '93** with their induction into the 2021 Hall of Honor Class.

Denny made her mark as a participant in Houghton's Purple and Gold program where she was involved in field hockey, basketball, track and field, tennis, and softball. Her participation earned her the "Big H" award. She won the all-campus competition in tennis and ping pong and served as secretary-treasurer of the Athletic Association.

At the end of her senior year, Denny was honored with the annual Female Sportsmanship Award. Her husband, Bob Denny, received the male award, and, following the awards ceremony, the couple announced their engagement.

After Houghton, she and Bob moved to Pennsylvania, where she taught and supported Bob's 50-year career as a pastor in Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio. They were married for 62 years until Bob's passing in 2014. Today, Denny lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she remains fairly active and proudly claims her four children—all of whom work actively in a church—grandchildren and great-grandchildren as her greatest accomplishments.

Berkley put up big numbers for Houghton men's basketball. He finished his four-year career with 1,508 points, which stands fifth all-time in the Houghton record books. His 244 career three-pointers rank No. 1 in Houghton history. He was a two-time all-conference selection and was part of a Houghton team that finished 18-9, earned a top-20 ranking in the NAIA during the season and made an appearance in the district playoffs.

Since moving on from Houghton, Berkley has served as a high school teacher, coach and administrator. He is currently a coach at Massaponox High School in Virginia, where he led his team to the school's first two district championships in 2019 and 2020 and advanced to last year's 6A state final four. His overall coaching record is 328-190 in 21 years on the sideline.

"More than the wins and losses have been the opportunities to influence lives. Houghton helped me grow into a Christian leader," said Berkley. "All the spiritual opportunities in chapel, the dorms, celebration and team trips enabled me to seek the Lord and grow in his grace."



# THANK YOU!

HOUGHTON  
NEWS & UPDATES



#IAmHoughton

A hearty “thank you” to our Houghton faithful! Houghton College received over **\$1,562,000 IN GIFTS FROM 2,017 SUPPORTERS** during our One Day Giving Challenge on April 16, 2021. Gifts will support student scholarships, capital projects, and academic and co-curricular student experiences.

“When I announced last fall that I would be retiring in May of 2021, I promised I would provide for a smooth and seamless ‘passing of the baton’ to the next president of Houghton College. The continued support, generosity, advocacy and prayers for God’s provision by our alumni and friends are key components of the successful ‘passing of the baton’ to the next runner in the relay race toward Houghton’s future,” stated President Shirley Mullen. “I am deeply and profoundly grateful for the groundswell of support that has developed through participation in the One Day Giving Challenge since its inception in 2014. I am confident of the tremendous impact the generosity of our alumni and friends will have on Houghton’s future.”





# alumni News & Notes

## 1954

**Mary Beth (Decker '54) Mead** completed graduate school through Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, IN.

## 1959

**Elaine Murray** is Professor Emeritus and Online Adjunct Professor for the MED and PhD Education Programs at Columbia International University in Columbia, SC. She teaches and mentors current students in her expertise of Curriculum and Instruction.

## 1965

**James W. Tysinger Jr.** has had the privilege in his career of opthamology to build an eye hospital in Zimba, Zambia through his non-profit organization, Internation Vision Volunteers. James has the opportunity to go to Africa over 70 times over the last 50 years and plans to keep going back since retiring from his opthamology practice.

## 1969

**Gary Fairchild** has appointed himself to many service opportunities including ministry as a missionary, pastor, Christian and Missionary Alliance development worker, and international fund-raiser for World Relief, working with Evangelicals across the world and responding to disasters and post-genocide situations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America.

## 1971

**Dennis Dill** has taken on the role of Engineer with NXp Semiconductors.

## 1976

**Rev. J.D. Bradley** has had the opportunity to serve in lead pastoral roles in the Free Methodist and Wesleyan denominations. Rev. Bradley has also had the privilege to serve in the role of educational consultant and vice principal in both elementary and secondary schools in Ontario.

**Dr. Joe Fote** has been appointed CEO of Youth Town of Tennessee, which serves as a Christian residential treatment center focused on individual, group and family counseling solutions.

## 1979

**Stanley Wicks** is retired from 23 years serving as Director of

Worship, Music, and the Arts at the First United Methodist Church of San Diego. Stanley now lives in Altoona, PA.

## 1981

**John DeValve**

earned his PhD from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies in June 2018. His research was compiled through eight years of ground study surrounding the usage of worship music within the churches of Western Niger.



## 1985

**Richard M. Strum** was honored with the New York State Distinguished



During a weekend amid COVID-19, a **group of Houghton music majors from the Classes of '79 and '80** decided to host a mini reunion via Zoom with their beloved music professor, 95-year-old, **Lois Wilt**. The group enjoyed their visit with each other as well as seeing their professor alive and well, still playing piano for her home church.



Pictured: **Peter Cardinal '79**, **Pam (Ferguson '79) Cardinal**, **Laurel (Macmillan '79) Scudder**, **Mark Dingman '79**, **Wendy (Atkinson '79) Baldwin**, **Ruth (Campbell '79) Phinney**, **Mark Phinney '79**, **Stan Wicks '79**, **Jeff Stark '79** and **Valerie (Crocker '80) Stark**.

Service Award by the New York State Council on the Social Studies during its annual conference in March 2020. Richard currently serves as the Director of Academic Programs at the Fort Ticonderoga Museum in Ticonderoga, NY.

**Miriam (Keith '85) Miller**

was promoted to Administrative Assistant in the Project Engineering Department of L3Harris Technologies



HQ in Melbourne, FL. Miriam previously served for 30 years within their Rochester branch.

**Charyl (Ropp '85) Whiting** has accepted the position of Tutor and Curriculum Development Lead at Wildern Partnership SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) in Southampton, England. In this role, she oversees the development of elementary trainee teachers through supervising, coaching and advising as they take on their practical training in schools.

**1987**

**Tom Traphagen** has been ministering to the homeless at the Bowery Mission, NYC. Tom has also had the opportunity to conduct prison ministry initiatives as well as Bible expositing in Harlem, NYC.

**1988**

**Kathryn (Fisher '88) Meloon**

has been selected as the 2019-2020 SUNY Chancellor's award



recipient for Excellence in Professional Service. Kathryn has been working in higher education for Genesee Community College for the last 20 years, most recently as their professional financial administrator.

**1990**

**Davis Hills** announces his promotion to Associate Superintendent for School Leadership within the Buffalo Public Schools District. Davis previously served as Principal for Riverside Academy High School and Waterfront Elementary for 14 years.

**David Long** has taken on the role of Senior Organizational Development Consultant with Objective Area Solutions, LLC in Arlington, VA.

**1991**

**Jeffrey Szymanski** is the Director of Didactics within the Physician Assistant Program at St.



Bonaventure University. He is one of the founding directors since the program's inception in 2019 within their School of Health Professions. Previously, he was Regional Director for Advance Practice Clinicians within TeamHealth Northeast, as well as serving on the Advance Practice Clinicians Council as a voting member.

**1992**

**Robert Van Wicklin** was appointed as Vice President for Advancement at St. Bonaventure University in 2015. In this role, Robert oversees all development of the University in addition to managing alumni relations.

**1993**

**Deymiss Caraballo**

joins the team at Enlarged City of Middletown Central School District as the Bilingual Instructional



Leader K-12. In this role, she will make key decisions about the school's curriculum, analyze formative student learning data, and implement strategies for the direction of intervention and reteaching.

**1998**

**Jennifer (Miller '98) Watson**

completed her Doctorate of Education from Walden University on July 18, 2020, summa cum laude.



**2001**

**David Davies**

has been promoted to the Director of the School of Music at Nazareth College.



Prior to his promotion, David was commissioned Composer of the Year for the Texas Music Teachers Association within his role of Music Department Head at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

**Chris Sheach** is the Instructor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR.



## 2012

"Jesus gave me a choice: to die or to live. If I chose to live, he said he'd take care of me." So said the paralyzed **Chelsea Ellis**, 2012 Houghton graduate, by mouthing words that her assistants translated by reading her lips. And true to His word, as He always is, Jesus is using a number of in-person and virtual caretakers to do just that. The one-time psychology student (who also had two minors) indeed lives, but in a sadly diminished way – as a quadriplegic who is ventilator-dependent and who needs assistance to eat and communicate.

Chelsea is remembered as a lively, energetic, adventurous woman who set out to make a difference among refugees, a growing population in the Buffalo area. The Orchard Park native embarked on an 11-nation overseas missionary tour in 2013 to get a sense of non-American or Canadian life.



[www.houghton.edu/Chelsea](http://www.houghton.edu/Chelsea)

Read more of Chelsea's story, as chronicled by Daniel Minchen, retired Associate Professor in Business and Communication.



## 2008

**Nicole (Trask '08)**

**Gustafson** earned her Master of Arts in Social and Public Policy from SUNY Empire State College in December 2020. She now serves as the Communications & Program Administration Manager at The Robert H. Jackson Center in Jamestown, NY.



## 2013

**Hannah Hanover**

received her master's degree from Baylor University and has since assumed the role of Communications Manager for the Entrepreneur's Organization in Alexandria, VA. Hannah now handles the responsibilities of editorial coordination, event marketing, copywriting for global newsletters, managing social media, and collaborating with design and marketing teams to optimize the brand's voice and global outreach.



## 2015

**Sarah Slater** completed her Master of Theology from Duquesne University in August 2020. She has since been appointed as Manager of Compliance and Development at Rehumanize International.

## 2016

**Jacqueline Pedulla** completed her master's degree with Roberts Wesleyan College in May 2020. She now serves as School Psychologist for PreK-5th within the Ganada School District of Walworth, NY.

## 2017

**Daniel Bellerose** has received considerable accolades for his debut album release, *Dark Love Songs*, with his band, Prince Bellerose.



**Jonan Pilet** earned a Master of Fine Arts from Seattle Pacific University.

# Down *the* Aisle

**Elizabeth (Houseman '17)** married Seth Smith on July 10, 2020. **(1)**

**Jacqi (Lewis '17)** married **Jonan Pilet '17** on March 21, 2021. **(2)**

**Sara (Fore '07)** married Mark Zschoche on December 19, 2020. **(3)**

**Lois (Hess '60)** married Anthony Yankowski



**08.07.20 | Lydia Joy (1)**  
Eva (Andes) and Peter Stark '12

**01.10.20 | Eleanor Madeline (2)**  
Sarah (Brautigam '10) and Joshua Moore '10

**07.18.20 | Wyatt (3)**  
Kelly (Morse '09) and Christopher Bush

**03.15.20 | Carl Frederick IV (4)**  
Elizabeth (Shields '06, MA '08) and Carl Irwin ('02, MA '05)

**12.21.20 | Raye Margaret (5)**  
Brian and Joanna Freeman '98

**9.30.19 | Natalie**  
Sarabeth (Paine '19) and Brian Ames

# Future Highlanders

ALUMNI  
NEWS & NOTES





# alumni Book Shelf

Stephanie Hulbert '87

## **I DEFINE CANCER**

Westbow Press, April 13, 2020.

Linette Taylor '23

## **GIFTED**

Independently published, December 1, 2020.

Louis R. Eltscher '54

## **TRAITORS OR PATRIOTS?: A STORY OF GERMAN ANTI-NAZI RESISTANCE**

iUniverse, July 8, 2013.

Megan (Tennant '13) Baratta

## **MOST DAYS (ILLUSTRATOR)**

Tilbury House Publishers, January 5, 2021.

Jonan Pilet '17

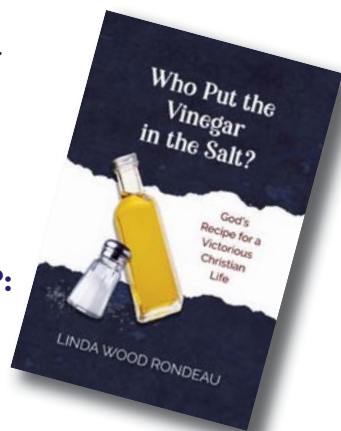
## **NOMAD, NOMAD**

Bound to Brew, June 1, 2021 (expected).

Linda (Wood '69) Barringer

## **WHO PUT THE VINEGAR IN THE SALT?: GOD'S RECIPE FOR A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Elk Lake Publishing, Inc., January 6, 2021.



Christine (Callahan '84) Campbell

## **THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK ON FINANCIAL SOCIAL WORK: DIRECT PRACTICE WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Routledge; 1st edition, November 21, 2019.

C. Kevin Thompson '91

## **THE LETTERS**

Scrivenings Press LLC, June 24, 2020.

Linda Danney Britton '64

## **MY BROTHER JEFFREY**

White Bird Publishing.

Charles Meeks '05

## **SOLA SCRIPTURA SACRAMENTAQUE**

Lexington Books / Fortress Academic, March 29, 2021.

# In Memoriam

## 1943

**Beatrice "Bea" (Gage '43) Merzig**

went to her heavenly home on Sunday, January 19, 2020, following a brief illness. She was 97 years old.

## 1946

**Elizabeth "Betty" (Moot '46) Croop,**

passed away peacefully on Friday, August 30, 2019, at the Woodcrest Commons Senior Living Center in Rochester, NY. She was 95 years old.

## 1948

**William E. Barker '48** peacefully

passed away in his sleep at 95 years old on Saturday, March 14, 2020. He was surrounded by his beloved friends and family during his final two weeks on this earth.

## 1949

**Shirley (Milbrandt) Carini '49, 93,**

went to be with the Lord in eternity on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

**Calvin Tingley '49,** a retired department head and high school science teacher, passed from this earth at 95 to everlasting life with his beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, on September 28, 2019.

## 1950

**Frederick "Fred" Gordon '50** went to be with the Lord at the age of 94 on December 6, 2020, after a struggle with cancer for three years. Fred served in six churches in the U.S. and Canada, pastoring for the Wesleyan Church for 35 years and with the Free Methodist Church for six years.

**Gene B. Chase '50**, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2020, at the age of 76.

1951

**Doris Joan (Larsen '51) Hayes** passed away on December 5, 2020, from natural causes. She was 91 years of age.

1954

**Elaine Smith Waltke '54** went to be with her Lord and Savior on September 2, 2020, at 88 years old. She is survived by her husband, **Bruce Waltke '52**, and three children.

1955

**Erma Mae (Beatty '55) Hegarty** arrived in the presence of her Savior on Saturday, July 18, 2020. Erma is survived by her husband, Rev. Dean Hegarty, whom she shared her love of missions, their last trip being to Costa Rica in January 2020.

1958

**Edwin A. Dixon '58**, 84, a retired Minister of 62 years, peacefully went to be with his Lord on August, 17, 2020, surrounded by his beloved family.

**Marcia A. Kouwe '58**, a 25-year service retiree of the West Irondequoit School System, passed away on Sunday, September 13, 2020, at the age of 84.

1959

**Norman Parks '59**, 82, went to be with his Savior in the early morning of Monday, October 5, 2020.

1961

**Carolyn Gifford Seymour '61**, former mayor of Jamestown, passed away at The Salamanca Rehabilitation and Nursing Center on August 22, 2020.

1966

**David E. Kindschi '66**, died peacefully in his favorite winter getaway, the island of Bali, Indonesia on April 22, 2020, at the age of 75.

1967

**David Van Ornum '67**, passed away the morning of November 19, 2020 at 75 years old.

1973

**Rev. Lawrence Mack '73**, 73, passed away peacefully at his home in Canada on Friday, August 8th, 2020.

REVEREND IRV REIST

Impassioned by the word of the Lord and education, **Rev. Irwin "Irv" W. Reist '57** passed away in the early hours of Saturday, June 27, 2020, at the age of 84.

After years spent attending seminary, receiving his master's, and pastoring in Illinois, as a Houghton alumnus, Irv found a calling to move his ministry back to New York, preaching in several local churches surrounding the college.

Shortly thereafter, Irv made a transition into education, making Christian orthodoxy seem compelling again for many Houghton students in the 1970s as the tempting perennial cynicism of the decade was no match for his captivating lectures. Not only serving as a professor of theology, Greek and philosophy, Irv went on to assume the role of department chair for Philosophy and Religion.

"I still remember his surprising and simple prayers in Biblical Literature. He spoke to God as if God were right in the room with us—as, of course, God was!" remembers President Mullen from her time as a student.

In addition to his son, Timothy I. Reist, and daughter, Tamara L. (Reist) Wisley, Irv is survived by his four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

1974

**Marsha Elaine (Auborn '74) Benner** passed away in the evening of Saturday, November 21, 2020, at the Brookline Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Mifflintown, PA. She was 69 years old.

1977

**Stephen B. Atkinson '77** went to be with our Lord and Savior February, 8, 2021. He was 65 years old.

RICHARD TROUTMAN

Former professor of history, **Dr. Richard Laverne Troutman '53**, passed away in the early morning of Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 89 years old.

From 1958 to 1967, Dr. Laverne used his greatest joys in life, serving his Lord Jesus Christ and the fine fellowship of friends, to impact his pupils, bringing a liveliness to the teaching of American history, converting a number of unsuspecting Houghton undergraduates to a career in their newly shared passion of history. A former instructing partner of his noted, "He was always deeply interested in his students. I respected him for his kindness and wonderful attitude toward everyone."

"In one of our country's most significant seasons of political turbulence and partisan politics [ the 1960's], he reminded this community that serious followers of Jesus Christ might turn up in both the Republican and Democratic parties," shared President Mullen.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Merle; three children, Richard, Sarah and Elizabeth; and his two grandchildren, Seth and Rowan.



## 1987

**Beth (St. Cyr '87) Harris**, age 55, was met with eternal life on August 28, 2020, after a brief battle of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

## 1989

**Donna Lynn (Dean '89) Bartz** passed away Sunday, December 20, 2020. She was 53 years old.

## 1996

**Nathan Howes '96**, a triathalon titleholder and father of six, went home to be with his Lord and Savior at the age of 47 on Friday, July 10, 2020.

## 2002

**Melissa Joy (Winey '02) Esh**, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on December 9, 2020, of short illness. She was to graduate with her doctorate in curriculum studies from Purdue University in the Spring of '21 and will receive her degree posthumously.

## 2010

**Russell Bell '10** passed away surrounded by family at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital after a valiant battle with cancer on August 22, 2020. He was 63 years of age.

## COLLEGE EMPLOYEES

**Clair James Luckey**, former U.S. Army veteran and Houghton College carpenter, passed away in the Houghton Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility on Thursday, July 30, 2020. He was 93 years old.

**Robert Whiting**, 82, former mechanic at Houghton College, passed away in his home Saturday, September 26, 2020.

**Martha (Osbourne) Whiting**, 81, former Academic Coordinator for the Science Building at Houghton, passed away on Saturday, October 31, 2020, shortly after her husband, Robert, who passed the month before.

## FRIEND OF HOUGHTON

**Helen Rose (Beswick) Seaman** arrived into eternal life surrounded by her loving children, David and Meribeth, on January 21, 2021.

## IAN LENNOX '51

**Ian Herbert Lennox '51**, retired Board of Trustees member and father to Kingswood University's 12th president, Stephen J. Lennox '79, passed away February 24, 2021, at 91 years old. A leader of enthusiasm, Ian Lennox shared a valuable servant's heart throughout the course of his life, possessing a passion for goodness and protection. Serving as a Major within the U.S Army's Counter Intelligence Corp., Ian went on to become the Executive Director for the Citizens Crime Commission, eventually being elected president of their national division in 1974 for his expertise of the justice system.

After retiring in 1995, Ian, having been nurtured as a faculty child in the context of Houghton's caring community, found himself deeply committed to the College. "He spent his life saying 'thank you' to Houghton College, not only being the father of three Houghton graduates, but being a faithful supporter of Student Scholarships and through his service on the Board of Trustees for 24 years," recalls President Mullen. In addition to his work with the Trustees, Ian also had the privilege of serving as the Board Chair for an additional three years; as a token of appreciation and recognition for Ian's valued service, Houghton awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2002.

He is survived by Charmaine, his wife of 68 years, and their five children, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

## ANDREW GALLMAN

Former professor of Linguistics and Director of the Intercultural Studies Program, **Dr. Andrew Franklin Gallman II**, passed away on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at the age of 73.

With an apparent servant's heart and a drive to instruct, Andrew spent over 30 years serving as a translator, administrator, school director, and teacher for Wycliffe Bible Translators/Summer Institute for Linguistics, making strides to impact a vast scope of the world in assignments to the Philippines, Hamilton, New Zealand, and Brisbane, Australia.

Shortly following his return to the U.S., Andrew went on to impact students at Houghton College for 15 years, becoming the Linguistics and Intercultural Studies Director until his retirement in 2013.

"Professor Gallman continued Houghton's longstanding legacy of outstanding professors in linguistics, inviting a new generation of students to consider a calling in Biblical translation," notes President Mullen. "Several of our recent graduates are with Wycliffe Bible Translators today because of his influence."

Andrew is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sherry Wright Gallman, and two sons, Benjamin and Daren Gallman.

## Connect With us

*Houghton* magazine welcomes letters, alumni news, and art or photographs for possible inclusion in the magazine. All are subject to editing, and the opinions expressed are those of the authors or their subjects and are not necessarily shared by the college or the editor. Send information in care of the editor to the college or e-mail [magazine@houghton.edu](mailto:magazine@houghton.edu). Address changes should be sent to Houghton College, Houghton, NY 14744. Written permission is required to reproduce *Houghton* magazine in whole or in part. Contents ©2021 Houghton College.



## *Tribute Gifts* In Gratitude

As President Shirley Mullen's 15-year tenure draws to a close, you may be considering a tangible way to honor her and her dedicated servant-leadership. A tribute gift to an endowed fund presents the perfect opportunity to express gratitude for President Mullen's tireless leadership, passion, and commitment to Houghton College and Christian higher education.

When asked, Dr. Mullen shared some initiatives about which she is most passionate. Largely focused on growing Houghton College's endowment, a gift designated to one of the following endowed funds is an ideal tribute gift and a long-term investment in Houghton's future.

**THE KATHERINE W. LINDLEY CENTER FOR LAW AND CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES** improves Houghton's ability to recruit and retain top students who are interested in a career in law or civic leadership, helps current students understand the legal vocation and study of law within the context of the liberal arts tradition, and improves our existing visibility as a center of excellence in Christian scholarship focused on training scholar servants for faithful witness and principled engagement with our pluralistic civic culture. Funds can support:

- » Annual Lecture Series named for President Mullen
- » Pre-Law Fellows Endowment
- » Dr. Katherine W. Lindley Scholarship

### **THE SHIRLEY A. MULLEN SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED FUND**

was created to honor President Mullen and her dedication to the study of liberal arts and, in particular, the humanities. This scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in any of the humanities (history, philosophy, literature, and political theory) who has significant financial need; has a GPA of 2.5 or greater; and is a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior.

### **THE PAUL R. MILLS SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWED FUND**

was created and initially funded by President Mullen in honor of her husband to support students who exude the same kind of "grit" that Paul has consistently exemplified. This scholarship is awarded to students with an accumulated GPA between 2.0 and 3.0 who demonstrate a strong will to succeed.





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On Thursday, May 13, 2021

The Board of Trustees  
of Houghton College

*hosted*

A Virtual Farewell

Honoring  
President Shirley A. Mullen



You may view the recording at



[www.houghton.edu/Farewell](http://www.houghton.edu/Farewell)