

HOUGHTON



Houghton Magazine

Fall/Winter 2015

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The Journey: President's Reflection



Early in the Biblical narrative, God called Abraham to “go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you” (Genesis 12:1, NRSV). Over the centuries since, God has been calling his people to journey out of familiar and comfortable surroundings to places just over the horizon of their imaginations.

The pattern of invitation becomes fairly predictable in the scriptures. At first, there is often reluctance borne of feelings of inadequacy to the task. For Moses, it was his speaking ability; for Jeremiah, his age; for Gideon, his family background. Second, there is God’s reassurance. Sometimes, God argues back (“Who gives speech to mortals? ... Is it not I, the Lord?” [Exodus 4:11, NRSV]). Sometimes, God simply promises His presence (“But I will be with you...” [Judges 6:16, NRSV]). Finally, there is acceptance of the invitation.

It sometimes feels as if these invitations offer true choices—Nehemiah’s call to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple; Jesus’ call to Peter, James and John to leave their nets to follow him; Mary’s call to bear the Christ child. Other times, the invitations feel more constrained, calling us to submit to rather than fight circumstances not of our own choosing. Think Joseph, Daniel or Esther.

When God calls, there are always true risks and real challenges to overcome. The journey is never easy. The call involves tasks that cannot possibly be accomplished apart from God’s presence and power. Always, the adventure involves the grand privilege of partnering with God in accomplishing His purposes in the world. Those who respond always see God in new and surprising ways and enlarge their capacity to experience His faithfulness.

In this edition of *Houghton*, we are featuring contemporary journeys of Houghton alumni, faculty and students who, like Abraham, have ventured out of their own familiar spaces to places God wants to show them. May these stories inspire you to listen attentively and wait eagerly for your own next divine invitation.

Grace and Peace to you today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley A. Mullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Shirley A. Mullen, Class of 1976
President

Editor's Note

The Spring/Summer 2015 issue of the *Houghton* magazine was our 175th printed issue. We proudly celebrated the 40-year heritage of the magazine (formerly Milieu) and the impact and reach it has had in the lives of thousands of alumni around the world.

As you have probably realized by now, our current issue will not arrive in your postal mail box. Rather, the Fall/Winter 2015 issue is being published exclusively online.

Why? Good question!

We are currently taking time to reevaluate the very best way to communicate with alumni and friends of the college. We also want to ensure that we are wisely stewarding our resources and providing a service that our readers desire. To this end, we are asking ourselves questions like...

- Do people prefer to read the magazine online or on paper?
- Is twice a year the right frequency for publishing a magazine?
- What news and information is most valued and desired by our readers?
- What are the best ways to keep alumni connected to the college and to each other?

So, would you do us a favor?

We've developed a survey for you to share your opinion about the *Houghton* magazine and give us your suggestions and preferences regarding format and content. [You can access the survey here](#). We'd love to know what you think!

After spending a few minutes taking our survey, we hope you'll spend even more time perusing our current issue. We're truly excited to bring you the *Houghton* magazine in a dynamic online format. We've collected some engaging and moving feature stories and compiled recent alumni notes to keep you up to date on your classmates.

Happy reading!

Jeff Babbitt '96
Editor, *Houghton* magazine
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Comments and Conversation

Corrections

We make every effort to ensure that information presented within the magazine is accurate and timely. The following correction is for the 2015 Spring/Summer issue of *Houghton*.

Paul Alderman '85 retired after 26 years in the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel. We mistakenly addressed him as Major Alderman on page 24. We apologize for the oversight.



Reader Comments

From cover to cover, we thoroughly enjoyed reading the latest issue of “HOUGHTON” and felt it was best described by the word “airborne” from the excellent article, “A Journey of Listening,” accompanied by an amazing photograph of Wesley Dunham '87 and his beautiful horse—both man and mammal airborne! Our heartfelt appreciation for your significant investment in the life of our granddaughter, Krista Gunsalus '14, who was drawn to Houghton by your excellent equestrian studies. God bless you all!

Harold R. and Mary M. Gunsalus
High Point, NC

As always, it was great to read the latest issue of the Houghton Magazine. Besides the typical alumni fervor, I have a special interest in this magazine: I worked with Dean Liddick on the production of the very first issue and those for the next two years. In fact, that first cover was my

assignment. Assisting Dean was an exciting job for a very inexperienced writer, but he was an excellent mentor. And, as I have always known, Houghton prepared me to be academically top notch but also pushed me in many other ways. I left Houghton with a zeal for learning and a love of publishing. I went on to get my Master's in Journalism and Writing and taught Journalism and Photography on the high school level for many years before moving into higher education. I am proud to say that what I learned at Houghton enabled me to teach and mentor students for the past 40 years, some of whom are now newspaper editors, publication directors at research universities, internationally acclaimed fashion photographers and even editors of a company newsletter at their jobs. All this because Houghton gave me opportunities and opened worlds that I never knew existed. Dean Liddick took an interest in a very inexperienced sophomore, mentored me and "taught me the publishing ropes." For both, I am eternally grateful.

Kudos on the 175th issue!

Charlene Bongiorno Stephens '71
Smyrna, DE

I just saw my issue in the mail today and wanted to comment on the cover art. I think it's amazing! The photography, the B/W aspect, the sharp contrast of the white shirt and blonde hair. Beautiful. AND, to tie the image in with Everyday Faithfulness and taking your education into the world and marketplace.....just love it!

This makes for very interesting reading and, I think, should be a primary emphasis for each edition.

This past May, we had 18 Houghton students at my company for a Mayterm business/art tour and education about running a business and being a Christian in the NYC marketplace. It was a powerful experience for me, and I was super impressed with the quality of the students. I actually had a young guy named Mason Wilkes shadow me for an entire day running around the city, seeing clients, and learning about running a business.

Please keep up the excellent work with the current Houghton Magazine you are producing. I think, overall, its first class.

Yours,

Stephan Steiner '89
Stamford, CT



The Road I Would Have Never Asked to Walk

By Mindy (Albrecht '03) Sauer

I know that many go through life with similar expectations: house, kids, and success. Our standards of success may be different from non-Christians, but we still believe that God has good things for our future. We want to raise our kids with the knowledge of good and evil. To show them that they can rely on God because He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We want them to use their God-given abilities to better serve the Lord and further His kingdom.

One problem. Life happens. Stuff happens. Good stuff, bad stuff. It just happens. Our only choice is how we choose to react.



Last January, my husband Andy and I were thrilled to find out that we were pregnant with our fourth child. After already being blessed with twin boys and a little girl, we felt our hearts could just burst with joy at the thought of welcoming another. And then just two weeks later, we found ourselves living every parent's worst nightmare. Our four-year-old son Ben, who was otherwise completely healthy, started complaining of headaches. A few days later, it was discovered

that Ben had a brain tumor. It was a cancerous tumor. An aggressive one. And the doctors said he had just weeks to live.

Phew. That's a whole lot for a young family to process.

After the initial shock, my reaction was one of determined faith. I have been a Christ-follower for as long as I could remember. Andy was, too. God has always been good to us—even through life's tragedies—and we knew Him well enough to know He would never leave us. People rallied around us in prayer and support. We were praying for a miracle. But as time passed and the treatment only seemed to stimulate its growth, my attitude started to change. My faith had turned to frustration. I was angry. Really angry.

God, how could you do this to me? This wasn't part of the plan! This wasn't supposed to happen! How could you do this to such a good sweet boy? Why won't you heal him? Such a horrible, tragic time in our lives. I still can't think back on it without my stomach welling up into a knot.



Our son Benjamin is a twin. His identical brother, Jack, watched the whole thing unfold right before him. Never having navigated a road like this before, we only explained what we felt was necessary for a four-year-old to understand, but he was there through it all. He and his two-year-old sister Megan watched Ben cry in pain at the intense headaches, they watched his hair fall out after the aggressive radiation and chemotherapy treatments, and they saw his desire to run and play outside progressively

decrease. He didn't have the energy to run outside anymore and eventually, he lost his ability to walk completely. Hospice nurses set up a bed in our living room so we could care for him at home. Ben slept at odd times of the day which meant we had to keep the other kids quiet. He gained a lot of weight in his face and torso because of the steroids that were helping to keep the swelling in his brain down. His appetite was through the roof. He grew very moody. And anxious. We couldn't allow people to come over because he grew agitated at their presence. It got to a point where Andy and I couldn't even leave the room to use the bathroom. Such a change from our sweet, easy-going goofy little boy. Our peacemaker, the one who acted as the go-between the siblings. It was absolutely heartbreaking.

We were still praying for a miracle. And though we never lost sight of that hope, it was miserable to realize the horrific possibility: we were watching our son die.

It ended up being about ten weeks from Ben's diagnosis to the day he took his first heavenly breaths. A mere three months. In some ways, it felt like forever. In other ways, it didn't feel long enough. Parts of me refuse to acknowledge it even happened at all. Those months were the darkest of my entire life. Newly pregnant, caring for two other healthy kids, and ushering my

sweet second-born into his heavenly home. Oh, the emotions that conjures up even as I write those words.

The disconnect from my mind and my heart has seemed vast at times. There are things that I know in my mind to be true: God is in control. Heaven is real. Ben is no longer in pain. And yet my heart says, *but what kind of God allows this to happen? How could He not spare him? And why do I need to be grateful that my son is no longer in pain? It's just not fair!* I'm finding that much of my grief journey is a constant battle between my mind and my heart.



I'm learning, though. I'm learning that it's okay to be angry. Frustrated. Sad. Joyful. Sometimes, all within a matter of moments. God is God and I am not. I'm learning that it is normal for sadness and joy to exist at the same time. I'm realizing that grief is not a linear path but rather, a complicated labyrinth. I'm learning to extend myself—and my husband—some grace. To not be so hard on ourselves. To applaud ourselves for getting out of bed some days. For taking a shower. For planning for tomorrow. And to look

for ways to encourage others. Because we've found there's no greater way to pull ourselves out of a deep emotional pit than to think of how we can come alongside someone else who is struggling.

We are still learning. I can't imagine ever getting to a point where we will be done. Where we will have learned everything God wants us to know. But I'm not going to stop trying.

It's been nineteen months since Ben died. I miss him like crazy. Every single day. His face is wrapped around every memory in our history: raising twins in the city, welcoming another child, moving to the suburbs and then getting pregnant with Kate just before the headaches started. His pictures are hanging all throughout my house. I see his dimples in his brother's face, his sparkle in his brother's eyes. Many times, I laugh when I see his picture, at the goofiness of his actions or the gentleness behind his sweet hugs. Other times, tears start falling without me even realizing. I hate the fact that Andy and I are Bereaving Parents. That Jack is a Twinless Twin. That Kate is a Rainbow Baby because she was born after her brother died. That Megan no longer has her protector. I hate it. I totally hate it.

But after I've cried my tears of sorrow, God wipes them away. He lets me cry, get it all out. And He just holds me. Sometimes, I can physically feel the weight of His arms wrap around me as I lay awake at night. Comforting me. And whispering words of peace. And if I listen closely, I would know that He was weeping with me. Because the God that I know is a good God. A God of life. And I know that He knows my pain because He lost His Son, too.

I never asked for this. Never in a million years would someone ask for this. Never. And yet, my family doesn't have the corner on the market on tragedy. So many families have been asked to walk other difficult roads. But even if I were to try and turn around I could never undo what has

been done. And so we walk. One foot in front of the other, one day at a time, one moment at a time. Until the day that God calls us home.

Mindy (Albrecht '03) Sauer is a former sixth-grade teacher, staying at home with her children and her husband. The Sauers live in Clarence Center, NY, and are very grateful for God's provision.



A Lifelong “Yes”

By Christie Spear

If you made it to your 100th birthday, what kind of cake would you want at your party? Chocolate? Vanilla? With sprinkles? You could choose whatever you’d like. After all, it’s *your* birthday, you’re *one hundred* years old, and you deserve to pick your favorite kind of cake. Well, **Norva (Bassage ’38) Crosby** did not celebrate her 100th birthday with cake. Her favorite dessert is apple pie with ice cream. When asked, “What kind of birthday cake do you want?” she laughed and said, “Apple pie! Why not?”

As birthday parties go, this was a grand one. Over 100 loved ones, guests and family members from far-flung places gathered to celebrate Norva Crosby’s life journey. Norva, whose tiny centenarian body houses a still-sharp mind and lively spirit, exclaims in playful denial, “All these people! They sent me cards early! I can’t be one hundred yet!”

But one hundred, she is.

Norva was born on the 10th day of October in 1915 on a farm outside of Corning, New York. Back then, folks still commonly traveled on foot or by horse-drawn buggy or winter sleigh. The one-millionth Ford car would roll off the assembly line in Detroit one month later. A quart of milk set you back nine cents and was delivered in glass bottles to your doorstep—if you didn’t have a milk cow. Women could not vote. Willard J. Houghton, farmer-turned-founder of Houghton College (1883), had recently left behind that young institution overlooking the Genesee River Valley. It was now headed by its Harvard-educated president, James S. Luckey.



After graduating high school with high honors, Norva enrolled at Houghton College in the autumn of 1934 along with 132 men and 154 other women (The Great Depression notwithstanding). Norva and her widowed mother were driven across Western New York State in a Model A Ford by kind neighbors from Corning. Ora Bassage, Norva's mother, took up employment in the Houghton College kitchen to support Norva's education. "Aunt Ora" was given a room in Gaoyadeo Hall as part of her room and board and for the convenience of having close proximity to the kitchen at all hours of the day and night.

"I enjoyed college right from the very beginning," says Norva, "and the person that I married happened to be the first person that I met on campus." On Sunday morning before registration day, **Robert Crosby '38** noticed a girl sitting in front of him in church. That afternoon, he met Norva, and a friendship began. "I lived in Gaoyadeo Hall which overlooked a cabin out back where Bob and his sister lived.

Bob and I had a flashlight code from our windows for communicating," she confesses.

Back in the days before people swiped thumbs across personal devices to see who is doing what, local newspapers printed everybody's business in the society pages. During Norva's time at Houghton College, Corning's *The Evening Leader* occasionally had announcements such as "Miss Bassage Attains Highest Honors at Houghton College" and "Miss Norva Bassage resumes her studies at Houghton College after spending the weekend with friends." Norva studied languages at Houghton and also participated in the chapel choir and expression club.

After their Houghton graduation, Norva taught Latin and French for two years, and Robert began his pastorate in a church outside of Syracuse. Despite the stamp "Marriage automatically makes this contract void" on her teaching contract, Norva married Robert in 1940. In their wedding photo, they look young and optimistic with Robert wearing a white flower in his lapel and Norva in a high-necked satin dress, her round face framed by a delicate pair of eyeglasses.

In July of 1942, they left upstate New York to go as pioneer missionaries to Colombia, South America, with their six-month-old daughter, Priscilla, in tow. They lived high in the Andes Mountains where bitter violence and demonstrations against Protestantism were common. Daughter **Priscilla (Crosby '63) Piersma** relates that, although hardships were many, "we kids felt secure in our family." She recalls their eating a meal in their newly-erected mud hut. The mud walls had not cured yet and were "literally alive, crawling with little worms." Robert,

Norva, and their three children ate *under* the tablecloth to keep the critters from dropping on them or their food. “Mom & Dad just made a joking game out of it. It wasn’t so bad.”

This same cheerful grit and drive aided Norva during the Crosbys’ next mission assignment in the tropical climate of Puerto Rico. There, they pioneered several new churches. In 1955, Norva founded a PK-12 school from the ground up. The Wesleyan Academy of Puerto Rico is a bilingual, Christian college preparatory school celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.



In the 1960s, the Crosbys returned to Colombia for another term and were overjoyed to see dramatic growth and openness to the gospel there. Later, after some interim years of teaching Spanish at Houghton College, they returned to Puerto Rico for another term. When they finally retired in Brooksville, Florida, Norva taught high school Spanish, did translation work for various Christian publications, and volunteered at the hospital and church.

During retirement, the Crosbys served volunteer terms in Mexico teaching at a Wesleyan Bible School. Priscilla recalls a visit with daughter **Joy (Piersma '95) Hinterkopf** to her parents there. They took a bus to a village bull fight; they stopped at a “campesino” roadside food stand and ate fried ants and grasshoppers. “Mom enjoyed these with delight.”

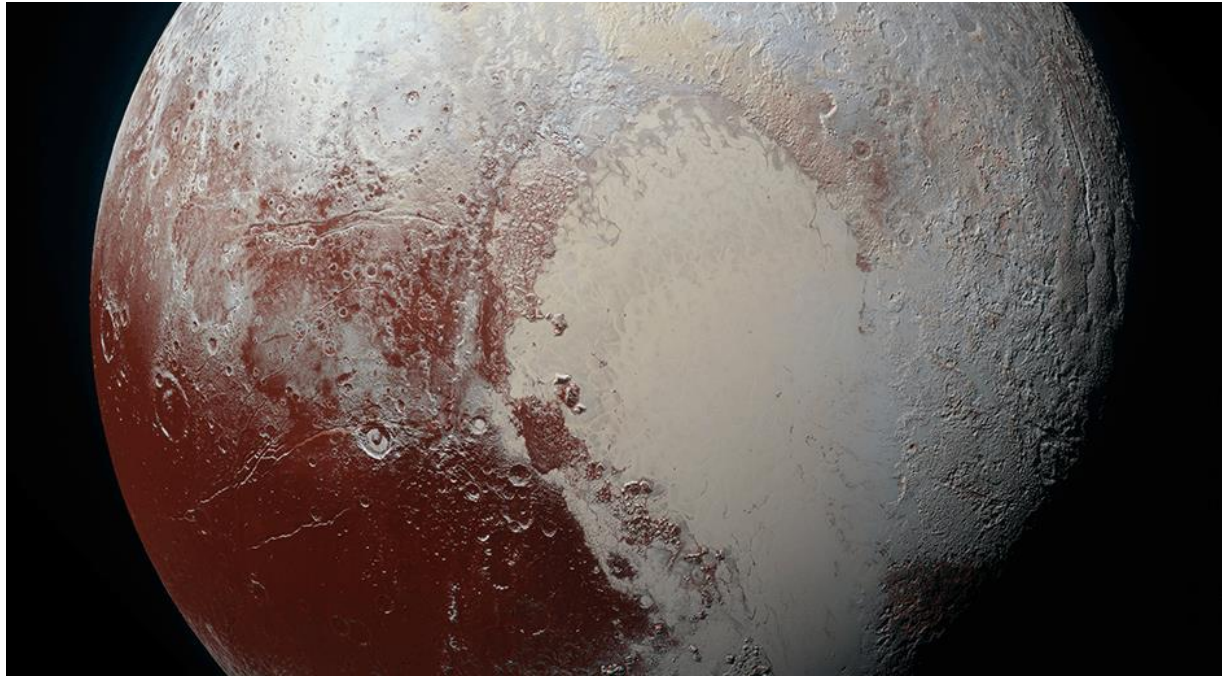
Since Robert’s passing in 2006, Norva has lived with Priscilla and her husband **Bernie Piersma (HC retired faculty 1972–04)** near Brooksville, Florida. Norva’s children and grandchildren are spread from Alaska and the west coast to Western New York. When asked what it feels like to be 100 years old, Norva shrugs it off: “It’s not much different than being 99 or 98 or 97.... It’s just a number on a calendar.” Her only complaints (said with a chuckle) are, “I can’t hear everything, and I forget things. Really, am I 100?”

In Philippians 4:12, Paul writes, “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” Whether she was facing violent attacks in Colombia, eating under a tablecloth in a mud hut, sampling fried ants and grasshoppers from a roadside food stand in Mexico, or learning to live within a body that is a fading earthly tent at 100 years old, Norva sees and reflects the bright side of every situation. Her lifelong “yes” to the Lord many times, in many ways, for 100 years, has produced lasting fruit for God’s kingdom.



Not everyone could come to the party this October to celebrate Norva's legacy. With the help of modern technology, hundreds of friends from Puerto Rico sent birthday greetings. One video clip shows a group of people wearing party hats, gathered around a hot pink cake with a "100" candle on top. They sing "Happy Birthday" in Spanish and then give Norva a message: "We will never forget you; you are always with us."

*Christie Spear is a freelance writer and the wife of **Ryan Spear '07**, who is a fourth-generation Houghton graduate and Director of Admission at Houghton College. Christie and Ryan are raising two sons in the nearby village of Fillmore, New York.*



Open Your Eyes, Look Up to the Skies, and See

By Jeff Babbitt '96

When **Kirby Runyon '08** was a kid, Pluto was a planet. You remember Pluto, right? In the acronym taught to elementary kids to help them memorize the (then) nine planets, Pluto stood for “Pizzas.” (“*My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas.*”) Pluto became the talk of the astronomical world in 2006 when its distinction as a planet was called into question. The little-planet-that-could was eventually demoted to the un-esteemed status of “dwarf planet” by the International Astronomical Union, “the self-proclaimed authority in naming stuff,” accuses Kirby.

Now in the PhD candidate stage of his doctoral research in planetary geology at Johns Hopkins University, Kirby promotes a geologist’s planetary definition—namely, that any round body less massive than a star is a planet, including our Moon. (If you’re keeping track at home, that’s at least 118 planets in our solar system—most of which are beyond Neptune. But you don’t have to memorize all of them!) And so the Pluto debate continues to this day. #plutolives

This is the stuff Kirby loves, talking about anything and everything related to space. In fact, he doesn’t remember a time when he wasn’t fascinated by the stars. As a three year old, this future member of the New Horizons mission to Pluto visited the Michigan Space and Science Center, where he remembers seeing the Apollo 9 Command Module that flew in Earth’s orbit in 1969 with Rusty Schweickart, Dave Scott and Michigan native Jim McDivitt aboard. This venerable

spacecraft sparked Kirby's desire to travel to distant worlds far beyond his home of Spring Arbor, Michigan.

Kirby's interplanetary voyage included a stop in Houghton, New York, where he enrolled at Houghton College as a physics major with designs toward a PhD in astrophysics. As so often happens with students at Houghton, Kirby's trajectory was altered. He proudly proclaims, "I was a good student at Houghton" and continues a little less proudly, but honestly, "I just wasn't a very good physics major." Fellow physics student **Kurt Aikens '09** says, "Kirby really willed himself through the physics program. He worked incredibly hard. And his passion for all things space was infectious."

Dr. Mark Yuly, Houghton professor of physics, also recalls Kirby's determination and enthusiasm, from wearing space-themed t-shirts most days to updating everyone he met on the latest news from NASA and the solar system. "Nothing was going to dissuade Kirby from achieving his aspirations. I'm really proud of him," beams Yuly. "It's really awesome what he's done and how he has persevered to get where he is today."

Eventually, Kirby gravitated toward planetary geology, a field where he feels quite at home—and home is the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Maryland, a research facility that, among other things, builds and runs spacecraft for NASA.



Kirby Runyon '08 poses with legendary Queen guitarist Brian May, who also happens to hold a PhD in astrophysics.

One such spacecraft is the New Horizons space probe, which launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on January 19, 2006. Kirby remembers watching the launch online from his student office at Houghton in the Paine Center for Science. Fast forward 3,463 days to July 14, 2015. As part of the New Horizons geology team tasked with interpreting images of the planet's surface, Kirby stood among a crowd of fellow researchers and space enthusiasts at the Pluto

Flyby Press Conference as the first high resolution images were transmitted to Earth (at a “whopping” 1-2kb/second). Among the crowd, Kirby met Brian May, lead guitarist of the rock band Queen, who just so happens to hold a PhD in astrophysics.

Besides his involvement in the groundbreaking Pluto mission, Kirby’s daily research as a planetary geologist is varied. He currently uses a “James Bond-caliber surveillance camera” orbiting Mars (a.k.a., HiRISE—High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment) to understand the planet’s winds and their affects on sand dune migration. He also conducts lab experiments with a “human-sized mousetrap” used to replicate and research impact crater ejecta emplacement—in layman’s terms: how stuff dug out of craters affects planetary landscapes’ geology.

Kirby is a planetary geologist by day and a self-proclaimed space science geek by night. His free-time pursuits include devouring the best science fiction television series (Battlestar Galactica); catching the opening of The Martian, the most recent big budget Hollywood sci-fi flick; and teaching an annual Sunday school class on the intersection of science and faith. “Kirby recently volunteered to be a spacesuit tester for NASA,” shares Kurt, “and all on his own dime. Apparently, NASA wants feedback on their spacesuits from folks with experience in field geology—and Kirby fits the bill!” Kirby confirms the spacesuit rumor and adds something he hasn’t confided to Kurt just yet: “In February, I’m scheduled to be a centrifuge test subject at NASTAR (National AeroSpace Training and Research Center) that looks at how relatively healthy individuals cope with the accelerations common in spaceflight.”

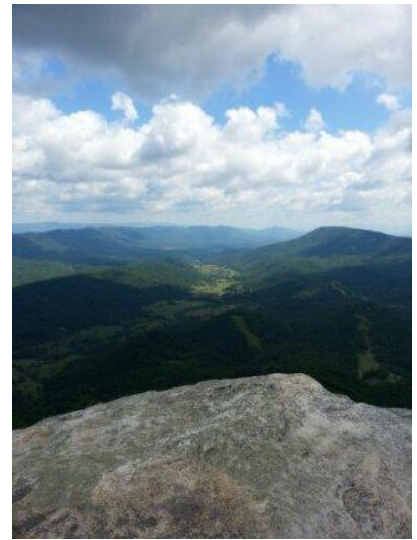
Kirby has come full circle since his childhood visit to the science museum where his face beamed from behind a cardboard cutout of a NASA spacesuit. Wide-eyed and wonderstruck, a young Kirby Runyon looked up into the heavens and dreamed. Today, he looks at those same heavens—and he *sees*. “My work allows me to *see* the beauty and majesty of creation,” says Kirby. “In Genesis 1:31, God surveyed all that he had created and called it ‘very good.’ The surface of the Moon is part of creation—the Sun and the stars are part of God’s ‘very good’ creation—so they’re definitely worth our money and time to study.” Kirby concludes, “I take a ton of pleasure in what I do, rejoicing each day in what God made.”

Jeff Babbitt '96 is the Director of Marketing & Communications at Houghton College. He resides in Fillmore, NY with his wife, Angela (Keppen '98), and their four children.



5,422,210 Steps to Healing

By Kristina Hansen '83



Since the days when my dad and I would pack two PB&J sandwiches in a paper sack and head off into the woods for an adventure, I've been walking and wandering, leaving behind the constructs of daily life to abandon myself to the delights of my five senses and an insatiable sense of wonder.

It was only natural that, when I entered Houghton as a freshman in 1979, I jumped at the opportunity to be part of the first-ever Highlander Adventure, an experience that captured the imaginations of 10 other incoming students as well. Those 12 days of ropes course, cliff climbs, and hiking left us all smelling of campfires and peppermint soap. They would also establish my group of support that endured throughout my years at Houghton. Most importantly, Highlander gave me the courage to venture into uncharted territory in spite of my fear, rather than letting my fear stop me, and the confidence that I was capable of more than I might be able to grasp.

That lesson at age 17 has been with me all these years—so much so that, when it came time to take a six-month renewal leave from my pastorate two years ago, I decided to take a long walk. A six-month walk. A 2,184 mile walk on the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

Maybe that sounds crazy, but after 13 years working in corporate America followed by another 13 in ministry, I needed a break. These 26 years account for half of my life lived at a kinetic pace. My life has been packed with an abundance of joyful experiences for sure, but it has also been marked by a rash of sorrowful ones, among them the death of my brother and my father and the failure of my marriage.

Additionally, being a pastor is one of those roles, like many helping professions, in which you pick up “stuff” along the way that you have to intentionally take time to shed. The things that happen to our congregations and to our congregants happen to us, too, and we carry them in our hearts, our minds and our souls.

I felt the need to step out of ordinary time to reflect, decompress, heal, and recharge. An island beach under an umbrella would not do. Nor would a nice Methodist trip to England to study John Wesley. For me, this meant going on a walkabout. I didn’t want a ticket for an airplane. I didn’t want to ferry across the Mersey. I wanted to walk.

Like a good pastor, I celebrated Easter with my congregation. Just two days later, on April 3, 2013, I was standing with my hiking partner, Leslie (a former Bartlesville Wesleyan College student, interestingly enough), on the top of Georgia’s Springer Mountain, taking pictures at the terminus point that would start our journey of 5,422,210 steps (so says my pedometer).

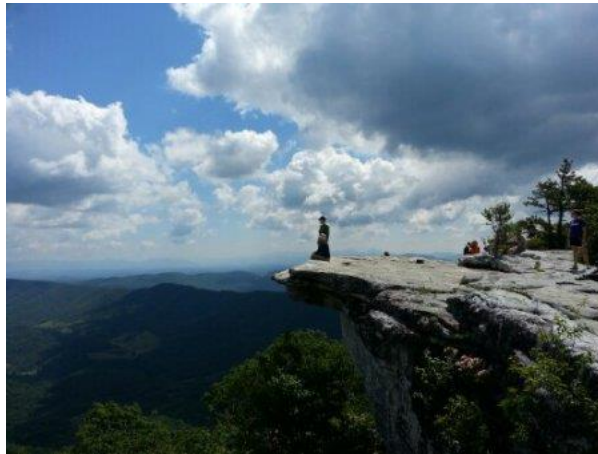
At the top of the mountain, I left behind two things that I would not take on my journey: my pastoral identity and the name given to me by my parents. Like most thru-hikers, I took on a new name that expressed something about me. Some picked their own names, and so I met Midway, Tune, Sunshine, and Peachtree. Some allowed other hikers to choose their names, and so I met Belch, Trailwreck, Roadkill, and Tinkerbelle. Needless to say, I chose to come with my own name: Dragonfly, an Asian symbol of spiritual change. Leslie, who is from South Dakota and a true homebody, chose the name Prairie Dog. Thus, the adventures of [Dragonfly and Prairie Dog](#) began.

One day into our trek, we were in an ice storm. We called it our trail hazing. It was as if our odyssey were asking us, “Are you sure you want to do this?” We said, “YES!” and carried on.

Initially, we fought against the impediment of being out of shape and climbing mountains with 35-pound packs on our backs. Within a few weeks, the trail made athletes of us, and the challenge would eventually become to keep weight on rather than lose any more.

There are things you only experience at the speed of walk:

- the sight of the snake, the bear, the newt
- the sound of the veery, the whippoorwill, the indigo bunting
- the smell of pine, the campfire, the warming earth
- the feeling of each footstep on rock, root, and trail
- the delicious company of one's own breath and unencumbered thought
- the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit.



My mind is filled with memories of great beauty and great peril, both of which honed my spirit and served to clear out the dross that had come to weigh me down.

My Appalachian Trail adventure turned out to be a process of deep healing. It was as if I had started out on my journey with two backpacks: one filled with all my gear and the other filled with all my “stuff.” By the time I summited Katahdin in Maine, the one pack was smelly and threadbare, and the other was gone, given back into God’s good hands and, thus, providing me with so much more wide-open space inside from which to give, to love, to serve. And now, on to the next journey...of everyday life!

Blessings on the journey,

Dragonfly, a.k.a. Tina, a.k.a. Rev. Kristina Hansen '83

Rev. Kristina Hansen serves as a pastor for St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Northport, NY.

A Musical Journey



By Jessica Guillory '16

One week into his first semester at Houghton, **Simbarashe “Simba” Kamuriwo ’14 /MM’16** learned he would have to go back to Zimbabwe. No financial support had been found to pay his remaining tuition bill. Already well known on campus for what one faculty member called his “infectious enthusiasm for life,” Simba said goodbye to friends and prepared to return home.

He was just two days away from returning to Zimbabwe when enough support came in to pay for his freshman year.

Today, Simba is easily recognized by Houghton students for his rich singing voice and gregarious personality. “Simba is one of those people who lights up a room when he walks into it,” said **Kelly VanKirk ’13/MM’15**.

One need only watch Simba perform or conduct a choir to know how much deep joy he gains from making music. “He’s a natural performer. When he is on stage, you can’t help but watch him, because he is so at home in front of an audience,” commented Kelly.

Simba first knew he wanted to go to college in the United States after his high school music department toured New England—a trip that was a miracle in itself. An economic crisis in Zimbabwe had caused both the loss of his father’s savings and a decline in the quality of public schooling. After being enrolled in a better public school, Simba was sent home several times because his family could not pay the school fees on time. Despite these financial challenges, Simba became a successful student and an invaluable member of the high school music department—a fact that caused his plane ticket for the tour to be sponsored.

Students in Zimbabwe who desire to study Western music often attend college in the United States, and Simba believed that, since God had given him a musical talent, he needed to come to the States to develop it. A friend told him about Houghton, a college she had discovered online. He applied and sent in his audition materials.

“At this point, the odds were that I was not going to go,” Simba remembered. “If we could barely manage to send me to school in Zimbabwe, where did I think I was going to get the money to go to America?”



After his acceptance to Houghton, he paid his tuition deposit using money he had earned, despite the reality that the financial aid he was awarded seemed just a “drop in the ocean.” Simply paying the deposit was an act of faith.

Obtaining a visa was another obstacle Simba encountered. During his visa interview, Simba felt as though he gave the interviewer every reason to not let him into the country. Yet, at the conclusion of the Thursday interview, he was told to pick up his passport and visa the next Monday. In addition, Simba’s father gave his support for Simba’s decision and helped him pay for a one-way ticket to the United States. “That entire weekend was like a dream. I was so floored by the magnitude of what God was able to do.”

During Houghton’s orientation week for international students, Simba’s excitement grew. Brian Webb, coordinator for the orientation that year, picked Simba up from the airport. Along with his luggage, Simba brought a large drum, which he played in the van during his first ride to campus. Webb said, “Simba epitomized a love of life and a desire to make a difference.”

Simba’s near return to Zimbabwe during his first few weeks on campus was not the only time he would struggle with finances. Each semester, he wondered whether he would be able to return.

To pay for his tuition, Simba worked several jobs. His friends were also eager to help. After being encouraged to raise funds for Simba’s tuition, **Joshua Duttweiler ’15** and a few other friends screen-printed and sold 75 “We Love Simba” shirts.

Simba has made his mark on campus, both relationally and musically. “He always invests in people with the same sincerity and caring attitude whether he’s known them for five minutes or five years,” said Joshua.



Simba graduated from the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in music with an emphasis in voice and a concentration in Spanish. He will graduate from Houghton in May 2016 with his master’s degree in choral conducting.

During his time at Houghton, Simba has developed a passion for ethnomusicology, a field that focuses on the study of music from around the world. In addition to working with a marimba group in Rochester in connection with the Eastman School of Music, he has received numerous invitations to teach and perform. Over Christmas break, he’ll be returning to Zimbabwe to work with students of his former teachers.

Simba’s relentless pursuit of his dream to come to the United States for college has not only allowed him to develop his musical talents; his journey has shown him that God is able to do the seemingly impossible.

“Where I am now and where I came from really feels like night and day,” Simba said. “Each time I’m faced with a situation of uncertainty, God always rises up to the occasion and makes His presence known.”

Jessica Guillory '16 is a senior Writing major from Laurel, MD with minors in Christian Formation and art.



Letting Sleeping Dogs Lie: An Unexpected Journey into Houghton



Eli J. Knapp '00

By

Each spring I trumpet a phrase to the newest batch of students bound for Tanzania as part of Houghton's signature study abroad program. We've used the phrase: *the journey is the destination*, so many times over the years that it has become our motto. And I've referred to it so many times that I've bought into it. I like it because it challenges my tendency to look ahead and refocuses me on being in the moment and the all-important process of becoming. As the director of a program that seems a perpetual journey, it seems imperative my students see the value in it as well.

But there's another phrase that I also believe yet I never trumpet to my students, or anybody for that matter. My phrase—never pass up a dead coyote—originated when I realized that Houghton isn't in the middle of nowhere; rather, it's in the middle of an Amish enclave and a place I've coined Coyoteville.

It all began one fateful morning when I was driving to class from our home in the country, late as usual. A dusting of snow on the ground, crystal clear skies, and me craning my neck so that I could look out the little portal of windshield that my defroster had melted. Just as I was rounding the bend on Centerville Road to begin my descent into Houghton, I glimpsed what I gathered to be a dead dog in the ditch. I hit the brakes, jumped out, and approached. Pointed ears, immaculate mottled coat, and unmistakable wild face. This was certainly no dog. Nor was it sleeping. It was dead and I was entranced. I had never expected an animal that I'd only glimpsed in rare moments of furtiveness could be so beautiful up close. I couldn't just pass it up.

I glanced at my watch and flinched. My class was due to start in mere minutes. Moreover, my day's schedule was tight with meetings and teaching. Reluctantly, I got back in my car and drove to the science building. But while I taught, I schemed. And two classes later, I found a small gap that afforded me thirty minutes. I jumped in my truck and sped back to the coyote, relieved to find it in the same spot. Unable to pass up a dead coyote twice, I heaved it into the back of my truck and zipped back down to Houghton. As I pulled into campus, I suddenly realized that the temperature was rising fast and the snow was melting. The last thing I needed was a rotting corpse in my truck as I finished out my classes for the day. I needed to stash the body. But where?

Slowly I circled the campus studying every bush and hedge. The coyote was heavy so I couldn't drag it far. I sped up as I neared Luckey Building, fearful President Mullen would sense my shenanigans and get security on my tail. Finally, I settled on the Nielsen Center (behind it to be precise). Only bona fide weirdos hung out there so likely my corpse was bound to be safe.

After my last class of the day, I drove home, had dinner with Linda and the kids and in so doing, spilled the coyote story. Ezra, four-years-old at the time, was enraptured with the tale. Linda, my steadfast wife, was less so. "So what are you going to do with it?" Linda asked, staring down at her plate.

"I'm not sure," I replied truthfully.

"Well, you can't just leave it rotting behind the gym," Linda said.

"You're right. Ezra, what do you say we go on a coyote collecting trip?" I said, intentionally avoiding eye contact with Linda.

"But what about his bedtime?" Linda implored.

"We'll be quick," I assured her, although this was entirely speculative. "Come on, Ez!"

Fifteen minutes later, Ezra and I were knocking on the large white farmhouse that belonged to the Millers, an Amish family I had wanted to befriend since moving into this hinterland we shared. In seconds, I was explaining my coyote predicament to no less than seven pairs of eyes. Darkness had fallen and I felt suddenly ridiculous interrupting a family I hardly knew on a weeknight to discuss a dead coyote. After a long silence, a teenager who introduced himself Moses finally said, “Well, I guess we’ll have to go get it, won’t we?”

Two hours later, and well past Ezra’s bedtime, Ezra and I had been taught the fine art of coyote skinning under the flickering light of a kerosene lantern in the barn at the Miller homestead. Word must have quickly spread about the gangly guy and his son, who knock on doors at night discussing stashed road kills. For not many weeks later, the local Amish community had welcomed me in and we were soon hosting them for meals and going for wagon rides. More importantly, all of us were seeing life through the eyes of a unique people group that had much to teach us about living.

The coyote pelt was a nice prop this past Halloween and occasionally warms my feet on chilly November mornings. But much like a destination, it is ultimately far less important than was the process of getting it. It served as a door to meet my neighbors, a window to view our cultures, and a mirror to learn about myself. That’s why I keep it, to remind me of the importance of the journey. The journey out of myself and into the lives of others. And that’s why though I let sleeping dogs lie; I never pass up a dead coyote.

Eli Knapp '00 is Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies, Biology and Earth Science at Houghton College. He also directs the Houghton in Tanzania semester.

Alumni Update

Alumni engagement is an important part of the future of Houghton College. In fact, alumni are vital to the long-term health of the college. At Houghton, alumni involvement is evident daily. We return to campus for reunions, Homecoming, sporting events and concerts, to name a few. Across the world, we provide leads on prospective students, connect with professors to discuss internships, and send in alumni news to keep others updated on our journeys.

A consistent topic among the alumni board members is determining how to better serve alumni. How do we engage others in the life of the college and in each other's lives? These are big issues requiring multiple perspectives. As work continues, the college and the alumni board welcome and value the input of the Houghton community.

As we work together to strengthen Houghton's future, I ask three things of all of you.

1. Be an ambassador for Houghton: say kind words about the college to each other and to prospective students.
2. Support Houghton through your philanthropic giving (as you were likewise supported even if you didn't know it).
3. Most importantly, remember Houghton in prayer.

Well into the college's second century of existence, the experiences Houghton alumni carry with them on their journeys differ as much as each era, each cultural representation, each graduating class, and each individual alumnus or alumna. But one thing remains the same: it was a community in which we learned and began the journey to who we are today.

Annie Valkema '88
Alumni Association Board President

Annie Valkema resides in Holland, Michigan, where she is a regional development director for Hope College. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Writing from Houghton and a Certificate in Fund Raising Management from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. She is a member of the board of the Christian Missionary Scholarship Foundation and a participant in the Landscapes Poetry Workshop on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Recent Alumni Gatherings



Young alumni from the Washington, DC, area supported recruiting efforts at an Admission event in Bethesda, Maryland.



Alumni Board member Peter Savage '10, Sophie Huber Savage '10, and Heather Hill '08 host a young alumni event in Washington, DC.



Alumni Gathering in the Twin Cities (Minnesota) hosted by Alumni Board member Inti Martinez '07.



Nashville Alumni Gathering hosted by David and Cindy Causer '74.

Alumni News and Notes

1954

Dian (Frew) Kautz and **Dr. George Bagley '54**, who met as Houghton freshmen in 1950, were married on December 13, 2014, in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The Bagleys reside at Woodcrest Villa Retirement Community in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

1955

Allyn Foster is in his 15th year as Pastoral Assistant at the Orchard Park Presbyterian Church. Rev. Foster's work includes pastoral care, preaching, and leading Bible studies. He sings with a chamber choir, the Freudig Singers of Western New York. He has three daughters, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1958



David Neu published the first of two books on worship and congregational singing titled [*Volumes of Praise for a Vanishing God*](#) in July of 2015. In the book, Dr. Neu examines the effects of the music of congregational songs on the church's concept of God.

1960

Stanley Sandler continues to host a call-in radio show called *Stan the History Man*, which streams globally on [WFNC, Fayetteville, North Carolina](#) on Saturdays at noon. He would especially welcome calls from Houghton folks. In addition, Dr. Sandler has recently written a short essay about Houghton's connection to Thomas Bramwell Welch (of Welch's Grape Juice), who was the first to pasteurize bottled fruit juice using Concord grapes.

1964

Tom Farver retired on July 1, 2015, after 38 years as Professor of Biostatistics in the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. One gift he received was a framed poster listing the approximately 860 veterinarians who had taken required biostatistics courses

from Tom while working on the post-professional degree Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM). Bordering the list were the flags of the 77 countries from which those veterinarians had come.

Gene Lemcio, Emeritus Professor of New Testament at Seattle Pacific University, has edited [*Man of Many Parts: Essays in Honor of John Westerdale Bowker on his Eightieth Birthday*](#) (Wipf and Stock, 2015). Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote the introduction. Gene's contribution is titled, "Daniel & the Three 'Historical' Signs of the Eschatological Son of Man and Saints of the Most High: a Paradigm for Gospels Christology and Discipleship."

Don Warren participated in a two-year clinical trial that tested the effects of selenium supplementation in HIV+ patients in Kigali, Rwanda. The positive results of the study were published in the medical journal [AIDS](#) (June 1, 2015, Volume 29, Issue 9, p. 1045-1052), the official journal of the International Aids Society. "We are pleased and thankful that the results of this study will get wide exposure through this journal," reported Dr. Warren. "Who can tell the long-term impact this will have? Right now, as a result of the study, there are up to 1,000 HIV patients at five hospital sites in Kigali, Rwanda, who will be receiving selenium (supplied by Global Benefit Canada) over the next two-year period." [Watch a mini-documentary about the clinical trials.](#)

1969

Robert Anderson retired in July of 2015 after 42 years in ministry. Dr. Anderson served churches in Vanport and North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania as well as Daytona Beach, Florida. Bob and his wife, Diane, reside in Port Orange, Florida.

1971

Mary Pollock is currently in Cote d'Ivoire creating a documentary about the village of Korobo and the indigenous language spoken there.

1975

Jeff Prinsell was elected President of the Georgia Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (OMS). Dr. Prinsell is a past president and Distinguished Service Award recipient of the



American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, founding president of the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine, and past chair of the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons' (OMS) obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) section and served on the American Academy of Sleep Medicine Standards of Practice Committee Task Force to update the practice parameters for OSA surgery (Sleep, 2010). Jeff maintains an [OMS private practice](#) in Marietta, Georgia, where he lives with Kim, his wife of 34 years. The Prinsells have two sons: Jeffery, an anesthesiologist, and Eric.

1976

Jack Bradley recently completed his Certified Funeral Celebrant's course in Albany New York. Rev. Bradley is senior pastor at Athens and Mississippi Free Methodist Churches; celebrant for Irvine's Funeral Home and is an occasional (substitute) teacher for the Upper Canada and District School Board.

John Lamb is celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America this year. John lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Brenda (Jones) McCloud was recently honored in a Shabbat service as a Jew by Choice at Temple Bat Yam (Reform Jewish Congregation) in South Lake Tahoe, California. She writes, "Houghton was very instrumental in developing my life's emphasis on social justice/action and intellectual pursuits in Biblical studies. I am the social justice/action chairperson for our outreach in the South Lake Tahoe community and the Carson Valley community." McCloud is also a part-time private piano teacher.

1978

Brian Hazlett was presented with the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, at the 2015 Honors Convocation held May 7th. The award is given to a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: teaching, research, service to the university, creative work, community-based application of knowledge, and/or the integration or synthesis of knowledge. The presenter said, "Those of us who have the pleasure of working with [Dr. Hazlett] are grateful for his commitment to the university, support for academic quality, and collegial nature. He treats students and colleagues alike with respect and gentleness. He exemplifies the excellence that lies at the heart of the Briar Cliff University mission."

1979

Sheila (Bentley) Bower and several Houghton friends met up this summer in North East, Maryland, for the 5th Annual CSC Girl's Camp 1970s Reunion at Camp Sandy Cove. Pictured left to right: **Shelley Dugan '77**, **Carol (Capra '77) Kuniholm**, **Linda (Luckey '73) Reed**, **Peg (Roorbach '78) Shrum**, former Houghton faculty member **Doris (Garrett '71) Nielsen**, **Lois (McAleer '81) Watts**, **Jane Campbell '73**, and **Sheila (Bentley) Bower**.



Tyke Tenney was recently named executive director for Virginia Technical Institute (VTI) in Altavista, Virginia. VTI provides hands-on training in a variety of fields including electrical, plumbing, heating and air, welding, carpentry, multi-craft industrial maintenance, and project management. Tenney has over 20 years of educational expertise at the service delivery level and over 10 years' experience at the senior management level.

1980



Karen (Eckstrom) Hodges married **Paul Allan Clark '78** on July 11, 2015, at The Fellowship in Easton, Massachusetts. Paul and Karen met at Houghton College in the fall of 1976, when Karen was a freshman, and Paul was a junior. They renewed their friendship 37 years later and were married 39 years after they first met. Celebrating with the couple were **Brian and Karen (Clark '02) Winey '02**, **Walter and Laura (Clark '04) Hopkins '04**, **Rebecca (Clark '05) Newkirk**, **Ben Clark '12**, **Stephen and Paula (Doughten '73) Clark '73**, and **Kevin and Patty (Gatrost '79) Lawson '78**. The Clarks live in Indianapolis, Indiana, where Paul is the director of education and engagement for Overseas Council, and Karen is a former fourth-grade teacher.



Darlene Teague married Charles “Chuck” Stailey on May 2, 2015, at The PROMiSE Church in Fishers, Indiana. Houghton alumni in attendance included matron of honor, **Janel Sallman-Carnes ’80**, **Steve and Nancy (Parker ’80) Cooper ’80**, and **David Higle ’79**. The Staileys live in Indianapolis, Indiana, where Darlene is a retired ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church, and Chuck is an embedded software engineer for Ritron Inc. “This is the first marriage for both of us,” writes Darlene. “We also like to say it’s our last marriage.”

1981



Linda Palmer was awarded a special recognition plaque by the ZP Group, Inc., for encouraging her fellow WalMart store employees to take the ZP Challenge—a program that helps employees reach their goals and live a healthier lifestyle.

Jeanne (Nelson) Pedigo, an internist and graduate of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, is currently employed as a medical evaluation board physician for Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Pedigo does disability evaluations for soldiers who are no longer healthy enough to serve in the military.

1985

David Knightly recently received a Master of Science in Restorative Practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He is the director of diversified occupations at Oxford Hills Technical School in Norway, Maine, where [he teaches job skills](#) through horticulture and small engine repair to kids who need hands-on learning. In addition, Knightly also co-founded a local restorative justice collaborative that is diverting juvenile offenders away from the courts and to a restorative process that brings them together with those they have harmed.

Ann (Irving) McNeill married **Rob McNeill '87** after graduation and taught grade-, middle and high school English at Fillmore, Dryden Central, and Shalom Christian Academy in New York State. After homeschooling her children for a number of years and teaching part-time in the Houghton College PACE and English departments, Ann accepted an English position at Houghton Academy in 2010. She has enjoyed serving in various ways at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, connecting with young adults seeking a full life in Christ, and having hobby farm and nature adventures in Rushford with her veterinarian husband and three children: Noah (21), Jill (18) and Liam (15).



Rich Strum recently met fellow Houghton alumnus, **Stacy Garber '07**, when she attended the NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop for School Teachers in Ticonderoga, New York, titled *The American Revolution on the Northern Frontier: Fort Ticonderoga and the Road to Saratoga*. Rich is the director of education at Fort Ticonderoga and served as the NEH Project Director for the workshop.

1986



William Greenway, Jr. recently published two books, [*For the Love of All Creatures: The Story of Grace in Genesis*](#) (Eerdmans, 2015) and [*A Reasonable Belief: Why God and Faith Make Sense*](#) (Westminster John Knox Press, 2015). Dr. Greenway is [associate professor of philosophical theology](#) at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas.



Maribeth (Danner) and **Joey Jennings** attended the annual “Pickle House Reunion” this past July in Washington, D.C. The name “Pickle House” may not be familiar to alums outside of this group of friends, but many will remember “Russell House,” a very green (pickle-colored) house that sat across the street from what is now the Gillette Hall/Center for the Arts parking lot, and next door to what many remember as “Moon House.” Russell/Pickle House was torn down in 1987,

but not before **Keith Palmer '86**, painted a large cartoon pickle on the front of the house, thus naming their house mascot. Various members of this group of friends have been meeting yearly since 1986.

The Houghton alums/students in the photo are (not including spouses and kids who are not alums):



Standing: **Dan Schulz '17**; **Joel and Kathleen (Drury '87) Steindel '86**; **Bill Wichterman '86**; **Ryan Palmer '17**; **Herman Calderon '86**; **Joey and Maribeth (Danner '86) Jennings '86**.

Sitting: **Keith and Diane (Farley '86) Palmer '86**; **Kristin Palmer '12**; **Laurie**

(Palmer '84) Virkus; **Sandy (Huey '86) Tabolt**; **Sandy (Wilson '86) Schulz**.

Other members of the original seven residents not pictured are: **Jon Bershe '86** and **Jim Leininger '86**.

1988



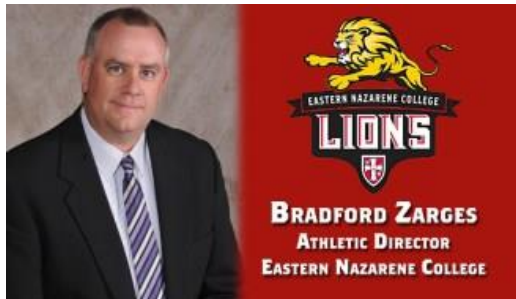
Jim Toner married Lisa Johnson on August 2, 2014, at First Assembly of God in Niagara Falls, New York. Houghton friends in attendance included **Jean-Louis and Sandy (Carlson '64) Roederer '64**, **Philip Toner '86**, and **Jeff and Lenora (Wenger '89) Fry '87**. The Toners spent their honeymoon in Orillia, Ontario, and reside in North Tonawanda, New York, where Jim is an accountant, and Lisa is a home health care aid.

1992



Chad Groff was [recently named school superintendent](#) for the Canaseraga Central School District in Canaseraga, New York. Groff had been serving the school as interim superintendent since April and was previously employed as guidance counselor and superintendent in the Jasper-Troupsburg Central School District in Jasper, New York.

Elizabeth (Oswalt) West married Tim West in 2013, and on August 5, 2014, they welcomed son Jonathan Francis West into the world. Tim is an editor at Baker Publishing in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Elizabeth plays organ at Trinity Lutheran Church and teaches organ lessons privately and at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. Prior to Jonathan's birth, Elizabeth taught first-year music theory at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, for four years but has stepped down from that work to spend more time enjoying their son.



Brad Zarges was [recently named athletic director](#) for Eastern Nazarene College (ENC) in Quincy, Massachusetts. Zarges will also serve as a faculty member in ENC's Exercise and Sport Sciences Department. "His experience as a coach, educator and national conference committee member make him uniquely well qualified to take ENC's athletics programs to the next level," said ENC Vice President of Student Development, Jeffrey Kirksey.

1993



Nate Ransil was recently promoted to Director of Program Ministries at Sandy Cove Ministries, located in North East, Maryland, where he oversees all retreats, conferences, and events programmed by Sandy Cove, including five weeks of Family Camp each summer as well as weekends for women, men and couples throughout the year. His wife, **Evelyn (Tillapaugh '95) Ransil** is the director of The Marsh, A Day Camp at Sandy Cove, an eight-week summer program for children ages 4-14. Nate points out that the hiring of his wife, who reports to **Tim Nielsen '90**, the Director of Children's Ministries, "completes the clean sweep for all of Sandy Cove's programs being directed by Highlanders!"

1995



Peter Friguletto married Allicia Petraccione on August 8, 2014, at First Presbyterian Church of Ballston Spa, New York. The bride is a preschool teacher in Schenectady, New York, and the groom is the station keeper for the Jonesville Fire District and a firefighter/EMT. The couple lives in Schenectady with their two children, Kaylee and Thomas.

1996

L. Scott Ekstrom was [recently named library director](#) of the Smith Memorial Library at the Chautauqua Institution. Before directing “The Smith,” Scott was the book department manager at the Chautauqua Bookstore for five years, and prior to coming to Chautauqua, he worked in theater, at faith-based not-for-profits, and as an English teacher.

2000



Ruth (Erde) and Johnathan Hartt '00 are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Henry George Francis Hartt, on November 16, 2014. The Hartt family resides 12 miles north of Boston in Stoneham, Massachusetts, where Ruth runs her own [private vocal studio](#) and is the youth choral director at the Concord Conservatory of Music in Concord, Massachusetts. Jonathan is chair of the English department at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in Malden, Massachusetts.



Eileen (Frawley) and Nathan Jacoby '05 are happy to announce the arrival of Ruth Ann Jacoby on June 24, 2015. She joins big sister, Elizabeth (2).

Justin Paul Lawrence completed his MBA at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, in 2014 and recently obtained employment by InterVarsity Press (IVP) as their academic and library markets sales manager. In this new position, Justin connects IVP's thoughtful Christian books with scholars, students and professionals through stores, libraries and internet booksellers. He also has the opportunity to represent IVP at large academic conferences. Justin lives in East Grand Rapids, Michigan, with his wife, Joy—a [freelance writer and biblical storyteller](#)—and their two children, Evelyn (5) and Judah (2).

2002

Elizabeth (Waechter) Ely earned her PhD in pharmaceuticals from Purdue University in 2010 and is now the program chair of pre-engineering at Ivy Tech Community College in Lafayette, Indiana. Elizabeth and her husband, **David Ely '02**, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Matthew, on April 4, 2014. Matthew joins brothers Brynning (11), Benjamin (7) and Lain (2) and sister Audrey (9).



Colin Ryan was [recently appointed](#) to the Vermont Commission of Women (VCW) by Vermont governor, Peter Shumblin. Ryan will serve as VCW's newest commissioner and its only male member. "I'm honored to appoint Colin to this position," Shumlin said. "His expertise and unique way of engaging individuals in important conversations about financial literacy will provide a great benefit to the mission of the Vermont Commission on Women." Colin is a [financial literacy advocate and a comedic speaker](#).

2003

Meghan Chalmers-McDonald received her MFA in applied craft and design from Oregon College of Art and Craft and Pacific Northwest College of Art in May, 2014.

2004

Matthew Moran received an MA in theology from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2015. Matt is married to **Laurel (Hoffman '05) Moran**, and they live in Melrose, Massachusetts, where Matt is the gospel communities pastor at [Seven Mile Road Church](#).



Adam Sullivan married Angela Scouras in Marlborough, Massachusetts, on July 26, 2014, and received his PhD in biostatistics from Harvard University on May 7, 2015. The couple lives in Johnston, Rhode Island, where Adam is [assistant professor of biostatistics](#) and teaching scholar at Brown University. Next year, he will direct Brown's master's program in biostatistics.

2005



Andrea (McCullough) and Christopher **Owens** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Meredith Rubye Owens, born March 19, 2015. The Owens family lives in Roanoke, Virginia, where Andrea works as a speech language pathologist at Carilion Clinic, and Chris is a territory manager for Iron Planet.

Charla (Bradley) and Matthew **Williams** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Maisie Joy Williams, on August 1, 2014. Proud grandparents are **Rev. Jack** and Bonnie **Bradley '76** of Brockville, Ontario.

2007

Christopher Marshall earned his Master of Social Work degree from Edinboro University on August 12, 2015.

2008

Janna (Bradley) and Cory **Swann** are happy to announce the birth of Emma Clara Elizabeth on September 8, 2015. She joins big brother, Jackson (3). Proud grandparents are **Rev. Jack** and Bonnie **Bradley '76** of Brockville, Ontario.

2009



Kelly (Hanson) and **Frank Eisbacher** are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, **Willow Christine Eisbacher**, on March 24, 2015, by the Midwives of New Jersey at the Morristown Hospital in Morristown, New Jersey. The family resides in Budd Lake, New Jersey, where Kelly is a chemist, and Frank is a Sergeant in the Army Reserves serving as a mechanic. In civilian life, Frank is a carpenter.



Christopher Olsen MM'14 and **Lauren Stabley '13** were married on July 5, 2014, at Victory Highway Wesleyan Church in Painted Post, New York. Many Houghton friends were on hand to celebrate with the couple, including wedding party members **Janelle Conklin '14**, **Holly (Morgan '14) Norsen**, **Anna (Silbert '10) Dibble**, **Maribeth Olsen '13**, **Jesse Stevenson '09**, **Josh Gabrielsen '09**, and **James Schmieder '09**; parents of the groom **Steven** and **Marilee (Banner '81) Olsen '78**; aunt of the bride **Christine (Hall '83) Conklin**; and wedding coordinator **Melinda (Mattison '95) Hayes**. Other alums in attendance were **Austen Kewin '15**, **Sean Douglas MM'15**, **Margaret McGowan MM'14**, **Kelly VanKirk '13/MM'15**, **Andrew and Chloe (Naujokas '14) Williams '12**, **Joshua Robbie Stitt MM'14**, **Megan Driscoll '13**, **Maggie Gorham '14**, **Mike and Beth (Rogers '83) Bayba '83**, **Katelyn Williams '12**, **Jon and Katie (McCulloch '08) VanSkiver '08**, **Wren and Kate (Glurich '11) Hillis**, **Sara**

(Forsythe '10) Kensinger, **Matthew and Emma (Franson '10) McCann '11**, **Wynn and Kristen (Schnitzer '14) Horton '15**, **Kate Thweatt '14**, **Jessica (Vogt '08) Stevenson**, and **Orion Harrison '09**. The Olsens live in Warrensville Heights, Ohio, where Christopher is the choral director for the Orange County School District, and Lauren is a marketing assistant/administrative assistant for Goodman Real Estate.



Cana Roth was ordained by the Elliott Avenue Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois, on July 12, 2015. The ordination was recognized by the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region (ABC-USA), and she is the congregation's first female pastor.

2010



Lindsay (Hansen) married Luis Rosado on December 6, 2014, in Staten Island, New York. Houghton friends in attendance included **Emily Leo '10**, **Heather Haverstick '10**, **Caitlin (Cleland '10)** and **Matthew Whittemore '09**, **Jordan Zaner '09**, **Justin Zaner '09**, **Michael Danylak '09**, **Joel and Amy (Buckingham '11) Vanderweele '10**, and **Havilah (Ford '09) Whetstone**. The Rosados live in Staten Island.



Lindsay (Timian) married **Adam Silvernail '11** on June 21, 2014. **Annie Peterson '10** was the maid of honor, **Katrina Koehler '11** and **Megan Ginder '10** were bridesmaids, **Joshua Timian '13** was a groomsman, and **Jennifer "Jazz" McClure '09** was Lindsay's bridal attendant. Also in attendance were guests **Benjamin Hammer '11**, **Wes and Hillary (Chartrand '11) Bevens '10**, **Ethan Sjolander '08**, **Ray and Lisa (Parizek '85) Parlett '85**, and **Josiah Parlett '19**. The couple resides in Richmond, Virginia, where Lindsay

teaches physics and math at Veritas School, a classical Christian school, and Adam works as a technical support engineer for Virginia Controls Incorporated.

2011

Caroline Hogan began her graduate work in library and information sciences in August, 2015 at the University of Iowa.

Eric and Joella (Eppenhimer '12) Liddle will be traveling to Ukarumpa, Papua New Guinea, this January to begin a two-year term as teachers with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Eric will be teaching high school math, and Joella will be teaching intermediate language arts.

Jeremy Raff co-wrote a chapter in the book [*Global Youth: Understanding Challenges, Identifying Solutions, Offering Hope*](#) by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (January 10, 2015).

Jeremy and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where Jeremy is the assistant executive director at The Mix at Arbor Place, a youth-serving non-profit.



Zach and Jenny (Huyett '11) Wise are happy to announce the birth of Malachi James on September 25, 2015. Malachi was born in Augusta, Georgia, while Zach was attending Captain's School for the U.S. Army Signal Corps at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

2013

Sarah Jacoby is currently in Durham, North Carolina, working on her Master of Divinity degree at Duke Divinity School.



Elizabeth Pisaniello married Robin Munn on May 23, 2015, at Lowville Baptist Church in Lowville, New York. Houghton friends on hand to celebrate the occasion were **Susan Peterson '13**, **Rebecca Brown '13**, and **Ethan and Tricia (Powles '13) Ocock '14**. The Munns make their home in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where Elizabeth will continue to pursue a master's degree in applied linguistics at Payap University, and Robin will continue his work with Wycliffe Bible Translators as a computer programmer.

2015



Hanna Kahler [recently began a volunteer internship](#) at Confluence, a year-long service program with Episcopal Service Corps in Columbus, Ohio, where she is doing asset-based community development in conjunction with St. John's Episcopal Church. Hanna joins other recent college graduates in an intentional community committed to spiritual formation, service and social justice



Courtney Smalt married Tim Angel on June 6, 2015, at the John Joseph Inn in Lansing, New York. Houghton alumni in attendance included **Michal Erdogan '15, Clayton Danner '15, Victoria Bachman '15, and Theresa (Bailey '13) Eggleston**. The couple is living in Alfred, New York, where Tim is pursuing his MBA at Alfred University, and Courtney is attending graduate school for a master's in public health.

In Memoriam

1938

Rowena (Peterson) Shangraw passed away on February 9, 2015, at the Samaritan Summit Village in Watertown, New York. Rowena was a teacher, librarian, and writer, often contributing to professional journals. She also served as associate editor of *North Country Life*, a precursor to *Adirondack Life* magazine. Rowena is survived by cousins and was preceded in death by husband, Bernard J. Shangraw.

[June \(Miller\) Swartz](#) passed away on February 9, 2015. She is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Her husband, Dr. Gordon Swartz, preceded her in death.

1940

[Ethel \(Wheeler\) Belleville](#), 97, died on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Ethel received her master's degree from Westminister College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. She spent her professional career as an elementary teacher, beginning with her first job in a two-room schoolhouse. She is survived by her children, Brian, Bruce, **Bradley '76**, and Brenda; eight grandchildren; and her brother, Rev. Myron L. Wheeler. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Belleville, and her brother, Howard Wheeler.

1941

[Doris \(Nesbitt\) Bannister](#) died peacefully in Kent, New York, on July 30, 2015, in her home, surrounded by her family. She is survived by seven children, LeRoy N. Bannister and his wife, **Susan (Moore '75) Bannister**; **Janis (Bannister '64) Hempel**; Robert Bannister; **Marcia (Bannister '69) Skinner**; **Lynne Sue (Bannister '75) Pierce** and her husband, **Mitchell Pierce '76**; **Roger Bannister '78**; and Richard Bannister as well as 44 grandchildren, including **Victoria (Bannister '03) Gerhardt** and her husband **Jeremy Gerhardt '04**; 34 great-grandchildren; and two siblings. She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, **LeRoy D. Bannister '41**; two brothers; and a grandson.

[Herbert D. Loomis](#), 96, passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2015. Rev. Loomis was a retired minister and was preceded in death by his wife, Betty.

Ruth (Shea '41) Willett | [Read feature obituary](#)

1942

[Robert E. Foster](#) went to be with the Lord on Monday, February 16, 2015 in Keller, Texas. Rev. Foster was called to pastor the First Baptist Church in Port Jervis, New York, in 1945 and retired in 1985 after more than 40 years of service there. He is survived by his daughter, **Nancy (Foster '74) Hoyer** and her husband **James Foster '74**; four grandchildren including **Melissa (Hoyer**

'99) Sanders; and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife and college sweetheart, Elsie Burger, who passed away in the first trimester of pregnancy in 1946; second wife, Phyllis Foster; and son, David Robert Foster.

Helen D. Powers died on Friday, May 22, 2015, at her home in Fillmore, New York. She was employed with the Department of Social Services in Belmont, New York, for 10 years and then taught kindergarten for 23 years. She retired in 1977 from the Maryvale School System in Cheektowaga, New York. She is survived by two sisters, Pauline Powers and Ruth Bennett, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by two sisters, Gertrude Heyer and Frances Miller.

1943

Francesca (LaSorte) Cohen, 94, died on Friday, June 26, 2015, at the Masonicare Health Center, in Wallingford, Connecticut. Francesca enjoyed a 50-year professional career as a reference librarian and an English and social studies teacher at the high school and college level. After her retirement, she earned her Master of Library Science degree and was the reference/adult services librarian for the Ocean County Library System in Lakehurst, New Jersey, where she was nominated for librarian of the year in 1993 and 1995. Her passion over the years was working with students on research projects and modernizing the library reference system. Francesca is survived by her husband of 60 years, Jacob Cohen; four children; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother, **Dr. Antonio LaSorte '48**.

Arnold Cook '43 | [Read feature obituary](#)

Margaret (Baker) Jones died on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at age 93. She is survived by three daughters, Susan McCarthy, Mary Kay Kitchens, and Pat Jones; three grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and her brother, David Baker. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert; a brother, William Baker; and three nieces.

1944

Ellen Giebel went home to be with her Lord on February 25, 2015. Ellen spent her life as a missionary with China Inland Mission (now OMF), serving in both Taiwan and China for 44 years. While on the field, Ellen lived among the Eastern Taiwan indigenous people, taking care of needy families in the village, teaching Bible studies in both men and women's prisons in Hualien County on the eastern coast of Taiwan, founding the "Salvation Communications Association" in Taipei, and teaching English to housewives, students, teachers, postal workers, airline workers and office workers—often out of her small apartment. Ellen is survived by several nieces and nephews.

1945

Ina (Jackson) Sergeant went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on February 22, 2015. She is survived by sons, Bruce and Brian Sergeant, and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Osmond.

[Helen \(Bowers\) Seward](#), age 91, entered into rest on Friday, March 27, 2015, at Eastern Niagara Hospital in Lockport, New York. Surviving Helen are her daughter, Susan Harrod; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Helen was predeceased by her husband, Floyd Seward; her son, Thomas Seward; and her brother, Donald R. Bowers.

1946

[G. Wendell Boice](#) passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2015, in Watertown, New York. He was 91 years old. Mr. Boice spent his entire business career in marketing, working for four New York State companies located in Niagara Falls, Syracuse, Corning, and Watertown. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mildred "Millie"; two children, **G. Gordon Boice '78** and **Alyson (Boice '76) Burleigh** and her husband **Rev. Douglas Burleigh '75**; three grandchildren, including **Dr. James Burleigh '07** and his wife, **Amanda (Weldon '07) Burleigh**; three great-grandchildren; and a sister, Arlene Boice Sanger.

1947

[Edwin Wilson Brown, Jr.](#), died on May 23, 2015 at a hospice center in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Brown was a retired physician and former Indiana University professor. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia; their three children, Edwin Wilson Brown III, John C. Brown, and Wende Camp; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two brothers. He was preceded in death by a brother.

[Arthur W. Ruder](#), age 88, passed away on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at his daughter's home in Annapolis, Maryland. Rev. Ruder pastored for 22 years at Gateway Community Church in Clarksville, Michigan. He was also a third- and fifth-grade teacher at East Elementary in Lake Odessa, Michigan, and Clarksville Elementary. He is survived by seven children, Nancy Joy; **Ann Marie (Ruder '72) Roth**; **Rebecca (Ruder '76) DeBlaey** and husband, **Christopher DeBlaey '75**; Rachel Cash; **A. Joseph Ruder '80**; Priscilla Bomgardner; and **Naomi (Ruder '83) Wenger** as well as 18 grandchildren, including **Elisabeth Wenger '10**, **Margaret Wenger '12**, and **Emily Wenger '13**, and 22 great-grandchildren. Preceding Arthur in death are his wife, **Gertrude (Bailey '49) Ruder**; his parents; and his brother, John Ruder.

[Marjorie \(Hamm\) Soderberg](#) died on May 31, 2015. She is survived by sons, David Soderberg and William Mark Soderberg; daughters, Valli Brown, Lisa Soderberg, and Kathi Meadows; ten grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and one brother. She was predeceased by her husband, Dale, and daughter-in-law, Melanie Soderberg.

1948

[Antonio LaSorte](#), 91, passed away on September 16, 2014, at his home in Binghamton, New York. Dr. LaSorte earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Rochester and did his postgraduate general surgical training at the New York Hospital (Cornell Medical Center) and thoracic surgical training at Triboro Hospital in Queens, New York. Antonio was certified by the American Board of General and Thoracic Surgery and spent 14 months as a Captain in the Army Medical Corps during the Korean conflict at a surgical field hospital. Dr. LaSorte is survived by

his children, Tony Jr., Dr. Bradley LaSorte, Denise, Adrian, and Desiree; the mother of his children, Margaret; three grandchildren; a brother, Dr. Michael LaSorte; and a sister, Rose. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother; following him in death was his sister, **Francesca (LaSorte '43) Cohen**.

Milton Myron Rhodes, 93, peacefully passed away on March, 24, 2015, at Angela Hospice in Livonia, Michigan. "Milt" became a Master Technical Sergeant and led a radar team in early landings on Saipan in World War II, allowing the US to launch its fighter planes before enemy plans could attack our fleet. He was later sent to Okinawa to oversee the final radar installation there. Rhodes returned home from the war and moved his family to Houghton, New York, for college, then to Boston, where he received his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon Theological Seminary. He was ordained into the Primitive Methodist church and ministered to congregations in Massachusetts and then to Methodist churches in Western Pennsylvania. During and after his career in the ministry, Rev. Rhodes served as a chaplain at Veterans Administration Hospital in Butler and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and retired at age 64. In retirement, he continued to kayak, study original Greek Biblical texts, write poetry, and contemplate the universe. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, **Romayne (Wallace '50) Rhodes**; his daughters, Marlea Pfeil, Lynnette Rhodes, and Nancy Rhodes; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, two brothers, and a sister.

1949

Don Roy, 90, passed away on August 4, 2015, in Denver, Colorado. He is survived by his wife, **Martha (Bowers '49) Roy**; children, Joy, Jacky, Judy, Don, and Jennine; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Isabella (Buchanan) Wheatley died peacefully on Monday, July 13, 2015, in Barrington, Illinois. She was 90 years old. She is survived by her only son, Robert, along with his wife, Kristen, and their daughters, Heather and Peach.

1950

Wayne Frair, often referred to as "Dr. Turtle," passed away on Thursday, January 29, 2105, at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, New Jersey. He was 88 years old. Known for his extensive research on the biochemical taxonomy of large sea turtles—1,000 to 2,000 pounds—he discovered the only turtle species known to be warm-blooded. Dr. Frair was on the faculty of The King's College in Briarcliff Manor, New York, where he was head of the biology department for 40 years and was honored as professor emeritus upon retirement. In addition, he was the author of three books and hundreds of scientific journal articles on the subject of science and creation. In December, 1981, Dr. Frair was a witness for the defense at the McLean v. Arkansas Board of Education trial in Little Rock, Arkansas, regarding creation versus evolution. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Scientific Affiliation, the Creation Research Society, and the Victoria Institute in England and was a member of many other scientific societies. He served as president of the Creation Research Society from 1986 to 1993. Wayne is survived by his wife, **Elizabeth "Betty" (Bolback '53) Frair**, and his sister, Shirley Buck, and her family.

[John L. Gililand](#) passed away at his home in Gilbert, Arizona, on August 2, 2015. Dr. Gililand completed his master's degree at Walla Walla College in Washington State. Prior to attending medical school, he was drafted and assigned to the 44th 8063 MASH unit in Korea, where he became a surgical assistant. Upon his discharge from the Army in 1952, he obtained his MD from the University of Tennessee in 1956 and joined a medical group in Mesa, Arizona, where he practiced family medicine for more than 50 years. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Lynn; his sons, John Jr. and David; his daughters, Susie and Robyn; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a sister.

[Robert T. Noble, Jr.](#), age 90, died on June 2, 2015, in Schenectady, New York. Following high school, Robert served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After attending Houghton, he received a bachelor's degree in music from Syracuse University and a master's degree in music from Ithaca College. He was on the music faculty at Houghton from January 1950 through June 1951 and then at Piedmont College in Georgia. He taught music at Windsor Central Schools in Windsor, New York, and then from 1959 until his retirement, he was a guidance counselor at Scotia-Glenville Central Schools. After retirement, he taught music at Schenectady Christian School, now Mekeel Academy. He is survived by his wife of nearly 67 years, **Barbara (George '50) Noble**, and five children, **Cynthia (Noble '73) Sayler**, Katherine Noble, Robert T. Noble III, Nancy Olson, and Susan Benoit. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Thelma Mae (Atkins) Proper passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2015.

Priscilla (Ries '50) Waltz | [Read feature obituary](#)

1951

[Thomas "Tom" Boghosian](#), 85, went to be with his Lord on March 23, 2015, at Glens Falls Hospital in Glens Falls, New York. Rev. Boghosian was ordained in 1953, and, as a Wesleyan pastor for 62 years, he served churches in the Eastern New York–New England and Central New York districts of The Wesleyan Church, including founding the Kirkville Community Church in Syracuse, New York. He also served as Protestant Chaplain at Syracuse University, President of Houghton Academy from 1969 to 1972, and Chaplain at Great Meadows Prison. Retiring from full-time ministry in 1991, he later served as assistant pastor in the Free Methodist Church in Warrensburg, New York. Tom is survived by his wife of 62 years, Vera; his four children, **Thomas ('75)**, Daniel, Bruce, and Dianne Freestone; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; a sister; and many nieces and nephews.

1952

[John Leo Powell](#), 87, passed away in Alaska on October 7, 2015. He is survived by his college sweetheart and wife of over 60 years, **Virginia (Elmer '53) Powell**; six children, Joy McCall, Adele George, Bonnie Lenamond, Lucy O'Hara, Tim Powell, and Ben Powell; 14 grandchildren; and his brother, Ronnie Powell.

[Byron Showers](#) entered eternity on Easter Sunday, April 15, 2015. Dr. Showers began his career as an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church and pastored in several churches in Pennsylvania. He had the status of honorable location in the Philadelphia Conference of UMC. He received his Master of Divinity from Temple University and both his Master and Doctor of Education from Rutgers University. He served as a professor of counselor education and psychology at Millersville University in Millersville, Pennsylvania, from 1965 to 1990. Previously, he was an assistant professor of psychology at Monmouth College in West Long Branch, New Jersey, and a lecturer in education at Rutgers. Byron is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jane; three children, David, Dr. Thomas, and Shelley Showers; two granddaughters; and two sisters. He was preceded in death by a stepbrother.

1953

[Rea \(Elwell\) Wible](#), age 84, passed away on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at her home in Lower Alloway's Creek Township in Salem County, New Jersey. She is survived by her husband, Charles Wible; her step-son, Charles "Chuck" Wible; her step-daughter, Gale Williams; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1954

[Carolyn \(Makey\) Eltscher](#) passed away on August 19, 2015, at the age of 82. She taught high school English and public speaking at Fillmore Central School in Fillmore, New York, from 1964 to 1985 and received the Golden Apple award as Allegany County Teacher of the Year. After moving to Rochester in 1991, she worked as a receptionist in a pediatric practice and used her gifts as a musician and educator at Fairport United Methodist Church and the Rochester OASIS adult educational program. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, **Louis Eltscher '54**; daughters Judy Malloy and **Susan (Eltscher '79) Warrick**; and two grandsons.

[Allen Wilcox](#), 88, died on Monday, June 29, 2015, in Jamestown, New York. Surviving are his wife of 67 years, Valerie Johnson Wilcox; his daughter, Willow Brost; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; a brother; and many nieces and nephews. His parents and an infant daughter preceded him in death.

1955

[Dean C. Hegarty](#) passed away on June 19, 2015. He was 94 years old. Dean served his country in World War II, spending 35 of his 38 months in the Army overseas—England, North Africa, Italy, Corsica, and France—with the 87th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. At age 28, he became a Christian and felt called into ministry. After attending Philadelphia Bible Institute (now Cairn University), he earned his bachelor's degree at Houghton in 1955 and married his college sweetheart, **Erma (Beatty '55) Hegarty** that same year. He earned a master's degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer Theological Seminary) in 1968. Rev. Hegarty served in American Baptist churches for nearly 50 years, retiring twice: once in 1985 and again in 2006 at age 86. Dean loved to travel; he began riding a motorcycle at age 60 and did so for the next 26 years. He and Erma visited all 50 states over the years and traveled internationally to visit their children on the mission field, tallying visits to Cambodia, Thailand,

Cuba, and Nicaragua as well as travel to the Holy Land. Dean is survived by his wife of 59 years, Erma; three children, Susan B. Hegarty, Debra K. Coats, and Robert W. Hegarty; three grandchildren including **Micah Coats '18**; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and nine siblings.

Richard Webb, Jr. died on Friday, July 24, 2015, at his residence in Houghton, New York, following a lengthy illness. He was 84 years old. During his years as a student at Houghton, Richard traveled with the Houghton Chorale and the Men's Quartet. Following graduation, he received his master's degree from Fredonia State. He worked for Forestville Central School in Forestville, New York, as a vocal music teacher for 32 years and then as an Elementary Principal for eight years, retiring in 1995. Richard is survived by his wife of 57 years, Patricia Webb; a daughter, **Cynthia Webb Szot '83**; and a son, Ronald Webb. Also surviving are three grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and a niece and nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister.

Frederick J. Krantz passed away on May 2, 2015, at the age of 81. He was a writer, actor, artist and musician who loved the art of food and fine music. He is survived by two nephews and a niece as well as many grand- and great-grandnieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister.

1956

Jimmie Margaret Gilliam passed away on September 24, 2015, at the age of 80. Jimmie was a poet, teacher, workshop leader, editor and mentor. Her teaching career spanned five decades as an English teacher at Starpoint High School in Lockport, New York, and as a professor of English at Erie County Community College City Campus in Buffalo, New York. Along with teaching, Jimmie was a working poet and could often be found writing books, performing readings of her work, and mentoring young writers. She was the recipient of the prestigious Literary Legacy Award given by the Just Buffalo Literary Center for her life's work and dedication to the literary arts in 2006. Jimmie is survived by her spouse of 35 years, Geraldine E. Grossman; daughters, Marea Cheval-Leavitt and Jenny Chalk; a sister, Joann Gilliam Olliff; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

1957

Thomas Ashmead, 84, died on April 21, 2015. He is survived by his three sons, Richard, Johnny, and Robert and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Virginia "Ginny", two sons, a granddaughter and his daughter-in-law.

Evelyn (Hall) Looper passed away Monday, March 23, 2015, at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Evelyn taught various subjects in the public schools for over 20 years and served as the minister of pastoral care at Christian Chapel and Cathedral of Praise churches. Surviving Evelyn are her husband, Rev. John Looper; their five children, Daphne, Clifton, Sherry, Kathy, and Jack, and 10 grandchildren.

[Betty \(Lawson\) Young](#) passed away on June 12, 2015, at Summa Akron City Hospital in Akron, Ohio. She was 79 years old. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Cecil; children, Philip Young, Treva Heil, Douglas Young, and Lori Young Spurlock; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three siblings; and many nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

1957

Lola Haller '57 | [Read feature obituary](#)

1958

Wynita “Nita” (Rees) Outhous, 79, passed away on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at her home in Richmond, Virginia. Nita was a speaker, writer and Bible teacher. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, J. Wendell Outhous; four children, Dale, David, Dean, and Carol Jones; 15 grandchildren; a brother and a sister; and many nieces and nephews.

[Wilma Jean \(Houghton\) Rossette](#) died on Thursday, June 19, 2014. She was 77 years old. Please see our next issue (Spring/Summer 2016) for an extended note. Wilma Jean was a great-great niece of Houghton College founder, Willard J. Houghton.

1959

[Margaret \(Tysinger\) Ross](#) passed away on August 1, 2015, under hospice care at Brooksville Healthcare Center in Brooksville, Florida. She was 77. Margaret and her husband, **Barry Ross '61**, together gave some two and a half decades to missionary service in Asia, the Pacific area, Africa and the Caribbean, serving under the direction of The Wesleyan Church. In all these areas, Margaret taught home economic skills to women of all stations of life. During periods of time in the States, she taught home economics in public schools in New York, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and California. She is survived by her husband of (one week shy of) 56 years, **Barry L. Ross '61**; three children, Barri Lynne Kirkham, John Ross and Elizabeth Bailey; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild and siblings, **Doris (Tysinger '55) Essepian** and husband, **Dr. John P. Essepian '55**; **Faith (Tysinger '65) Lamphier**; **Pattie (Tysinger '56) Linton** and husband, **David Linton '58**; and **Dr. James “Bud” Tysinger, Jr. '65** as well as nieces and nephews including **Ruth (Putney '80) Blackman** and husband, **David Blackman '81**; **Rosemary (Essepian '81) Burgher**; **Alice (Putney '89) Carpenter** and husband, **Eric Carpenter '93**; **Mary (Putney '85) Johnson**; **Charles Essepian Esq. '85** and wife, **Donna (Iacobucci '92) Essepian**; **John P. Essepian III '84**; **David Putney '83** and wife, **Audrey (Higle '84) Putney**; **Peter Putney-Ross '81**; and **James W. Tysinger III '88**. Also surviving are sister-in-law **Ruth (Ross '55) Putney** and husband, **Rev. John Putney '52** and brothers-in-law **William Stephens '58** and **David Ross (UWC)** along with his wife, **Nova Ross (UWC)**. She was preceded in death by a sister, **Mary Ruth (Tysinger '57) Stephens**; father-in-law **Kenneth Ross (UWC)**; and sister-in-law **Beverly (Ross '64) Reed**.

1960

[Marie \(Bean\) Harris](#) passed away on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at Auburn Community Hospital in Auburn, New York. She is survived by her siblings, their children, and many other family members and friends.

[Ronald W. Kerr](#) died on Monday, June 8, 2015. He was 78. Mr. Kerr was an accomplished businessman in real estate and in the music business. He was also a talented trumpeter; classmates may remember him as a member of the Houghton Trumpet Trio. Following graduation, Ron served with the Army Band at West Point and taught trumpet for 10 years at Philadelphia College of the Bible (now Cairn University) in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife, Gwyneth Kerr; a daughter, Bonnie S. Kerr; and three sons, **Capt. Ronald S. Kerr '86** and wife, **Wendy (Hitch '84) Kerr**; Robert W. Kerr; and Donald W. Kerr as well as eight grandchildren and Marion Stahl Kerr, mother of his children.

Anthony Yu '60 | [Read feature obituary](#)

1961

[Lt. Col. \(Ret.\) Robert Rowland McBride](#) died on Friday, March 6, 2015, at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was 75 years old. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Mary; his daughter, Veronica McBride; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers and a sister.

1963

[Rebecca "Becky" Cherry](#), 73, passed away on March 26, 2015, at the Episcopal Church Home in Rochester, New York, following several years with Alzheimer's disease. Becky is survived by her daughter, Karen Goulet; her son, Matthew Goulet; two grandchildren; her sister, Miriam Moore; and loving nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents and two siblings.

David Robinson, 73, died suddenly on June 11, 2015. Rev. Robinson attended Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was ordained as a minister in 1968. He served as a parish priest in New York, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire from 1968 until his retirement in 2007 in Binghamton, New York. He is survived by his children, John Robinson and Katherine Robinson; three grandchildren; his sister, **Mary "Eunice" (Robinson '66) Sitzer**; and cousins, including **Brock W. Baker '74**; **Tod H. Baker '82** and wife, **Ann Morris Baker, Esq. '81**; **Rev. Christine (Willet '73) Greenwald** and husband, **Rev. Gary Greenwald '71**; **A. Jonathan Shea '63**; **Eila Shea '66**; **Dr. Paul W. Shea '69** and wife, **Deborah (Greenmeyer '69) Shea**; **Sally (Shea '56) Syme**; **Nancy (Wright '70) Tucker**; and **Dr. Thomas Willett '68**. He was preceded in death by his wife of 32 years, Priscilla Morris Robinson; his parents, Rev. Harvey N. Robinson and **Mary (Shea '23) Robinson**; and uncles **Rev. Alton J. Shea '36**; **Dr. George Beverly Shea '32**; and **Dr. J. Whitney Shea '33** and wife, **Phoebe (Lusk '26) Shea** as well as aunts **Ruth (Shea '41) Willett** and husband, **Dr. Edward Willett '39**, and **Lois (Shea '38) Wright** and husband, **Dr. Kenneth Wright '34** and a cousin, **Holly (Willet '77) Gillette**.

[Donald “Don” Schott](#) passed away on June 5, 2015, at his home in Bel Air, Maryland. He was 74. Don earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, Maryland and worked at Edgewood Arsenal for 11 years in the medical research facility. In addition, he co-owned a medical lab and was a consultant on occupational health and safety for over 31 years. He was the author of articles published in scientific journals as well as a book about his experiences in occupational health and safety. Mr. Schott is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Pam (Rogers ’63) Schott**, and son, David A. Schott.

1968

[Harold “Steve” Jones, Jr.](#), 69, died on Monday July 20, 2015, in Dallas, Texas.

Steve gave generously to Houghton College, although no record of his gifts exist in the advancement office. In the late ’70s, Steve was sound engineer for Great America Amusement Park near Chicago. He took the initiative to record retired professor of organ and chair of the fine arts department, Dr. Charles H. Finney, on the 61-rank Holtkamp organ in the John and Charles Wesley Chapel. The resulting LP was titled “The Art of Hymnprovisation,” and without Steve’s urgings, there would be no record of these remarkable efforts. Steve wanted to do this for Houghton College and would take no money for the endeavor.

In 2005, Steve contacted Houghton again and offered to do another recording on the chapel Holtkamp. He was directed to professor of organ and harpsichord, Dr. Judy Congdon, and together with former professor of trumpet, Dr. Paul DeBoer, they performed many hymns dear to Steve’s heart. This recording was titled “With Heart and Hands and Voices,” and Steve gave 100 copies of the CD to the advancement office to be used in fundraising. He did several other recordings with Dr. Congdon over the years, always volunteering his time, equipment, travel time and expertise. Many of these CDs can still be purchased in the Houghton College Campus Store.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Janie Jones; four children, Anne Jones, Amy Jones Haywood, David and Peter; four grandchildren; and a brother.

1969

[Judith “Judy” \(Stair\) Barrett](#), 69, passed away August 25, 2015, at the Hart Comfort House of Allegany County in Wellsville, New York. Judy was a teacher from 1969 to 2001 and, after that, was in charge of the 21st Century Grant after-school program. In addition, Judy was the coordinator for the Belfast Central School preschool parent program, and, from 1996 until the present time, she served as the Caneadea town justice. Judy is survived by a son, James Barrett; a daughter, Pamela Cockle; five grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; a sister, Betsy Harvey; and special friends Dawn and Tren Young.

[John Hemenway](#), 67, lost his battle with cancer on Saturday, November 8, 2014. After college, John was a member of the 18th Army band stationed at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, from 1969 to 1972 and then spent his professional career as a music teacher in several elementary, middle and high schools in Massachusetts. He retired from the Worcester School System in 2006. In

addition to teaching music, John had the opportunity to play in many town bands, and, as a member of the local musicians' union, he played for high school and college musical productions, graduations and concerts. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, **Gerd Brita (Adolfson '72) Hemenway**; two sons, Stephen and David; his sister; and several nieces and nephews.

1971

[Anne \(Little\) Brown](#) passed away peacefully at her home in Fairport, New York, on April 20, 2015, surrounded by her family. Anne was an accomplished cellist, pianist and vocalist and, before attending Houghton, had the opportunity to study cello with Ronald Leonard and Alan Harris in the Preparatory Department of the Eastman School of Music. She loved her time as a student at Houghton and was especially grateful that her education there allowed her to follow her musical passion throughout her life. After college, Anne earned a master's degree in elementary education from Nazareth College in Rochester, New York, and her career as a music educator spanned 40 years, many of them in the Fairport Central School District as a string teacher. She spent the last 10 years as an adjunct professor of music education at Houghton, where she enjoyed being on campus and attending the Christmas Prism. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth; children, Rachel Englander, Amanda Brin, and **Nathanael Brown '05**; seven grandchildren; nieces including **Melanie (Neureuther '04) Houck**, **Jennifer (Little '93) Kegler**, and **Melissa (Neureuther '02) Wantuck**; and nephews including **Jonathan D. Little '95**, **Matthew C. Neureuther '05** as well as three siblings, **Paul D. Little '65** and wife, **Linda (Finger '65) Little**; **Thomas R. Little '75**; and **Jane (Little '69) Neureuther**. Anne was preceded in death by her mother, **Frances (Hotchkiss '36) Little**.

1974

[Nils Peter Nilsen](#), 63, passed away at his home in West Long Branch, New Jersey, on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. Surviving are his mother, Marion Cornman; three sisters; two brothers; and thirteen nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, John Howard Nilsen, in 1964 and his stepfather, A. Wesley Cornman, in 2009.

1977

[Ruth \(Senseney\) Stratton](#), 59, passed away on July 31, 2015, after a sudden illness. Ruth is survived by her husband of 37 years, Jim; three daughters, Amanda Kirk, Rebecca Draper, and Emily Schilling; four grandchildren; her father, Morton; four siblings; and many nieces and nephews.

1996

[Abraham D. Burdick](#) passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 15, 2015, in Olean, New York. He was 40 years old. Surviving are two sons, Abraham "Joe" Burdick and Robert "Robie" Burdick; his step-mother, Roxanne Burdick; three brothers, Clinton, Benjamin, and Calvin; three sisters, Teresa Bailey, Sarah Burdick, and Amber Ramsey; step-grandparents; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other extended family members.

2001

[Teresa \(Winship\) Baker](#) died on Sunday, May 17, 2015, at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, in Williamsville, New York, after a brief illness. She was 36 years old. Teresa graduated from the University of Buffalo as a nurse practitioner and was employed as a psychiatric nurse practitioner for the University Psychiatric Practice in Buffalo. She also was an adjunct professor at the University of Buffalo. She is survived by her husband of 12 years, James Baker; her parents, Benjamin Winship and Joan Winship; four brothers, Dean, Shawn, Aaron and Benjamin; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and colleagues.

Adult Education

[Judith “Judy” Curran ’00](#), Olean Cohort G2, passed away on Sunday, November 23, 2014, at Cuba Memorial Hospital’s Comfort Care Unit in Cuba, New York. She is survived by her high school sweetheart, soulmate and husband of 39 years, Kevin Curran; two daughters, Kaitlin Speta and Kristin Flachs; one granddaughter; her father; her sister and best friend, Jan Howard; several nieces and one nephew; and several grandnieces and grandnephews. She was predeceased by her mother in 2010 and a brother-in-law.

Former Faculty/Staff

[Gary C. Fiegl ’64](#) passed away on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, at the Hart Comfort House in Wellsville, New York. Gary’s connection to Houghton College began when his father, the late **Robert T. Fiegl, Sr.**, was hired as the superintendent of buildings and grounds in 1950. Gary worked for his father on campus in the summers, mowing lawns, carrying ashes and firing coal boilers. After some time as a student at Houghton, Gary went to barber school in Buffalo and then was drafted into the Army, where he served in Denver, Colorado, as a medical records clerk in the cardiology clinic at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital. Upon his return home to Hume, New York, he found that he didn’t enjoy working as a barber, so he found employment in construction, plumbing and heating. In 1977, Gary was operating heavy equipment on highway construction in Baltimore, Maryland, when the new superintendent of building and grounds at Houghton, Paul Crane, invited him to apply for work in his department. Gary returned to Houghton and eventually became the director of maintenance, retiring in 2001. Gary was known for his consistent leadership as a supervisor, his accessibility, and his willingness to help out in any situation with a smile and a good attitude. Surviving in addition to his wife, Linda, are his six children, **Eric M. Fiegl ’88** and wife, **Lynelle (Hall ’88) Fiegl**; **Dr. Wade E. Fiegl ’90** and wife, **Heather (Sardina ’90) Fiegl**; **Ivy (Fiegl ’91) Rothfus** and husband, **Tedd Rothfus ’86**; **Holly (Fiegl ’94) Fertich**; **Julia Mills**; and **Peter Romance** and wife, **Jessica (Mullen ’08) Romance** as well as 25 grandchildren. Also surviving are his five siblings, **Zane Fiegl ’56** and wife, **Laura (Gilmore ’64) Fiegl**; **Roberta (Fiegl ’59) Barnett** and husband, **Dean Barnett ’60**; **Claudia (Fiegl ’68) Kauffman**; **Dawn (Fiegl ’74) Bateman** and husband, **Kenneth Bateman ’76**; and **R. Thomas Fiegl ’77** and wife, **Jayne (Davis ’78) Fiegl** as well as many nieces and nephews including **Michael Barnett ’81** and **Laurie (Fiegl ’83) Graziano**. He was predeceased by his father, former maintenance supervisor, **Robert Fiegl**.

Dr. G. Edna Howard | [Read feature obituary](#)

[Thomas C. Randall](#) passed away on Friday, July 31, 2015, at his home in Rushford, New York. Tom was a dairy farmer who later owned and operated a sawmill business and most recently was employed by Houghton College as a plumber. Driving and logging with his draft horses was a longtime passion for Tom, as was his love for two-cylinder tractors. He is survived by his wife, Esther Palmer Wolfley as well as his children, **Marie Woodard '96** and her husband, current staff member, **John Woodard** and John Randall; step-children, Linrae Ellis, Craig Wolfley, Ron Wolfley, Joyce Blue, and Dale Wolfley; 27 grandchildren including **Jennifer (Woodard '06) Keeler** and husband **Justin Keeler '10**; 20 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia Scott; a grandson, Isaiah Blue; and siblings Arthur Randall and Joyce Randall.

[Louise R. Rees](#), 93, passed away peacefully on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015, at her home in Batavia, New York. Louise held three different positions at Houghton College: secretary to the dean of the college, secretary of the public relations office, and secretary to the church relations director. Louise is survived by her children, **John A. Rees '75** and **Carol (Rees '72) Ensell**; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, **Dr. Arland B. Rees '50**, former associate professor of history; brothers, Howard C., Leonard C., and Louis C. Wales; and grandson, Joshua David.

Friends of the College

[Ernest T. Anderson](#) passed peacefully into the presence of God on May 14, 2015. He was 94 years old. Dr. Anderson is survived by his six children, **Mark S. Anderson '70**; **Timothy J. Anderson '71** and wife, **Marybeth (Burdick '72) Anderson**; **Sharon (Anderson '73) Babbitt** and husband, **Stephen Babbitt '71**; Daniel Anderson; Jonathan D. Anderson; and David E. Anderson as well as 13 grandchildren including **Kari (Babbitt '00) Cowell**, 14 great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 65 years, Wanda, and two sisters.

[Robert B. Crowell](#), 90, died peacefully at his home in Arkport, New York, on February 27, 2015, after several years of declining health. He is survived by two daughters, **Beverly Crowell '73** and **Maribeth Crowell '76**; a brother; many other family members and special friends; and his beloved poodle companion, Chloe. In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his wife, **Glenora (McBride '46) Crowell**.

[Roger B. Olsen](#) passed away in his home in Houghton, New York, on Saturday, July 25, 2015. He is survived by his four children, Assistant Professor of Physical Education and Equestrian Program Director, **Jo-Anne (Olsen '69) Young**; Christina O'Neill; **Constance (Olsen '72) Kennedy** and husband, **John Kennedy '72**; and **David E. Olsen '78** and wife, **Donalee (Blackstone '81) Olsen** as well as nine grandchildren including **Steven B. Young '91** and **Erin M. Kennedy '00**; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews including **Philip F. Olsen (UWC)** and **James S. Olsen '65**. He was predeceased by his beloved wife and life partner in all circumstances and adventures, Virginia, in 2009 and five siblings including graduate of Eastern Pilgrim College, **J. Francis Olsen**.

[Leland F. Pemberton](#), 96, passed away on March 10, 2015, at Cuba Memorial Hospital in Cuba, New York. Mr. Pemberton was a World War II veteran, having served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a master sergeant in the European Theater. He was a research engineer with Cal Span in Amherst. He is survived by two cousins and many friends, including Bill and Roberta Stone. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, a niece and a cousin.

[Gesa M. Valk](#) passed away peacefully on March 19, 2015, after bravely succumbing to leukemia. Dr. Valk is survived by her husband, **Rev. John. H. Valk '56**; children, Steven Valk and Jennie Merna; and three grandchildren.

Arnold Cook '43



Humble, compassionate and kind with a personal interest in the lives of his students in school and after graduation; notorious for his love of puns and wry sense of humor; gracious, practical and wise; and emeritus professor of business administration and founder of the Houghton College business administration department, **Arnold Cook '43** passed away on May 7, 2015, after nine months of 24/7 home and hospice care.

When Arnold was invited by President Stephen Paine and Dean **Arthur Lynip '38** to come to Houghton to set up the newly approved business major in 1959, Arnold initially said “no.” Twice. “I didn’t even consider it,” recalled Arnold in a *Milieu* article commemorating his retirement in 1988. His letter back to Houghton said that he had a good life where he was, enjoyed a vital ministry in his church and wasn’t qualified to teach anyway. With no academic training in his field and a salary offer of only a fraction of what he was currently earning, turning the job down seemed like the “safe,

reasonable course.” After two convicting sermons and some soul searching and prayer time with his wife, **Elizabeth “Betty” (Park '62)**, the Cooks decided that God was indeed leading them to leave their home in Ellensburg, Washington, and move their little family across the country to serve at Houghton a year later. “When God hits you over the head with a hammer,” quipped Arnold, “you’d better say yes!”

Today, thousands of students are grateful for Arnold Cook’s choice; business is one of Houghton’s largest majors, and the department he founded is widely recognized for offering innovation and hands-on experiences. “His life touched hundreds of kids who are now business leaders throughout the Western world,” commented former student and Chief Executive Officer of the York Foundation at York Care Centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, **Kenneth McGeorge '66**.

As a self-taught accountant who passed the CPA exam without the benefit of any formal instruction, Arnold’s first year of teaching was, according to his retirement citation in 1988, “a blur of working and trying to stay awake with four or five new preparations each term.” What he lacked in academic training, however, he made up for with his practical business experience. “I felt that the disciplines he required served me very, very well—in graduate school and in the business world,” recalled **Gary Larder '62**, former student and Chairman of the Board for Rochester Community Baseball, Inc., home to minor league team the Rochester Red Wings. “He

was a ‘nuts and bolts’ man when it came to accounting and finance, and that turned out to be very valuable to his students as they began their careers.”

Along with setting up the business major, Arnold was influential in the growth of Houghton’s Audio Visual (AV) department. Early in his tenure at Houghton, he advocated for the use of audio/visual aids in class and was responsible for the purchase of the college’s first overhead projector. Later, he was named coordinator of educational media. “Arnold was always into new technology,” remembers former student, colleague and retired Professor of Business Administration, **Dick Halberg ’71**. “We were one of the first departments on campus to have a personal computer, which he and I shared.” Thanks to Arnold’s early efforts over the years, Houghton was able to have a color TV studio in the basement of the campus center and link via microwave connection to Houghton’s Buffalo campus in the early ’90s. Today’s AV office boasts a full-time service coordinator and nine student assistants offering media support and services to faculty, equipment rental, video production, video conferencing, and even aerial photography via quadcopter.

While his intuitional achievements are many, what Arnold was really known for was caring deeply about his students—and he often prayed for them long after graduation. “I remember, at the times that I was struggling academically, he would sit and listen, give wise counsel, and you could see the compassion in his expression,” offered McGeorge. “We were not just student numbers to him; we were kids who needed wise, Christ-like direction.” Many of his early students remained his friends and were on his prayer list at the time of his passing. “At Christmas time, he would say that he received wonderful gifts—cards from his students informing him of their current careers,” remembered Larder.

Arnold is survived by former emeriti faculty member, associate professor of biology and wife of nearly 70 years, **Elizabeth “Betty” (Park ’62) Cook**; children, Bettina Jeffords, **Danny Cook ’70** and wife **Glenda (Andrews ’70) Cook**, and **Judith “Judi” (Cook ’72) Mayhle** and husband Dr. Douglas Mayhle; grandchildren, Shelby Jeffords, Andrew Cook, Camilla Blue, **Timothy Mayhle ’01** and wife **Janet (Wagner ’03) Mayhle**, Elizabeth “Bitsy” Mayhle, and **Robert Mayhle ’07**; and six great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and his grandson, Shawn Jeffords. Memorial gifts can be made to the Arnold Cook Scholarship, a fund set up to help future business majors.

Edna Howard



[Dr. G. Edna Howard](#) passed into the presence of her Lord and Savior on May 27, 2015, at her son's home in Vineland, New Jersey. She was 85 years old. Edna was associate professor of education and division chair of the education and recreation department at Houghton College from 1988 to 1996, and, after her retirement, she worked for the New York State Education Department in area schools.

Dr. Howard committed her entire professional career to education and served as both teacher and administrator in public and private schools: elementary teacher (grades 1-2); elementary school principal; middle and high school English teacher (grades 7-12); high school assistant principal, assistant director of Alliance Academy in Quito, Ecuador; college professor; college division chair and school board president.

Teaching students and guiding young teachers to their highest level of performance was a constant goal for Edna's educational career, and her expectations for students were high. In her words, a good student "is a self-starter (motivated), accepts responsibility and sets high standards" for him or herself. She found many such students during her eight years at Houghton, and her impact on their teaching careers can still be felt today. "Despite all the changes in education during my 20-year career," states former student **Joy David-Gompah '94**, "I still write my learning objectives the way I learned from Dr. Howard." In her retirement citation in 1996, President Daniel R. Chamberlain thanked Edna for her "zestful Christian caring and professional competence."

As an active member of the Belfast, New York, community for 25 years, Edna served on the Belfast Board of Education and was the chair of the Allegany County Services Board for 16 years. Dr. Cathy Freytag, Professor of Education and Associate Dean for Education and Physical Education, enjoyed working with Edna for several years on the Allegany County Community Services Board. "I found her to be a delightful, energetic woman who was always looking for the needs and interests of others," recalls Freytag.

She is survived by her husband, former counseling staff member, Dale Howard; six sons, Mike, Paul, Ron, Joseph, Nathan and Chris; 20 grandchildren including **Caleb M. Howard '04** and **Joel D. Howard '06**; 11 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Margery Webber; and a host of friends from many churches and schools from many states.

Lola Haller '57

Professor emeritus of education and former division chair [Dr. Lola Marie Haller '57](#) passed away on April 16, 2015, in Hastings, Michigan. She was 85.

Dr. Haller's association with Houghton College goes back to 1953 when she briefly attended as a student in the process of completing her bachelor's degree. She was teaching public school and working on her doctorate in Michigan when President Stephen W. Paine asked her to succeed Elizabeth Rennick as Houghton's dean of women in 1963. From 1968 until her retirement in 1991, she was professor of education and director of teacher education. She served as division chair from 1978 to 1985.



Nearly three decades of students benefited from Dr. Haller's life and work. "God crafted quite a woman in Lola!" recalled former student and Houghton community member **Elizabeth "Beth" (Seidel '70) Beardsley**. "She was a beloved professor of mine at college as well as a dear friend and encourager." In addition, Lola's professional knowledge was recognized and used beyond the borders of Houghton's campus. Toward the end of her tenure, she specialized in children's literature and presented early literacy and in-training seminars at regional conferences and in area schools. She also did readings at local libraries and was considered a master storyteller. "I considered her an excellent educator," said former student **Marlee S. Crandon '69**.

After retirement, Lola returned to her home state of Michigan where she was a founding member of the Lake Odessa Community Library in Lake Odessa, Michigan. She continued in her dedication to helping children learn to love books by reading to the students of West Elementary of Lake Odessa. "The books she suggested for children to read opened doors and windows for many," stated one friend who worked with Lola on the library board. Another thanked her "for touching my life and the lives of so many children in our school district."

Dr. Haller is survived by her niece Shirley Lich and nephew Gary Haller in addition to many other nieces, nephews and special friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Royal Haller Sr. and Racie Haller, and two brothers, Royal Haller, Jr. and Keith Haller.

Priscilla (Ries '50) Waltz



Priscilla (Ries '50) Waltz passed away peacefully in her sleep on March 20, 2015, at her home in Fort Meyers, Florida, after a valiant fight with cancer.

As the daughter of the late **Dr. Claude Ries '18**, beloved professor of Greek and Bible and division chair of the theology and Christian education department, Priscilla's connection with Houghton began when she was born in "downtown Houghton," in what was then known as "Benton House," in 1929. She graduated from Houghton Preparatory School (now Houghton Academy) and attended Houghton College for one year. After she moved out of the area, she formed Houghton's alumni chapter in the Chicago area and served for a time as

the alumni board president. In 1983, she became Houghton's second woman trustee and was officially designated as alumni representative. She loved Houghton and returned often, especially after her retirement.

For the 11 summers that Priscilla volunteered her time to work with retired assistant professor of English and former director of conferences, **Bruce Brenneman**, "she was a bright shining spot in our lives—an absolute delight," he remembers. As the activities director for summer conference guests, specializing in Elderhostel programs, Priscilla not only planned and organized activities for the summer Elderhostel participants but was also involved in all facets of Houghton's summer conference season—including but not limited to hosting, preparing registration materials for various groups, acting as resident director for one of the residence halls, working at the registration desk, making beds, setting tables, and lettering the college bulletin board. In addition, she created a daily "Scoop Sheet" outlining the day's activities for the Elderhostel guests. The sheet included accompanying background information and a biographical sketch of all of the participants—a piece that she collaged, typed and distributed to everyone involved in the program.

"To me, Priscilla represents the quintessential volunteer," Brenneman wrote in a letter to the awards programming director of the CASE distinguished service awards when Priscilla was nominated for the Ernest T. Stewart Award for Alumni Volunteer Involvement in 1998. "She had a special knack for making people feel important. I credit much of the success of that program to her untiring efforts, her attention to detail, her genuine interest in each individual participant and her innovative ideas."

Friends who had the opportunity to work with Priscilla during those summers benefitted from not only her work ethic, organization and creativity but also her love of people. “What a wonderful woman!” commented **Rochelle (Smith ’93) Bohm**. “I carry the wisdom (and wit!) that Priscilla shared with me for the two summers I was blessed to work with her.” **Dr. Judy Congdon**, professor of organ and harpsichord and college organist, worked summers with Priscilla during her early years at Houghton. “I remember many conversations with Priscilla and count her a dear friend,” shared Congdon. “I treasured her strength of character, her caring ways, and her infectious smile.” She is also remembered for her hearty laugh, her gracious spirit, and her deep faith.

She is survived by husband, Robert E. Waltz, nephews **David H. Ries ’71** and wife **Jean (Weidemann ’76) Ries**, Dan Ries, Shawn Spilman, and Stanley Spilman; a niece, **Deborah (Ries ’74) VanEenwyk**; great-nephews including **Andrew S. Ries ’02**, **Timothy Ries ’08**, **Peter M. Ries ’10**, **Stephen D. Ries ’12**; and great-niece **Emily L. VanEenwyk ’10**. Priscilla was preceded in death by her parents, former professor of Greek and Bible as well as chair of the division of theology and Christian education, **Claude A. Ries ’18**, and his college sweetheart and wife, Ruth (Worbois) Ries; and her brother, maintenance engineer and former superintendent of buildings and grounds, **Herschel C. Ries ’44** and wife **Ruth “Sammie” (Samuels ’43) Ries**.

Ruth (Shea '41) Willett



[Ruth \(Shea '41\) Willett](#), former community member and the last surviving member of the eight Shea children born to pastor and evangelist Adam J. Shea and his wife, Maude Whitney Shea, passed away on July 12, 2015, in Dahlonega, Georgia, following a brief illness. She was 95 years old.

Born Houghton, New York, in 1920, Ruth was number seven of the eight Shea siblings. She was the only Shea sibling born in the United States and the only one native to the Houghton community. Ruth had no time to form childhood memories of her days in Houghton, however; the Shea family moved back to Canada while she was still an infant. Ruth returned to Houghton as a college student and graduated in 1941—the same year she married **Edward J. Willett '39**. The Willett family lived in Syracuse, New York, until 1962, when Ed was invited back to Houghton as professor of economics. Ruth and her family lived in the Houghton community for 32 years until Ed's retirement in 1994.

"She had a ready laugh and a welcoming, friendly face," remembers Houghton community member and close friend Sylvia Greenway. "She made you feel like you could tell her anything. You couldn't help but be drawn to her!" Friends and family alike enjoyed Ruth's humor, hospitality and deep faith. "She was fun-loving with a sharp sense of humor that only a few saw," remembers niece **Nancy (Wright '70) Tucker**. "But most of all she was a woman of faith and of prayer. She had known trouble and hardship: she had lost two children. But she didn't complain; she would just giggle when her needs were met and would thank God." Former director of public information and friend **Dean Liddick '60** recalls, "To me, Ruth always had a queenly quality. She was a gracious hostess and an engaging conversationalist."

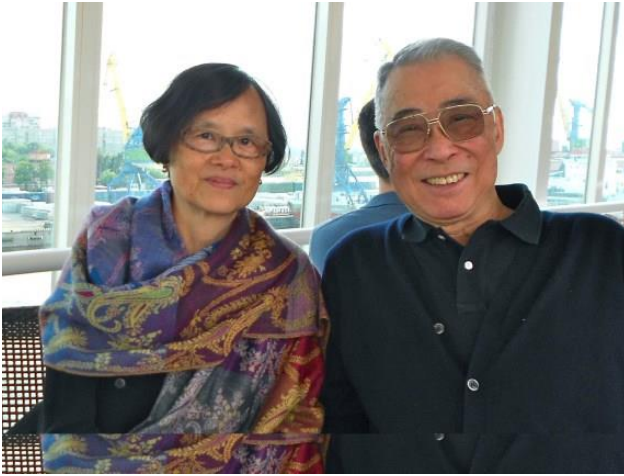
Ruth was also known for her nurturing, encouraging spirit and her listening ear—gifts she often used behind the scenes. "I think this was her primary gift to me," commented **Dr. Rev. J. Michael "Mike" Walters '86**, former pastor of Houghton Wesleyan Church and retired professor of Christian ministries, at Ruth's memorial service. He remembers the way Ruth encouraged him in his early days at Houghton Wesleyan Church. "As a new pastor, I was in way over my head here...Ruth made her way into my life as a wise and steady presence, always urging to follow God's leading regardless of the cost. I know that pastors aren't supposed to have favorites...but I readily confess that Ruth Willett was one of my favorites!"

Ruth is survived by children, **Dr. Thomas L. Willett '68** and **Rev. Christine (Willett '73) Greenwald** and husband **Rev. Gary Greenwald '71**; grandchildren, Cynthia W. Galko, Jessica

Willett, Katie Greenwald, Peter W. Greenwald, Philip A. Greenwald, Heidi Willett, Lance B. Willett, **Rev. Adria (Willett '98) Pearson, Kerensa "Kerry" (Gillette '02) Morneau, and Audrey (Gillette '11) McConnell** and step-grandchild **Rachel E. Kern '02**; many nieces and nephews including **Brock W. Baker '74** and wife **Deborah (Neider '74) Baker; Tod H. Baker** and wife **Ann (Morris '81) Baker Esq.; A. Jonathan Shea '63, Eila Shea '66, Dr. Paul W. Shea '69** and wife **Debbie (Greenmeyer '69) Shea; Ron Shea, Mary E. (Robinson '66) Sitzler, Sally (Shea '56) Syme, and Nancy (Wright '70) Tucker**; daughter-in-law **Karen (Mikesell '67) Lorimer**; son-in-law **John R. Gillette '76**; and sister-in-law **Karlene Shea**.

In addition to her parents, Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, **Edward J. Willett '39**; two children, **Daniel Starbuck Willett '64** and **Holly (Willett '77) Gillette**; siblings **Pauline Shea Lusk, J. Whitney Shea '33** and wife **Phoebe (Lusk '26) Shea, Mary (Shea '23) Robinson, George Beverly Shea '32, Alton J. Shea '36, Lois (Shea '38) Wright** and husband **Dr. Kenneth Wright '34**, and **Grace Baker**; and nephew, **Rev. David W. Robinson '63**.

Anthony Yu '60



Scholar of religion and literature best known for his landmark English translation of the epic Chinese masterwork, *The Journey to the West*, [Dr. Anthony “Tony” Yu ’60](#) died of heart failure on May 12, 2015, following a brief illness. He was 76 years old.

Anthony Yu arrived in Houghton as a freshman from Taipei, Taiwan; by the time he was a senior, he was president of his class. Active in the oratorio society, French Club, *The Houghton Star* and the English Club, Tony also played soccer (Gold captain, senior year) and was the

only non-music major in Dr. Finney’s memory to volunteer to play a senior recital—all Beethoven.

After graduation, Tony earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary and then went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Chicago—where he stayed for the duration of his professional career. As the Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities and professor of religion and literature in the divinity school, his service to the University of Chicago spanned five departments and 46 years. “Studying with him was a tremendous privilege,” said former student Eric Ziolkowski. “He exuded a passion and an intensity that were contagious to anyone fortunate enough to be his student.” Mr. Yu, as his students called him, “had high standards for scholarship and for life itself,” remembered former student Stephanie Paulsell. “He was a gifted pianist, an accomplished poet, an admired cook, and an elegant dresser. He cherished excellence in all its forms.”

That excellence was recognized in 2000, when Tony was elected to become a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences—one of the nation’s oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers. He credited his educational experiences at Houghton as an integral part of his success. In a letter to former Director of Public Information and friend, **Dean Liddick ’60**, concerning his election as a Fellow, Tony wrote, “For a person who came to this country when he was a boy of 17-plus years, the election to become a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the highest scholastic guild of this nation founded by the likes of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, it is a crowning honor to a life of learning. I do not regard this honor, however, merely as a sign of personal achievement, for I must pay tribute to my first alma mater. What I have tried to do in these last 32 years of teaching and writing owes a great deal to what Houghton bestowed on my spirit and intellect through her faculty and students.”

Tony is survived by his wife, Priscilla, and a son, Christopher.