



STUDENT JURIED EXHIBITION |
ARTS AND SPORTS, P. 4

the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

IN MEMORY OF GREG YOUNG | OPINIONS, P. 7

FINE ARTS SEMINAR | ARTS AND SPORTS, P. 4

ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
HILLERY DUMAN | FEATURES, P. 8

March 22, 2013 • Vol. 109, No. 18



Houghton Artists Travel to Sierra Leone

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Earlier this year, Renee Roberts, Direct of Exhibitions at Ortlip Gallery, and Professor Jillian Sokso, art, traveled to Sierra Leone for a skills training trip that brought together their gifts in art with acts of ministry.

The two were asked to come to Sierra Leone by a Houghton alum on the board of Women of Hope International, an NGO that ministers to disabled women in Sierra Leone with the mission statement to "equip and disciple women with disabilities to become life-long followers of Christ who facilitate holistic transformation in their families and communities."

Women with disabilities in Sierra Leone often face immense challenges. Many have difficulty performing basic tasks, such as drawing water, and sometimes earning a means of providing for their families is difficult. "Some of the ladies we worked with were amputees, a lot of them became disabled through preventable disease like measles or polio and lost the use of some of their limbs or [had] some sort of mobility issue," said Sokso. These women sometimes even become outcasts and their families may disown them because of their disabilities.

"The point of this skills training project or skills training trip," said Roberts during a GCF meeting on March 12, "was to facilitate classes for these disabled women who don't have any other way to provide for their families or for themselves because they are seen as outcasts." Papermaking and crafts help provide these women with skills to integrate

themselves back into society while also making a profit, and it was to this end that Roberts and Sokso brought their talents as professional artists.

The women at the organization had already been making stationary, said Sokso, "But they were using this cheap Chinese cardstock that wasn't really beautiful, so they were looking for papermakers." Roberts and Sokso, after being requested to come to Sierra Leone last year, raised money through Printed Matter Press, the Dean's Office and a faculty fund to help with the finances of the trip.

"The whole entire trip was so amazing to see God taking these things and opening these doors," said Roberts.

While there, Sokso and Roberts gave classes on how to make paper and also gave a crafting class. Though they had to adjust certain papermaking techniques while in Sierra Leone, as the means and tools for producing paper were a little different than at home, overall the program provided their students with skills that they can use by selling their paper on the fair trade market.

"We talk about integration of faith and learning. But for me, this was the first thing that I did that I could authentically live out not only God's giftedness to me and my life, but also to actually help somebody learn a skill that could be profitable to them," said Sokso, "It was a very visual example of how you can use your gifts to help somebody else."

Sokso also found the comparison



RENEE ROBERTS

Professor Sokso, art, and Renee Roberts with some of their students



RENEE ROBERTS

Professor Sokso, art, making paper with a Sierra Leonean woman

See PAPER MAKERS page 3

ENROLLMENT AT HOUGHTON Past, Present, and Future Marketing Strategies

JORY KAUFFMAN

As enrollment numbers gradually but unquestionably decrease, Houghton College turns to deliberate means of bringing in prospective students, particularly through marketing. Jeff Babbitt, Director of Marketing and Communication, spoke in an interview about Houghton's past, present, and future marketing strategies.

"For many years, I would say we relied on our reputation, being one of the top Christian schools in the country," said Babbitt. "But as other schools have risen to that same level and competition has increased, that name recognition hasn't been there... Maybe twenty years ago, if you were

to ask someone to name the top Christian colleges in the country, Houghton would have been in the top five. Now there might be twenty names of schools that are suggested, and Houghton might still be in there, but there are a lot of other schools that have risen to that sort of prominence."



TOPCHRISTIANCOLLEGES.COM

Babbitt, along with the rest of the Marketing Department, acknowledges that Houghton College can no longer rely on reputation alone.

He talked of different, more recent advertising techniques, saying, "We developed an advertising campaign just to get the word out about Houghton, both in the local area and our region of Western New York, and even beyond. So we're doing more advertising online, in some Christian magazines, on the radio, putting up some billboards on Route 86, just so people know we're here and know who we are and where we are, so when they're thinking of college, they think of Houghton."

Houghton's online presence in particular displays a recent change in marketing that appeals to the current generation and seems to successfully advertise the college.

Marshall Green, Public and Community Relations Specialist, said, "In my opinion, the internet has really changed how prospective students shop for college. In the past, national magazines, word of mouth and alumni/family history might have been the key factors in college shopping. I think now, students are more apt to search online. To make the visits to schools that spark their interest and then make

See ENROLLMENT page 3

WORLD EDITORIAL / IRAQ 10 YEARS AFTER THE INVASION

CALEB JOHNSON

It has been controversial since it began. It divided Americans: some watching as the number of troop deaths mounted, others warning that the costs were worth it if Saddam Hussein's threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) had any merit. After over one trillion dollars invested in the country, no WMDs discovered at all, the capture and execution of Saddam Hussein, 4,000 dead American soldiers and over 130,000 Iraqi civilian deaths, many still wonder whether the Iraq war was worth it.

The average current college student was 10 to 11 years old when the invasion began. I remember staying up with my Dad late that night watching television and waiting for the bombs to fall on Baghdad, Iraq's capital. I remember the "Mission Accomplished" banner after the fall of Baghdad just a few short weeks later. Then the insurgency began, for which nobody was prepared.

Bush's claim that cutting off the head of the problem would immediately resolve it proved to be wrong as the United States found itself bogged down with al-Qaeda groups and Shi'a extremists using car and suicide bombs in hope of dominating each other through attempting to get their respective populations to hate and kill each other. It looked as though the United States was about to fail miserably, as critics said it would whenever the country attempts "nation-building".

But then the surge happened and, after 120,000 U.S. soldiers were sent to Iraq, along with "Awakening Councils" that joined the U.S. troops to drive out al-Qaeda (whose brutal tactics had alienated large swaths of Sunnis), violence began to decline. As security increased, investments for Iraq's oil reserves, which some argue are larger than Iran's, helped to bring more stability to the country. Even after U.S. troops withdrew in December 2011, violence has remained relatively low. There are still the occasional bombings, such as the one that killed over 60 Iraqis on the anniversary of the invasion, but, overall, Iraq remains much more stable than it was throughout the insurgency.

However, problems remain. Iraq is a shaky democracy set up to distribute power equally among the three big ethnic groups: Shi'a, Sunni and Kurd. But after the attempted arrest of a Sunni vice president for supposedly running death squads, arguments began between the central government and autonomous Kurd regions. These debates were over who has rights to oil reserves. With numerous Arab Spring-style protests against the government of Nuri al-Maliki, a Shi'a that Sunnis accuse of becoming increasingly dictatorial, and suicide bombings continually trying to stir sectarian tensions, Americans may wonder if, in fact, the U.S. should have ever even invaded in the first place.

In the end, nobody can say that the United States made the right choice. Regardless of the critics that say it only

stirred ethnic tensions, Iraq never did slip into a civil war or become a failed state. At the same time, a democracy was set up, but it remains incredibly fragile, particularly considering that for almost 11 months in 2010 the country could not form a government due to political infighting between Shi'a and Sunni politicians. Nevertheless, economically, the country has been recovering; tourism flourishes as millions of Shi'a pilgrims flock to mosques and shrines throughout the country. Foreign direct investment in the country's oil reserves has helped to rebuild a crumbling infrastructure, and in the Kurdish regions cities bustle and commerce thrives, with virtually no violence. The Sunnis, however, claim to be finding themselves marginalized politically and economically, creating the potential for a new conflict as frustrations rise.

Whether or not you agree that it was a good idea to invade Iraq, never forget that despite the bad, many good things have happened in the country. This is a milestone for our generation and continues to be pertinent to an American foreign policy that promotes the establishment of liberal democracy around the world, as liberal democracies do not fight each other. Based on this logic, this war was in America's national interest. A good choice? I am not sure, but it is something that will have a large impact in the Middle East for years to come.

Caleb Johnson is a third-year student with a double-major in international relations and history.



The statue of Saddam Hussein falls

PROPUBLICA.ORG

BUFFALO CITY SEMESTER: DIVERSITY CLOSE TO HOME

KATHARINE LABRECQUE

While scrolling through the course offerings, one may easily skim over the bold print: "HOUGHTON COLLEGE CITY SEMESTER (Buffalo)". In fact, many Houghton students are alien to the course.

One student replied to the question "Do you know what the Buffalo City Semester is?" with "I heard of it, but I don't know exactly what you do." Another student said, "It's not advertised as well as it should be. I have no idea what it is."

So what exactly is the City Semester? Located only an hour and a half away, students have the opportunity to live, learn, and explore the historical and culturally diverse city of Buffalo. While in Buffalo, students have the opportunity to engage in an academic environment where development, politics, sociology, and culture come to life. Experience becomes concrete, as professors take students across the West side of Buffalo, providing visual aids for students to stimulate ideas and connect the dots.

The city semester offers an environment drastically different than Houghton's campus. Students can spend days roaming the streets of

Buffalo, experiment with various cuisines, talk politics or philosophy over coffee, or share a home-cooked meal at the Houghton Rectory while listening to stories from Professor Massey.

City semester students also have the opportunity to intern as they take courses from professors Chuck Massey, education, and Cameron Airhart, history. Several students have taken advantage of this diverse option.

Internships are becoming more desirable in the 21st century as jobs become scarce. David Boyes, owner of a technology consultant firm, expresses his concern about students graduating today with a lack of experience as most of their time is spent behind a textbook. To combat this fad, Boyes emphasizes, "[do] an internship."

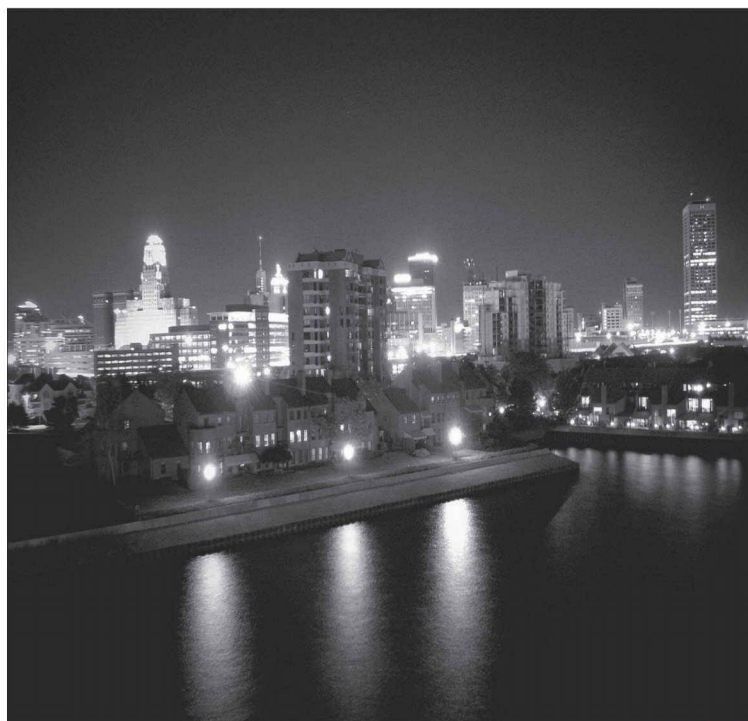
Houghton Senior and alumni of the Buffalo City-Semester, Hannah Vardy, said, "The ability to do an internship was an amazing opportunity. Growing skills and learning about your field is a great way to begin looking towards your career or even to see if it's not for you." Many internships are available and include Wesley Service Corps, Jericho Road Ministries, Journey's End, Habitat for Humanity, and numerous other local firms and institutions.

Though the city semester does not compare to the semester in Tan-

zania in traveling distance, it can be an equally influential experience. It is a way to connect a little place called Houghton with a big city that has its own identity. Embarking on a cultural excursion does not necessarily have to take students halfway across the world.

After being canceled this past

spring, Houghton students and faculty are doing all that they can to restart the city-semester program. Professor Airhart is looking for interest in the fall 2013, as well as spring 2014. If interested, please email him at Cameron.Airhart@houghton.edu.



Buffalo, New York at night

CITY-DATA.COM

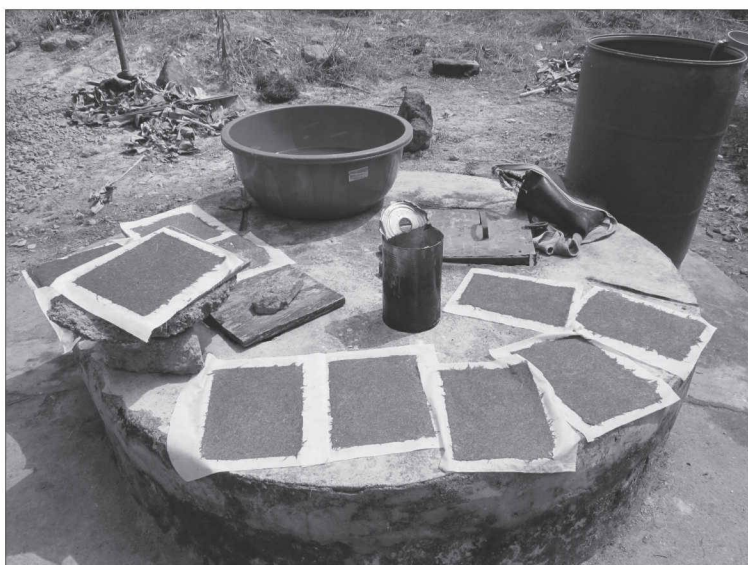
PAPER MAKERS *from page 1*

between the fibers that they used in papermaking and the women they worked with very appropriate. "A lot of these women are told throughout their lives that they are worthless or that a demon has

cursed them. A lot of their families have literally thrown them away," she said, "But in the end we held up this grass we used to make paper and said 'Did you ever think that anything like this could be made into something beautiful?'" ☐



RENEE ROBERTS

Sokso working with paper makers

RENEE ROBERTS

*Newly made paper from the papermaking class***ENROLLMENT** *from page 1*

their decisions from there."

Though advertising provides a method of creating awareness of Houghton College, it often serves as a means leading to a greater end of a larger marketing strategy. Both Green and Babbitt agree that the more important factor lies in a person-to-person experience.

As Green said, "Our campaigns are not designed to have the prospective 'make the decision' but rather for awareness to create openness to start a conversation with the admission team. Rarely, if ever, does a student make a decision based on an ad. It is the personal contact that usually leads to the decision of which school to attend."

Babbitt also focused on sending Houghton College to prospective students, through tactics like

the website, word of mouth, and other advertising methods, rather than waiting for them to find Houghton on their own. He said, "We're trying to put Houghton in front of students where they already are."

As private institutions may not represent the current trend, the Marketing Department's primary goal is to remind prospective students why such an education might prove the best one for them.

Babbitt said concerning one underlying marketing technique, "I think what we need to do is to effectively tell the story of Houghton so that the differences between a private Christian education and a community college, a state college, or another type of college are very clear so that students see the advantages of coming to a place like Houghton." ☐

Houghton Students Attend Intercultural Management Conference

KATHARINE LABRECQUE

On Wednesday, March 14, six Houghton students from the Political Science and Intercultural Studies Departments embarked on a trip to the Nation's Capital. Students were to attend the American University Intercultural Management Institute's (IMI) Annual Conference on Intercultural Relations. The conference costs were nearly all covered by the



CFOXCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

Katherine Lindley Project Fund and funding from SGA.

Expecting to be blown away by scholars in various studies of academia, Houghton students found themselves seemingly prepared. "The material discussed in the sessions notably confirmed and expanded my prior knowledge of intercultural relations," said senior Ben Hardy.

Students were able to attend various lectures and simulations from scholars such as Janet Bennett, author of *American Ways*, which is a text familiar to many Intercultural Studies majors. Lectures included "Strengthening Higher Education

in Africa," with a visiting professor from Uganda, and "The U.S. 2012 Presidential Election: Cross-Culture Viewpoints," with the perspective of a Japanese Professor, Motoo Unno. The diverse perspectives allowed students to observe the importance of cultural sensitivity and how awareness of different cultures can be crucial to the effects and the increasing reality of globalization.

Houghton's group, in fact, contained the only undergraduate students attending the IMI Conference. Graduate students from Penn State, Georgetown, University of Kentucky, and international students from Iceland, Romania and China made up a majority of the attendees. "I am impressed with Houghton Students. I never heard of Houghton, but I'm sure as of now going to look into it," said Dr. Nanette Levinson, Associate Professor at the School of International Service at American University. Over lunch we discussed with Professor Levinson some of the many global issues concerning us today in the twenty-first century, ranging from human trafficking to poverty in Africa.

Despite Houghton's size and isolated geographic location does not prevent it from making an impression on other universities and accomplished professionals.

Sophomore Joseph Poyfair said, "Houghton has prepared me. I am equally informed as graduate students and scholars in the field I'm studying in." ☐



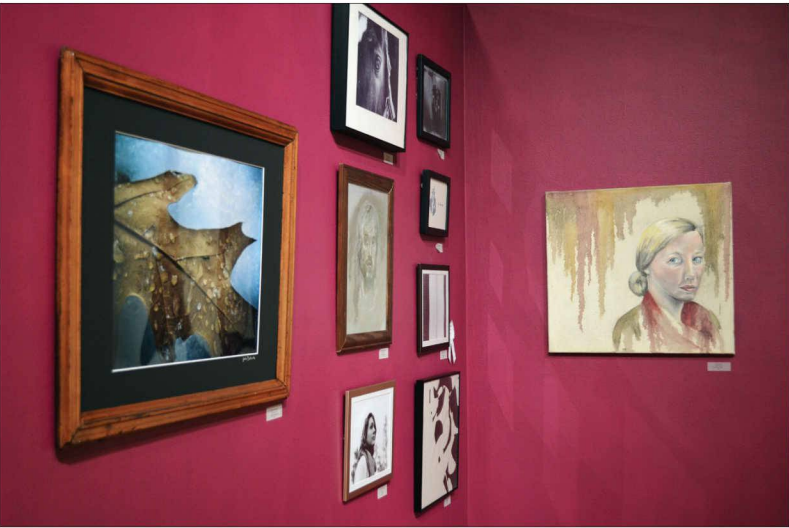
KATHARINE LABRECQUE

The students who attended the conference at American University

WANT TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE CAMPUS NEWSPAPER?

Write for the *Houghton Star*! If interested send an email to: editor@houghtonstar.com.

STUDENT JURIED EXHIBITION



Student artwork on display in the Ortlip Gallery

ANDREA PACHECO

LYDIA WILSON

Saturday, March 16 was the opening reception of the Student Juried Exhibition, a collection of artwork submitted by Houghton students and selected by visiting artist Kevin Shook. Shook is an Associate Professor of Art & Art History at Birmingham-Southern College, and specializes in printmaking and digital media. In addition to selecting which of the submitted artworks would be displayed in the show, Shook also chose at least ten pieces to be awarded

with between \$25 and \$200. Additional awards were given by President Mullen, the First Gentleman, and various art faculty members.

Each student was allowed to submit up to five works, and many took full advantage. In the days preceding the show, canvases and prints could be seen through the windows of the gallery piled against walls and pedestals, awaiting Shook’s judgment and the skilled hands of Gallery Director Renee Roberts and her assistants to arrange the show. Submission was not limited to art majors; any students on campus interested in art could submit their pieces. The tremendous response from students, as well as the open submission policy, resulted in a full, vibrant, and incredibly diverse show.

Unlike Ortlip Gallery exhibitions in the past, including previous Student Juried Exhibitions, this year’s show possesses very few common threads throughout the pieces. The color schemes are varied and disconnected. The mediums range from woodworking and ceramics to painting and drawing, and from book-making and textile art to printmaking and graphic design. And the pieces vary in size; they are sketch-pad sized and teapot-sized, they are teeny tiny and they are monumental. So perhaps it is fitting that the central focus of the room—the movable wall containing the title of the show—is painted in flashy fuchsia, a color not found in any other piece in the room. And that hanging upon that wall is a lovely abstract oil painting by Lindsay Burgher, which is made up of greens, yellows, blues, pinks, and oranges—representing in one work the splashes of color seen in different works throughout the room.

The medley of submissions is also accurately represented by the array of awards presented. The Presidential Purchase Award and the First Gentleman’s Purchase Award went to pieces of two different media, Katelyn Kloos’ woodblock print *Misty Morning in County Cork* and Megan Loghry’s ceramics piece *Great Balls of Fire*, respectively. The Moss Award for 3rd Place went to a colorful oil painting entitled *Bad Company* by Kelly Ormsby. Rebecca Dygert’s sweet and wistful litho *The First Dance* took home

FINE ARTS SEMINAR
Learning from Guest Artists

HANNAH JENNINGS

As part of the recent additions to the art department, the Fine Arts Seminar (FAS) has become a weekly investigation into the dialog of contemporary artists and their work. The seminar, which is held from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday evenings, is a course centered on building community between all students, faculty, and community members in the discussion of current studio practices and design industry issues.

Art and design majors are required to take the course for at least six semesters, and the course’s lab fee goes directly to bringing in guest artists. The debut of the weekly seminar was last fall and featured Philadelphia-based designer Alan Espiritu and painter Ann Piper, among others. This spring’s FAS students have engaged with photographers, printmakers, and painters, and will even be host to Houghton graduate Erin Bennett Banks, a well-

established illustrator.

Junior Amy Coon commented on the seminar’s value to art students, saying, “I’ve found it to be one of my least demanding classes in terms of workload, yet it is the class that I’ve gained the most from during my college experience. It has taught us how to pursue our passions and gotten us in touch with artists who have succeeded in doing just that.”

Last week’s guest artist Charles Beneke delivered a lecture titled *Radiative Forcing* and shared his work depicting and dealing with environmental issues in industrialized America. Beneke talked about his experience coming from the undergraduate program at Kenyon College, the MFA program at the University of Connecticut and his travels to Finland and Greenway to further explore these issues as an artist interested in photography, printmaking and painting.

See SEMINAR on page 5

CALENDAR

3/22

- BB vs Ithaca College @Cornell
- T & F @ Mary Washington Invite

3/23

- T & F @ Mary Washington Invite
- BB vs Ithaca College @Cornell
- WG @ Grove City Invitational
- WLAX @ Hartwick

3/24

- WG @ Grove City Invitational

3/25

- WG @ Grove City Invitational
- MG @ Westminster Invitational
- SB @ Clermont, FL
- BB @ Winter Haven, FL

3/26

- T & F @ Alfred Quad Meet
- BB @ Winter Haven, FL
- MLAX @ Thiel
- WLAX @ Mount Union
- SB @ Clermont, FL

3/27

- BB @ Winter Haven, FL
- MLAX @ LaRoche

3/28

- SB @ Clermont, FL
- BB @ Winter Haven, FL
- WLAX vs Cazenovia

3/30

- SB @ Clermont, FL

4/3

- Graduate Recital: Caleb Lawson, piano
- WLAX vs Alfred

All information from houghton.edu/calendar-events/

Things to Eat



LAURA WHITE

Rachel baking her M&M cookies

RACHEL SCHWINGEL

Just a few years ago, I had never baked anything from scratch without my mom directing each step. But I discovered that I could appreciate baking when I came to college. It is the best way I have found to relax and de-stress.

My Sunday afternoons are typically spent baking. It is not unusual for me to show up to class with a plate of cookies still warm from the oven. People will not be at my house long before I offer them something I have recently made. The ultimate reason that I love baking is how it connects me to people. Food has a unique power to bring people together. More than anything else, I love to share everything that I make with others. For me, the best way to express that I care about people is by giving them something that I have made.

I enjoy baking because it’s more methodical and precise than cooking. There are “rules” in baking. These rules do not take creativity out of baking, though. I like to tweak, and create, recipes using what I know about the science behind baking. Here are a few tips I have learned to keep cookies soft and chewy, as opposed to crunchy and crispy:

- 1) Cookies should have more brown sugar than white sugar. The molasses in brown sugar keeps them soft.
- 2) Egg yolks keep cookies soft, while egg whites get crispy. That is the reason why some recipes call for an extra egg yolk.
- 3) Cornstarch keeps cookies soft.
- 4) Chill your dough for at least an hour before baking. This is my least favorite part, because who wants to wait for their cookies? But chilling the dough prevents spreading when the cookies are baked.
- 5) Take cookies out of the oven before they look completely done. They continue to bake and set on the hot cookie sheet even when they are out of the oven.

M&M Cookies

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
 - ¾ cup brown sugar
 - ¼ cup white sugar
 - 1 egg plus 1 egg yolk
 - 2 tsp. vanilla extract
 - 2 cups flour
 - ¼ cup cornstarch
 - ½ tsp. baking soda
 - ¼ tsp. salt
 - 12-ounce bag of M&Ms
- Beat the butter and sugars until well combined using a mixer. Add the eggs and vanilla. Mix in the flour, cornstarch, baking soda, and salt until just combined with a wooden spoon. Add M&Ms.
- Chill the dough (overnight is best).
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Roll cookies to desired size and place on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 7-10 minutes until the edges are golden brown.

See GALLERY on page 5

SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL TEAMS TRAVEL TO FLORIDA



Highlanders up at bat

ATHLETICS.HOUGHTON.EDU

LAUREL WROBLICKY

While many students are headed home to celebrate the week off of classes, the baseball and softball players are headed to sunny Florida. Both teams leave this weekend and will return to New York early on Easter weekend.

Due to the weather conditions, the softball team has yet to play their first game in the new conference. Both teams have been practicing in the gym because the fields are covered in snow.

“[Going to Florida] is a chance for us to improve, to get out of the snow, to play consistently, and to play better. I think we are already playing better now than we did last year. But we need to continue to improve,” said baseball coach Brian Reitnour. “I think one of the things that Florida does for us is it gives us an opportunity to get outside because it is very difficult now to see fly balls and live pitching every day.”

“Our games have been cancelled, so it will be nice to get them out on the dirt, on real grass. It will be good for them to see the game because for half of them it is their first time playing in a collegiate game,” said softball coach Jeremy Shepherd. “We are just looking forward to them getting those first couple games under their belts.”

The schedule looks considerably different for both teams this year. Due to the new conference, the baseball and softball teams will be playing other teams recognized by NCAA division III.

“We are playing some really difficult teams. Our last day of spring break we finish with Luther who is ranked third in the country...so that will be a test,” said Shepherd. “And right when we get back we get Ithaca on that Saturday and right now they are ranked 15th in the country.”

“I think we will be better this

year than last year now that we have experienced playing with each other,” said senior Jacob Kocher. “So we have pretty high expectations for Florida this year now that we have been there and done the same thing.”

Both teams plan to have a service on Good Friday as they will be in Florida over the weekend. The softball team will return to Houghton early on Easter Sunday so some players will go home with their teammates.

“We get in on Monday, we practice. We play on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday we will have a service with family members...our players, and coaches,” said Reitnour. “It’s a little bit of an atypical year because on when Easter falls, we typically would have ten days in Florida. So it just looks a little different.”

The women have Wednesday off and will have the opportunity to take advantage of the different amusement parks in the area, such as Disney, MGM and Universal Studios. The men will have some time to head to the beach or the different amusement parks after they finish playing, and they also intend to do a service project while in Florida.

“A lot of the trip is that it is a great bonding experience. It is an opportunity for us to live out the mission of Houghton athletics,” said Reitnour. “It’s about more than just baseball and more than just our team. It is an act of worship and it is a ministry.”

“We are expecting some tough games, but as far as Coach told us, we have a good chance to win some,” said sophomore Ashley Popp. “It should be a lot of fun and I’m really looking forward to it because I just want to see the sun!”

GALLERY from Page 4

the Alumni Award for 2nd Place. *Art Gallery*, the witty watercolor by Megan Tennant, received the Paul Maxwell Memorial Award for 1st Place. And the Ortlip Award for Best in Show was presented to Alexandra Hood’s beautiful and elegiac litho, *In Time*. Several other awards were given, representing a small percentage of the assortment of

submissions from package design all the way to photography.

The Student Juried Exhibition will be on display in the Ortlip Gallery until April 18. All students are encouraged to take the time to swing by and check it out. Find out which other submissions won awards, take in the beauty of all the pieces of art, and appreciate the talent and hard work of fellow Houghton students.

SEMINAR from Page 4

The course has proven to be a very tangible exposure to the possibilities in the art world. “I find Fine Arts Seminar to be an important class that definitely helps college students envision what future career paths they can explore,” said freshman Allyson Murphy.

The seminar is part of the new Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree that the department offers. Professor Jillian Sokso, current head of the art department, explained that “by moving upper level course work from media-specific classes to interdisciplinary, team-taught studio and seminar courses, we are meeting a need to stay as current as possible with our degree offering, finding applied vocational tracks that are current and relevant.”

Amanda Irwin, a sophomore art major with plans to go into Museum Studies, has attended the Fine Arts Seminar during both semesters. “I’ve found this experience to be humbling and richly authentic,” Irwin said. “Every week I find myself

being challenged by the wide range of ideas, creativity, and dedication that is evident in the visiting artists.”

In addition to speaking as the guest lecturer, the guest artists are available to students to give one-on-one critiques of their work. This practice, in the fashion of a graduate level program, exposes students to an outsider’s feedback and knowledge. “Having an outside artist coming into our studio and giving a raw reading of our work is incredibly valuable,” said Coon. “It not only gives a fresh perspective on our work, but it confirms a lot of the advice that we hear from our professors.”

Additionally, the students participate in writing an ongoing blog about the guest artists and the conversations that they spark in the seminar. The blog can be found at <http://houghtoncollegefineartsseminar.wordpress.com/>.

An open invitation is extended to faculty, students and community members who wish to take part in the conversation each week in the Center for the Arts Room 145.

Things to Do



CERAMICSMUSEUM.ALFRED.EDU

Exhibit at the museum of ceramic art

KATHERINE BAKER

Just 45 minutes south-east of Houghton on the Alfred University campus is the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art. According to the museum website, the museum “houses nearly 8,000 ceramic and glass objects, ranging from small pottery shards recovered from ancient civilizations to contemporary sculpture and installation pieces to advanced ceramics reflecting the cutting edge of ceramic technology.”

Unique to this museum is “The outstanding collection of graduate thesis ceramics created by Alfred-educated ceramists... [which] historically has formed the core of the collection. The permanent collection has grown to include works by internationally recognized ceramic artists,” as stated on the website.

The current exhibition is titled

New Morphologies: Studio Ceramics and Digital Processes, and will be on display through April 5. According to ceramicsmuseum.alfred.edu, the exhibit “highlights work that emerges from the encounter between the physical materiality of ceramic objects and the ephemerality of digital information. Working in Belgium, the U.S., Holland, and the U.K., the makers in this exhibition explore the intersection of digital technology with ceramic practice.” Visit ceramicsmuseum.alfred.edu/exhibitions/ for more information on current, upcoming and former exhibitions.

The museum is open Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed Saturday through Tuesday and some holidays. Oh, and did I mention admission is free? Now you have no reason not to go for a visit.

Women Banding Together to Promote Feminism



ABBY BUCKINGHAM

I am a proud feminist. Make no mistake, though; I am not a feminist with a chip on her shoulder. I am appreciative of everything that the feminist movement has done for me. I love that I can vote. I have great plans for my life that do not feature getting married and having children. I would not be opposed to marriage but I have not made it a priority because I do not have to marry to survive. I have nothing against women who want to get married and have children, though. I am simply thankful for options.

Yet, we need feminism. Women still earn only 77 cents on the male dollar in the United States. The Steubenville rape case showed that victim-blaming rape culture is alive and well. Young girls all over Twitter jump to

Chris Brown’s defense anytime someone mentions the fact that he hit Rihanna with enough force to cause major bruising and say heartbreaking things about how they would let Chris Brown beat them to a bloody pulp.

A few weeks ago, Hanna Rosin published a short article on Slate called “Marissa Meyer Thinks Feminists Are a Drag. Is She Right?”. Rosin’s main premise was drawn from an interview with PBS in which Marissa Meyer described feminists as women with a “chip on the shoulder”. Within the past year, Meyer was appointed the CEO of Yahoo. Feminists across the country celebrated the appointment of a woman to such a high profile position in a male dominated field. Much to the disappointment of these feminists, Meyer has said a few times that she is not a feminist and has worked to dissociate herself from the movement. I have been tracking Meyer’s comments and movements, along with other women in the spotlight who reject the term “feminist”, with much chagrin.

How can these women disregard the way that feminism has fought for their right to be in such positions of power? Do they realize the example they are setting for younger women?

We need to stop calling it feminism, according to Rosin. The word has too many negative connotations, which accumulated as misogynists fought against the

rise of feminism and were further perpetuated by (as Meyer said in the same interview) “militant” feminists. Rosin fails to propose a new term, though. I suspect this is because there is no word that can capture the movement in the way that ‘feminism’ can. The term has over one hundred years of fighting power behind it.

Egalitarianism may come in a close second to the term of feminism but it lacks the punch that feminism has. The term definitely goes hand in hand with feminism but, to me, it is the end goal. Some people are already egalitarians, which is wonderful. I have multiple male friends who call themselves feminists and treat me with complete equality. However, we are not in a cultural place where egalitarianism can replace feminism. Too much animosity towards women still exists.

As a feminist, I think women in my age group need to own the term. Each wave of feminism has made it mean something to them and I refuse to give up because it has accumulated negative connotations. We can change those. However, we need to work together. I often hear “I’m not a feminist but...” on Houghton’s campus. I hear things such as: “I’m not a feminist but I would never, ever let him treat me that way.” Or, “I’m not a feminist but I will wear leggings as pants because they’re super comfortable and it’s not my job to keep men from looking at my butt!” Or, “I’m not a feminist but I would love to

have a career outside of the home and a husband who helps me with domestic chores.” Congratulations to anyone who has ever said such things, you are actually a feminist.

I understand why many people do not want to associate themselves with feminism. There certainly are militant feminists who are angry at the patriarchy and want to incessantly discuss this fact. However, they are not the majority. They simply have the loudest voices. If women who strive for equality would join together, we could rise above the militant feminists and work toward a connotation of feminism that is positive. We could make it a movement that people want to be a part of.

Am I being a bit idealistic? Of course I am! However, if we are going to fight the awful aspects of our culture, like the rape culture that has been so prominent in the past few weeks, women need to band together and promote feminism. Even if you do not feel oppressed, even if you are happy with your life, other women in the world need you to be a voice of reason. Men, you can take part as well. Just treat women with equality. That is all we want, in the end.

Abby Buckingham is a junior humanities and art major

I am a proud feminist.

Ex Mea Sententia / Pros and Cons of Cultural Identity: Part 2 of 3



LYDIA WILSON

Last week marked the beginning of mine and Andre Nelson’s series on cultural identity, and Andre’s installment made the argument that cultural diversity may not necessarily be a positive thing, as he linked it to incidences of mass violence throughout history.

I find it easy to follow the connections Andre draws between clashes of culture and clashes of sword. He said himself in a previous editorial on the roots of contention, “Hatred stems from a perceived fear of others’ differences and the dehumanization of that people group.” We fear what we do not know, and most often what we do not know lies in the behaviors of those outside our culture. As Andre points out, fear causes hatred, and hatred causes violence. But, there are also very clear faults in Andre’s argument. His descriptions of glorified secular societies “where cultural heritage is but a vague memory” and faith is completely disconnected bring to mind nothing but Orwellian novels with tragic endings. In his article on hatred, Andre emphasized the need to “discover people as

individuals... for then it becomes much more difficult to harbor hate.” But, where is there room for the individual in his idealistic, semi-communist utopia?

I feel that I am stating the obvious here. Those of you who read Andre’s article most likely drew the same conclusions I did, or at least felt some kind of discomfort at the thought of oppressing something as beautiful as cultural diversity, especially as it is particularly valued and celebrated here at Houghton College. So rather than continuing to pick apart Andre’s stance, my goal is to simply present an alternative view of and, perhaps, solution for, the value of culture and its effect on violence.

Cultural identity has long been associated with geographical location. Where we live affects how we live. So for the purposes of this editorial, let references to environment stand in for references to culture, as I’ll be discussing the connections between land (which shapes culture) and violence.

In the article “Reverence for the Sacred Land: A Response to Endemic Violence in Central America,” relief worker Tobias Roberts provides a glimpse of what human relations would look like if more heed was given to environment. He spent different parts of his life in two areas of South America: El Salvador and Guatemala. In El Salvador, Roberts remembers that walking down a street was a dangerous act. Violence was rampant, and seeing yet another body lying by the road was a

common occurrence. Then Roberts goes on to talk of life in Guatemala. He recalls safety, freedom, and community, and he asserts that the defining characteristic was found in the people’s relationship to the land itself. A year or so before, a company had attempted to force, using violence, the construction of a hydroelectric project on the land of a Guatemalan village. The community formed a human wall and refused passage to the company. This “connectedness to their land and their determination to defend that land,” Roberts insists, is “the single most effective barrier to the propagation of violence.”

This is a powerful example of how environment can inspire peace within a single culture. But, as Andre points out, violence is between separate cultures. Roberts provides a solution for this, too. Back in El Salvador, where people refuse to leave their houses at night for fear of violence, Roberts’ mother-in-law organized a block party to celebrate the New Year. The lights, the music, and the smell of food eventually drew people out of their houses, and what resulted was a peaceful mixing of two ordinarily warring cultures—that of the gang members and drug dealers, and the families of the community. “It was a moment when the community became sacred again, when the fear associated with violence melted away and when the community collectively affirmed that this place is us,” describes Roberts.

What I find myself left with is the con-

viction that connection to the environment—and its by-product, culture—is far too beneficial to society to be so easily discredited and dismissed. Perhaps culture, or differences in culture, does have some part in the world’s history of violence. But, it is not the only cause, and certainly not a significant enough cause to warrant its complete elimination from society. And, if you will allow me to indulge in some idealism, I would say that the propagation of communal reverence for land as a whole could create exactly the kind of large-scale peace that Andre envisions in his article.

Satish Kumar, editor of Resurgence magazine, discusses the meaning behind the designation of sacred geography such as the Ganges River and Mount Kailash in India. He makes the point that, although the people treat them as such, these are not specifically holy in and of themselves; the Ganges is not the only holy river, Kailash not the only holy mountain. Rather they are representations, local reminders of the belief by the Hindu people that all water is sacred, that all mountains are sacred, that the face of the earth in its entirety is to be treated with care. I value my culture and where I come from, and in doing so I recognize that all cultures, in their importance to other people, are valuable. Environment fosters community, and community encourages the absence of violence and the mutual respect and understanding that culture, and consequently people, is to be treated with care.

Lydia is a junior Art and Writing major

Connection to the environment—and its by-product, culture—is far too beneficial to society to be so easily discredited and dismissed.

In Memory of a Beloved Classmate and Friend: Greg Young

Greg’s memorial service in High Point, NC began with a slide-show set to his favorite song, “Ara Batur” by Sigur Ros. Prefaced by written words from Greg about his love for the song, this nearly nine and a half minute uplifting, rousing orchestral swell played while images of that “lopsided grin” (as a pastor at the service so accurately remembers it) moved in still frames across the screen. The quote that began the video ended, “I’m convinced if it were to play on speakers that echoed throughout the whole earth, wars would cease, and love would finally triumph (how I wish)...” Greg had this exuberance. This wild, manic praise and height of hope that allowed him to think large and long about incredible possibility. I have heard quite a bit about this Greg in the past couple weeks.

As I write this brief memorial, I am listening to another song that Greg loved, one that he introduced to me one late night in London. The song is about despair, melancholy, dejection, ambiguity, and regret. Greg felt these words. I first met him in a time when he felt them very strongly, a time when questions crowded out answers, a time when Sigur Ros played a bit quieter

for him. I cannot hear a word about his sureness or steadfast belief without immediately remembering that he, perhaps more than anyone I have ever known, was neither sure nor steadfast. The opposite of faith is certainty, not doubt. Greg had this doubt. This intensely interested eye for the deep down ways that the world doesn’t fit together. I don’t feel like I’ve heard as much about this Greg.

I understand that the first song is more palatable, more sermon-ready, but I refuse to misremember. He had both songs; the brilliance and dazzling ability is and always was messily mixed with incoherence and debilitation. This is certainly not to bring attention to his faults, but rather to reach out to others who may find themselves frustrated by consistently hearing about a person who doesn’t seem to fully fit with the friend they feel they’ve lost.

A favorite writer of mine took his life a number of years ago; I echo the words of his recent biographer in lamenting Greg: “This was not an ending anyone would have wanted for him, but it was the one he had chosen.” His choice is not justified. But neither is the part of him that made that choice dismissible. There is a time for mourning. This is that time.

Ben Murphy ‘14

I am not one of the many people who had the privilege and honor to know Greg for long. Our friendship was brief, born of convenience because we were housemates. When I met him for the first time last Spring I thought he would be a good enough housemate, but I did not foresee our friendship blooming as it did. What started as us being the only two housemates with enough ambition to wake up on a Saturday morning and cook pancakes for our townhouse breakfast soon became a tightknit friendship. Greg helped me to work through issues that I had struggled with since childhood. He was always willing to talk with me if I needed advice, and he never considered me his inferior despite his obviously greater intellect. He encouraged me to embrace and rejoice in my doubts about my faith, rather than feel ashamed of them. He did not see them as a weakness, but rather as an honest and sincere struggle to discover what I truly believe about God. On a less serious note, while Greg could and was always willing to speak about serious things, he also lived fully. I spent countless nights in his company, cracking jokes, listening to music and enjoying life. He made everyone around him want to drink in life as much as

he did. Whether our time together consisted of serious conversation or the members of our townhouse piling on Greg and tickling him until he howled for mercy, I never parted from him without being changed in some way. While this tragedy is not the healing or peace I or anyone would have chosen for Greg, I believe that peace and healing is what he now has. In all of my grief, sorrow, anger and numbness over his loss I cannot help but to recall a song Greg and I played every Saturday we made pancakes. One verse of the song goes “Heal the scars from off my back I don’t need them anymore. You can throw them out or keep them in your mason jars. I’ve come home”. Greg has gone home, and I eagerly anticipate the day that I join him. Until that time I can only aspire to live my life as fully as he did.

Nate Calhoun ‘14



email us

editor@houghtonstar.com

Is sorrow a zero-sum game?

I found myself feeling really guilty this weekend. It wasn’t because I felt responsible for what happened, it wasn’t because I felt like I wasn’t being a good friend to those around me (though maybe I wasn’t). It was because I looked around me and didn’t see where I fit into the grieving process. Some people were a lot closer to Greg than I was, have more memories of him, are carrying around a LOT more sorrow than I am, and will miss him more than I will. But I still miss him, I still feel sad, I still have fond memories of him. In an objective sense, he’s just as gone for me as he is for anyone else. I had classes with him, was on the same floor with him freshman year, discussed politics, music, friends, philosophy, and religion with him. He was a part of my life, though small, and I will miss him dearly.

Other people around me are wrestling with the question, “Why Greg? Why was I spared, God and not Greg?” I’ve had suicidal thoughts before, but not suicidal intentions or plans or attempts, and I had those thoughts years ago and have more or less dealt with those struggles. I can identify a little with the “Why me?” question, but not as much as some of those around me who held the razor over their wrist, hung the noose, swallowed the pills, or anything else. Also, I’ve only actually known one other person who committed suicide and I knew them less

well than I knew Greg. So this situation is, really, totally new for me. It doesn’t remind me of a dear friend from grade school, it doesn’t remind me of a family member. There aren’t a flood of emotions, set aside for a season (i.e. “dealt with”) that are coming rushing back into my conscious mind at this moment. I’ve lost family members and friends, but not to suicide. This is a different kind of pain and one that is entirely foreign to me.

I felt guilty. I felt like I didn’t have a right to grieve because other people are hurting so much worse than I am. I didn’t want to “steal their sorrow” by sharing my own less bitter emotions and less rosy memories. Not as many painful or joyful memories of others who also passed in this way are called to mind by the circumstances. Although present, the question of “Why, God?” lacks a facet that is present in other people’s questionings. I don’t want my own “lesser” sorrow and the sharing of my “lesser” memories to look fake or forced to those who are truly hurting, but I also don’t want to make that true and falsely expand my grief so that I don’t feel like a child trying to join in on the adults by talking about the problems of life.

I’ve realized that this is probably a form of pride. It takes a kind of humble courage to admit our pain, however ours may compare to that of others, and grieve when we need to grieve. Not only that, but by denying yourself grieving, you deny those around you the opportunity to have a sympathetic “shoulder to cry on.” We can debate later about whether it is God or the devil that has given

us this situation, and we can debate later about whether suicide is a sin or not and whether it is forgivable, but what we cannot do is debate about how we need to react to it: “They will know you are my disciples by your LOVE.” This is a time to be OPEN and HONEST with those around us, to “mourn with those who mourn”, wherever your mourning falls on the “scale”.

To not grieve for fear of offending those who are in true misery at this moment is to step away from those around you at a time when they need you most. Sorrow is not a zero-sum game. Sorrow is a thing to be shared.

With Sincerity,
Benjamin Hardy ‘14

Submit letters
to the editor:

editor@houghtonstar.com



Star Staff



Sarah Hutchinson
Interim Editor-in-Chief

Katharine Adametz
News Editor

Katherine Baker
Sports and Culture Editor

André Nelson
Opinions Editor

Steve McCord
Digital Media & Web Editor

Andrea Pacheco
Graphics & Photo Editor

Lauren Daugherty
Business Manager

Prof. Susan Bruxvoort Lipscomb
Faculty Adviser

2012-2013

ARTIST OF THE WEEK



ANDREA PACHECO

HILLERY DUMAN

My goal as an artist is to illustrate the way in which my inner subconscious reacts to all the fascinating and beautiful details that surround me. I then try to hone in on the memories of those elements and interpret their presence within my life. In other words, much of my art is an act of recollection... The memories buried deep within me that become, consequently, a whole other experience when they reintroduce themselves onto a canvas or a piece of paper.

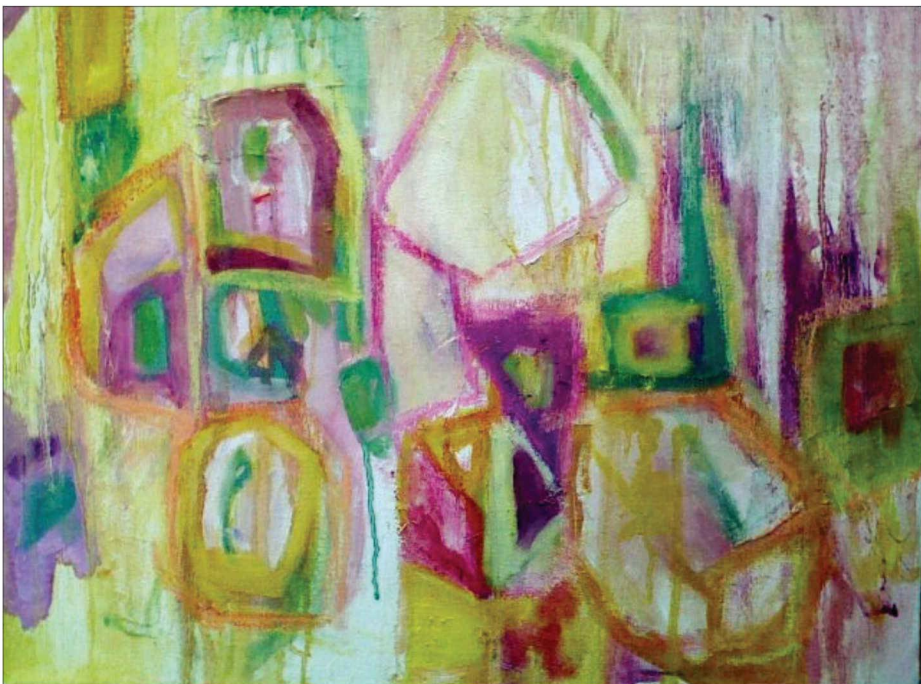
Hillery is a senior double majoring in communications and art with a concentration in painting. She is also minoring in business.



Arizona, oil on canvas and pastel



Yolks, oil on canvas and pastel



Flicker, oil on canvas and pastel

SUDOKU

© Statepoint Media

					9		5	
		2		7	3			4
5				6			9	
	2					9	7	
4	6	1				5	3	8
	7	5					6	
	5			8				9
2			3	5		7		
	4		2					

To see crossword solution from 3/15 go to www.houghtonstar.com/crossword

Last week's winner was GREG WAGNER! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.

To enter a drawing for a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6 PM on WED 4/3.

Photo of the Week



RACHEL LONGMIRE

Football in the snow