



THE HOUGHTON STAR

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"Then and Now:" Houghton Celebrates 125 Years

By Monica Sandreczki

Coupled with Homecoming, this year celebrates the 125th anniversary of the founding of Houghton College; this weekend, events are scheduled to commemorate both events.

According to Tirzah Cook, director of the Campus Activities Board (CAB), Homecoming was combined with the 125th celebration because Homecoming is generally the most convenient time for this sort of event, such as last year's Presidential Inauguration, to take place.

"A lot of times, we invite past alumni to the Homecoming event and since this is the 125th celebration, we thought it would be a good idea to hold them in conjunction," said Josh Wallace,

soph., and Vice President of the Student Government Association (SGA) and a chairperson of SAAC. "The decision came out of President Mullen and the Office of Student Life."

"This is a momentous event for current and former students, faculty, staff, and the whole Houghton community to share and celebrate in the experience," said Cook.

The Homecoming festivities begin with the Homecoming banquet and dance on Thursday evening and continue into Friday with a special chapel service entitled "Celebrating the Journey." Then, during Friday evening, a "Then and Now" celebration on the quad with each grade having their own decade for dress will take place. On Saturday, the morning will see a parade around the quad, followed later in

the evening with SPOT.

SPOT, the bi-annual student talent show will display a twist on the tradition the campus has come to expect. This semester, according to Cook, SPOT is devoting the first hour of skits to previous years' segments and is "even bringing back alumni acts from the 90's."

There has been a bit of controversy regarding the student involvement in SPOT. The amount of time allotted to current students for their talents, according to Daryl Harshbarger, soph., and member of an act in SPOT, has been cut in half due to the additional acts from previous years.

There was also concern that the actual audition process for SPOT acts was more heavily watched by the administration than in previous

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Profile: Wilson Greatbatch

By Amy Buckingham

This weekend, scientist and inventor Wilson Greatbatch returns to the campus to join in the festivities and to be honored at the 125th anniversary of Houghton College. Credited with the invention of the implantable pacemaker, Greatbatch spent much of his time working on the device in the labs of the Paine Science Building in the 1950s.

Greatbatch received his degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University before working in various research centers in western New York, including the Chronic Disease Research Institute in Buffalo, the Pavlovian Research Center, and the Cornell Aeronautical Lab.

In 1958, Greatbatch decided to dedicate his time to improving the fully implantable pacemaker. In his book entitled "The Making of the Pacemaker," Greatbatch says, "I put it to the Lord in prayer and felt led to quit all of my jobs [...]. In two years, I built 50 pacemakers, 40 of which went into animals and ten into patients. We had no grant funding and asked for none. The program was successful. We got 50 pacemakers for 2,000 dollars."

When Greatbatch started his work, the pacemakers available were external and the battery quality was often the crucial factor in the failure of the pacemakers. Greatbatch's self-contained pacemaker saves over 600,000 lives every year. After his initial invention, Greatbatch continued to research improvements for the pacemaker.

In 1969 this research led him to the Houghton College laboratories, where Dr. Bernard Piersma, then professor of Physical Chemistry, was doing research on the pacemaker electrodes. Although not a Houghton professor, Greatbatch teamed with Piersma and his colleagues Steven Calhoun and Frederic Shannon to research the composition of the battery. The problem with previous models involved the interaction of the battery materials with the inside of the body; they would corrode rapidly and fail. After years of work, Piersma, with support from Greatbatch, formulated the lithium-platinum alloy that significantly

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New Investment Center Distinguishes Business Department

By Jody MacDonald

This Friday, during the 125th departmental celebrations, the official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place for the newly established Business Investment Center.

The Center, located on the third floor of the Chamberlain Center on the main campus of the college, is a distinctive amenity that sets Houghton apart from any other Christian college or university in the eastern United States. It boasts a number of Wall Street amenities, such as a 24-foot-long stock ticker streaming the latest quotes, LCD screens showing market commentators and their predictions, and four dual-screen trader stations presenting market research results.

"The purpose was to create a 'lab' for business and accounting students, just like science students have labs," said Business professor Richard Halberg. "The difference is that [business students] research intangible financial assets and dissect companies instead of animals."

The new investment center is a vital asset to the Student Investment Group. The group, consisting of Houghton College Business and Accounting majors, is tasked with managing a quarter-million dollar share of the college's endowment funds. Under the watchful eye of Halberg, the student group has produced one, two, and three year



Photo by Ian Galloway

The Business Investment Center is unique among schools of the CCCU.

annualized returns of 14.1 percent, 13.2 percent and 10.6 percent respectively.

"This is 'learning by doing' at its best," said Halberg. "Students who manage a real account can't take inappropriate risks like you do when you are playing a game. This is a real time case study with real results. This also gives students a unique experience for their resumes. Only a very small percentage of undergraduate students get an opportunity of this type. As far as we know, we have the largest student managed fund in the Coalition of Christian Colleges

and Universities."

"We want to prepare students to meet the challenges of the global financial markets by giving them the opportunity to participate in the rapid-fire world of trading, investing, risk-management and stewardship," said professor Kenneth J. Bates, chair of the department of Business and Economics.

Chris Cruikshank, a senior and member of the Student Investment Group, affirmed the value of the opportunity: "I have learned a lot about what to look for when buying a stock; more specifically, how

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THE WORLD OUT THERE

By Joel VanderWeele

Bail-out Bill Fails

As the first Bail-out bill was being rejected by the House of Representatives on Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial was taking a 777 point dive, its largest one-day loss in history. Tuesday turned the tide a bit, as the Dow recovered 485 points on speculation that a bailout plan would ultimately get passed after Wednesday's vote in Congress. Legislators have been scrambling to re-write the bill to appease anti-regulation conservatives who originally opposed the bill without losing the support of liberal voters. If the Senate passes the revised bill, it will go back to the House for a re-vote. The list of failed/nationalized financial institutions is still growing as Fortis and Bradford & Bingley were nationalized to join Fannie & Freddie and Wachovia joined the ranks of Merrill Lynch and HBOS when it was taken over earlier this week.

Indian Temple Collapse

More than 147 people were crushed to death as crowds of people fled a collapsing temple in Jodhpur, India. Thousands of Hindus had gathered at the temple to celebrate the beginning of the Navaratra festival when a wall collapsed, causing the panicked stampede. This is the fourth time in 12 months that worshipers have lost their lives in stampedes caused by overcrowded religious festivals in India.

Pirates Ransom Ships in Somali

A group of Somali pirates have hijacked a Ukrainian ship and are demanding a \$20 million ransom. The ship, the Faina, holds 33 Russian T-72 tanks and other heavy weaponry. International military groups are currently monitoring the situation very closely and patrolling the surrounding waters to ensure that the weapons don't get into the wrong hands. There are reports that shots have been fired between the pirates, but the pirates are calling that "cheap propaganda." One crew member of the Faina has died since the hijacking, but it was from an illness he was already struggling with. Somalia has been without a functioning central government for the past 17 years, and its coast is known as one of the most dangerous in the world. There have already been 30 hijackings this year, and even more attacks.

Election Update

The McCain campaign struggled to find positive news this week as early voting began for absentee voters and in the key state of Ohio. The

battleground state has been polling a dead heat, but national polls show that Obama has the edge. Ohio, which holds 20 electoral votes, voted in favor of President Bush in 2004 and proved important to his eventual victory. Both campaigns claimed a victory in last week's debate, but neither candidate won a decisive victory. McCain received a swell of media attention for suspending his campaign to help with the Bailout bill in Washington, but when the bill failed on the floor of the House of Representatives, McCain's decision seemed to have been in vain. Meanwhile, VP nominee Gov. Sarah Palin has been struggling in a series of interviews, most notably last week's interview with Katie Couric, and preparing for her first debate with veteran Senator Joe Biden on Thursday at University of Washington in St. Louis. Editorial

Hostages Return Home

After being kidnapped on 19 September near the Egyptian and Sudanese borders, nineteen hostages have been released from captivity in the Sahara desert. One report claimed that there was a dramatic gunfight at dawn between Egyptian military and 6 armed captors, but the hostages reportedly did not hear any gunshots. Later reports confirmed that after the captors lined up the Egyptian tour guides in an execution-style line, they quietly released all the hostages and gave them one vehicle to escape with. With very little water and no spare tire, the cramped car made the six-hour journey through the Sahara to safety. The group of released hostages included five Italians, five Germans, one Romanian and eight Egyptian tour guides. Originally, the kidnappers were demanding a substantial ransom, but no money was exchanged.

MLB Playoffs

After a wild season in Major League Baseball, October is upon us and so is one of the most exciting playoff lineups in recent history. The Angels, White Sox, Rays, and Red Sox will represent the American League while the Dodgers, Brewers, Cubs, and Phillies battle for the National League. The Chicago Cubs will try to end the longest winning drought in major sports history while a young Tampa Bay Rays team attempts to take advantage of their first playoff appearance ever after posting the worst record in baseball last year. The Milwaukee Brewers are making a run for their first-ever World Series ring, while Boston goes for two in a row.

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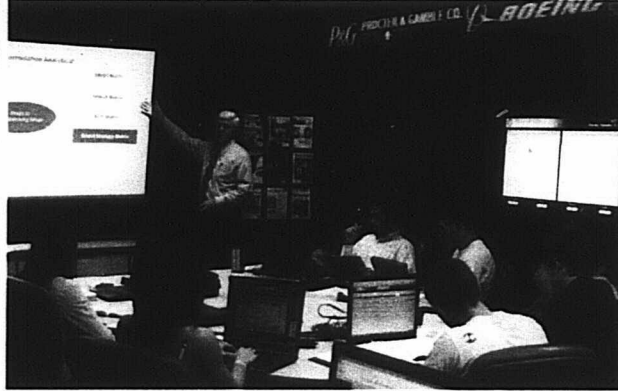


Photo by Ian Galloway

Students get hands-on experience in the new investment center.

to use fundamental and technical analysis to determine whether a company's stock is attractive. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of this group, and the new trading room is an exceptional bonus for our group."

Fellow group member Hilary Brower agreed with Cruikshank, saying, "The trading room is top of the line, and facilitates learning and research so we can better manage the endowment."


In addition to trading purposes, the room doubles as a state-of-the-art classroom, and a study space during off hours. Students are free to meet at the large conference tables for group projects, independent study or to conduct their own business research and analysis. There is open access to the room during daytime hours; after 5 p.m., a fingerprint is required for admittance.

As Houghton celebrates its 125th, the launch of this project illustrates the college's continuing goal of staying on the cutting edge of Christian education. According to Houghton College President Shirley Mullen,

"Financial management is critical to the successful life of an involved citizen, and the Christian spiritual values that we teach help us to keep our moral compasses pointed in the right direction, emphasizing growth and not greed."

A leadership grant from the Bindon Family of Novi, Mich., in addition to contributions from the Hein Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. David Findley of Avon, Conn., and others, made it possible for the project to be funded entirely without the use of Houghton capital.

The center uses real-time data provided by Reuters or Bloomberg; and software such as Financial Analysis and Securities Trading (FAST), First Call, MultexNet, Morningstar, Data Stream, and MarketGuide.

The opening of the Investment Center kicks off one of many homecoming-weekend events, which will also include a parade, amusement rides and fireworks, in addition to a convocation, concerts, lectures and a college-community Sunday worship service at Houghton's Wesley Chapel. 

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years. "Greg Bish sat in on the audition, but the overwhelming presence was [SPOT host] Adam Slocum. I think it may seem that way because Greg has a huge presence with student activities simply because he's the Student Programs Director," said Wallace.

Also new this semester is that the SPOT hosts, Adam Slocum and Megan Roll, did not audition, but were asked to be in their positions. In previous years, students have auditioned before being decided on by the Homecoming co-chairs.

Josh Strange, sophomore, member of the dance advisory board and former SGA senate member, feels the administration may have "jumped the gun a little bit" when picking SPOT hosts. "It's an important celebration, but in past SPOTs, it hasn't been a problem

with the co-chairs of Homecoming picking the hosts. I understand that the administration wanted to make sure everything looked good, but SPOT has never looked bad or had distasteful things," said Strange.

"SPOT is a current students' event. It should be fair in that all current students should have a chance to participate by choosing SPOT hosts," said Emily Rinehart, sophomore, and former co-chair of the Homecoming committee. Rinehart resigned after the co-chairs were absorbed into CAB, and taken on as staff, earlier in the semester so that the co-chairs could utilize CAB's experience and resources to make sure that everything is ready for the 125th celebration.

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Greatbatch, formulated the lithium-platinum alloy that significantly increased the quality of the battery.

Of his time at Houghton, Greatbatch says, "Don't let anyone ever tell you that good science can't be done at a small liberal-arts college, because it can be, has been, and will be done here."


In addition to his extensive pacemaker-related work, Greatbatch also conducted research in the fields of biomass energy, genetic engineering, AIDS, nuclear fusion and space travel. As of August 19, 2005, he holds 320 patents. One of his more intriguing studies includes an attempt to transfer genes from the arctic flounder plant into orange trees in order to lower the freezing point that a plant can sustain.

In an interview with the New York Times on November 14, 2001,

"The decision to go with Adam and Megan as SPOT hosts was one made by Tim Nichols and approved by the Homecoming Chairs," said SGA president Peter Savage. Cook also emphasized that the Homecoming chairs had approved the selection of the SPOT hosts, adding, "The hosts had to be around last semester to begin working on this [SPOT] since it was such a special project."


Wallace agreed: "I think it's a good idea because it allowed for a lot of extra preparation that hadn't been needed for other events in the past. This go around was important because we have seen a lot of extra preparation because of the 125th celebration and Homecoming. The extra time Adam and Megan have had has been really beneficial."

According to Cook, there is a lot of controversy because students might be unaware that this semester's SPOT is meant to be different. Since it is a representation of the best acts over the years, it had to be planned earlier than usual. Cook also said that the administration has always had a role in approving the auditions and that they've worked alongside the SPOT hosts as they do every year.

"The Office of Student Life (OSL) and its subsidiaries, such as the Office of Student Programs (OSP), have done their role of overseeing, but not overstepping their bounds. They're doing what they're supposed to do from an institutional point of view," said Wallace. 

Greatbatch said, "People often ask me what's been the most important accomplishment in my life. I have 250 patents now. But I think it's that I've had the opportunity to speak to over a thousand fourth graders about the pacemaker..."

When you hear how a pacemaker works for the first time, it sounds like a dream. But it's not. I think it's important to get them thinking."

Greatbatch has received numerous honors, including the Nobel prize equivalent, the Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ Prize, and the National Medal of Technology. Despite his awards and accomplishments, Greatbatch maintains a humble demeanor. Irmgard Howard of Houghton's Chemistry department says of Greatbatch, "I soon discovered that Greatbatch was indeed a humble genius, one who embodied all of the best qualities of a scholar, a servant and a scientist." 

"This is a momentous event for current and former students, faculty, staff, and the whole Houghton community to share and celebrate the experience."

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

Schedule of festivities for the weekend of October 3-5, 2008

Friday October 3, 2008

- 10:00-11:20 am: Chapel Convocation, "Celebrating the Journey", Wesley Chapel
- 1:15-2:25 pm: Alumni Panel Presents: "The Calling", Various locations
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Alumni Panel Presents: "Globally Connected", Various locations
- 4:10-5:30 pm: Open College Choir Rehearsal by Dr. Donald Bailey, Wesley Chapel
- 4:00 pm: Women's Volleyball game vs. Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, Nielsen Center 4:00 pm: Women's Soccer game vs. Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, Burke Field
- 6:00 pm: Men's Soccer game vs. Mt. Vernon Nazarene University, Burke Field
- 7:00-8:00 pm: Celebrating the Visual Arts, Alumni Art Gallery Show, Ortlip Art Gallery
- 8:15-9:00 pm: Guest Lecture, Dr. James Barcus, Class of '59, Recital Hall, Center for the Arts
- 9:00 pm: "Then and Now" Celebration on the Quad
- Fireworks after dusk

Saturday October 4, 2008

- 9:00 am: Soccer Alumni Game, Wilt Field
- 9:00 am: Volleyball Alumni Game, Nielsen Center
- 9:15 am: Alumni House Renovation Kick-off, Walldorf House
- 10:00 am: Grand Parade: Village Main Street
- 11:00 am- 12:00 pm: Business and Economics Department Investment Center Open House, 3rd Floor Chamberlain Center
- 11:00 am- 12:00 pm: First Year Honors Program Reunion, Dieter Board Room, Center for the Arts
- 11:00 am- 1:00 pm: Festival on the Quad (Lunch, rides and games)
- 12:00 pm: Women's Field Hockey vs. Wells College, Alumni Athletic Complex
- 1:15 pm- 2:30 pm: Open College Choir Rehearsal with Dr. Donald Bailey, Wesley Chapel
- 2:30 pm- 3:30 pm: Greatbatch School of Music Reunion and Reception, Adelman Atrium, Center for the Arts
- 2:00 pm: Women's Soccer vs. Ohio Women's University, Burke Field
- 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm: Affinity Group Reunions (Student Publications, Student Government, Athletics, Residence Halls) Burke Field
- 3:30 pm- 4:30 pm: Houghton Wesleyan Church Organ Demonstration and Alumni Organ Recital, Houghton Wesleyan Church
- 4:00 pm: Men's Soccer vs. Ohio Men's University, Burke Field
- 6:00 pm: Alumni and Community Gathering Dinner, Campus Center, Main Floor and Upstairs
- 7:00 pm: Alumni Annual Business Meeting, Campus Center lower level (All alumni invited)
- 8:00 pm: College Choir "Then and Now" Concert, Wesley Chapel
- 9:30 pm: Birthday Cake on the Quad
- 10:00 pm: SPOT "Then and Now", Wesley Chapel

Sunday October 5, 2008

- 10:00 am: Church Service, Wesley Chapel



Houghton Highlanders: Women's Volleyball Update

By Luke Sanford

The Women's Volleyball team is looking forward to another exciting season. The team is entering its 13th year under Coach Nancy Cole and is looking to further her already impressive 233-166 record.

The women's season has been up and down so far. They opened out by winning five of their first eight matches, but hit a rough patch and dropped four conference matches in a row to tough competition.

They re-energized their game, however, and went on to win two out of three matches in last weekend's trip to Pittsburgh. The women are not even halfway through their season and hope to keep the momentum rolling in this weekend's homecoming game against Mount Vernon Nazarene.

This season looks to be a little different than the team is used to from past AMC experience. "The north and south divisions of the conference joined this year so we only play each team once," Junior Lenore Bassett commented, "This is hard because we aren't able to learn their strategy the first time we play them...but we are putting up a good fight."

This year's roster is quite unique.

After losing only two seniors from last year's team, one would tend to think that this is a veteran club, yet the opposite is true. The squad has no seniors, but is made up of four juniors, six sophomores, and two freshmen. The youthful club is led by a tri-captaincy made up by outside hitters Bassett and Ashley Kuvshnikov, and libero Brianne Brubaker. "Some major changes in the season are due to Ashley, Holly and I all playing defense now," Bassett continues, "we have not played back row since early in our careers...but we're managing."

The team will also receive leadership from Holly Motheral who was AMC Freshman of the Year in 2006 and was named All-AMC in 2006 and 2007. Sophomore Leah Scott will look to aid Motheral on the front line while Darby Emerson seeks to follow up her All-AMC freshman status with another impressive season. Sophomore Megan Phipps will enter her second year as

the team's setter and claim the most assists so far.

They have also been experimenting with new strategies off the court to enhance their play. "We feel like with our tough schedule we have to be committed to being as ready as possible for

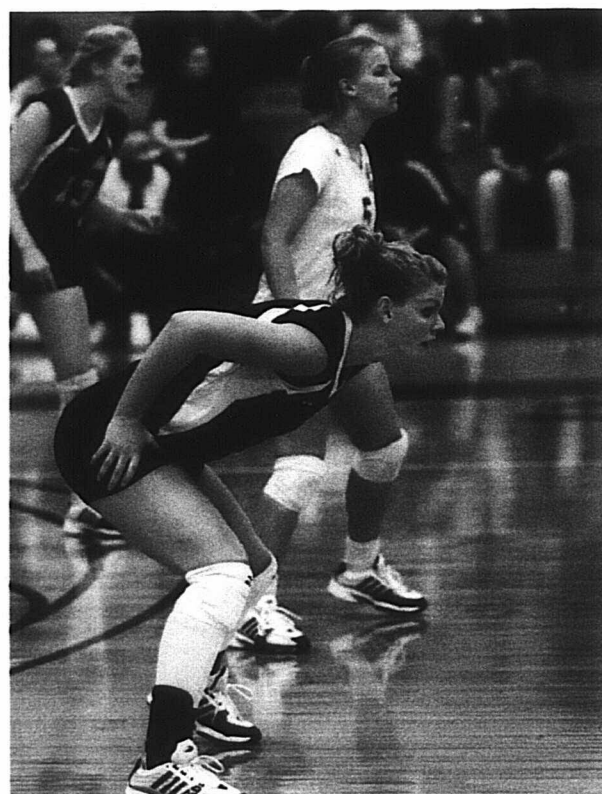


Photo by Ian Galloway

The volleyball team is re-energizing their game for the rest of the season.

every match. Focusing on our off the court discipline will hopefully translate into more discipline on the court," comments Emerson. Coach Cole recently spearheaded a nutrition push in which diet, proper sleep, and healthy living have been the main focus to enhance fitness.

The Highlanders have to play two games in one day on several occasions and feel that their healthy living program will increase their energy to play at the highest potential.

The Highlanders take on Mount Vernon Nazarene today at 4pm.

Movie Review: "Iron Man" Stays True to Original Story

By Tim Snyder

Billionaire Tony Stark is one of Marvel's more popular characters, though his name was widely unknown, that is, it was until this summer's blockbuster *Iron Man*. Perhaps this movie was the best movie to start off a summer filled with superheroes and great comedies alike. While it was not

dark and foreboding like *The Dark Knight*, nor did it invoke the slightly creepy, slightly funny, and chilling portrayal of a villain like Heath Ledger's Joker, still, it brought movie-goers into an excited mode as far as comic book movies go, which was good considering the summer line-up that followed.

Iron Man was Marvel Studios' first movie and showed that while other superhero movies can be good without direct oversight from their creators and the holders of their copyright ("X-Men" or "Spider-Man," anyone?) with their direct oversight, the movie can stay true to both an entertaining view of the superhero as well as the comic itself, which only makes sense to me. As a reader of some comic books myself and a reader of books in general, I usually find it heartening when a movie can live up to its print adaptation rather than ruining what could otherwise have been a good and entertaining experience. It also makes sense to me that to draw material from the comics themselves seems to be the best way to make a good storyline without too much effort—let's

face it, if the comics hadn't had good storylines in their print versions, there really isn't a reason to make them into films, and drawing from the good story already to make a movie seems to help the movie to almost write itself.

This was the biggest triumph of *Iron Man*: it drew its story almost directly from the comic version, thus maintaining what was already a good narrative while expanding it into a film format that could incorporate some interesting visual effects simply with motion and timing that while comics contain, a movie can communicate better (not necessarily, but if done well). *Iron Man* combined its action plot, which, upon retrospect was really not all that much action, with an ample wit and Robert Downey Jr.'s incredible acting, plus the usual issue that one might expect to come up in a Marvel Comics movie: who am I and what am I doing?

The lack of action was seen by many to be a positive attribute of the movie as it made Tony Stark's character come to the forefront and the characters of Marvel comics are always more important than

whatever they may be doing, despite how "cool" it may be.

The truth behind this summer of good superhero flicks is also perhaps in the acting itself. Robert Downey Jr. did a great job as Tony Stark, both in *Iron Man* and in his cameo in *The Incredible Hulk*, where the hero is portrayed by Edward Norton of *Fight Club* fame. Finally, with the clincher and the biggest success of the summer being Morgan Freeman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Aaron Eckhart, and Heath Ledger in *The Dark Knight*, it seems that the superhero genre is beginning to learn that casting good actors in their movies helps those movies become not just good adaptations of the comic book format but excellent movies in their own right.

"Iron Man" was released on DVD and Blu-Ray last Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

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Eclectic Music Duo Scratch Track Returns to Campus

By Seth Frndak and Mark Satta

Back by popular demand, Scratch Track came to perform last Thursday night in the Campus Center. The Acoustic Neo-Blues/Soul/Hip-hop/Pop/Rock group has been on the road for some time performing at colleges, bars, and coffee houses across the country. Recently they had a chance to take their unique style to Japan. During the concert, about six people were hoisted into the air and at least three were dropped on their heads. Numerous students sang along enthusiastically to a few of the opening songs, much to the surprise and delight of the band. The crowd definitely enjoyed the show. After the concert, the band allowed us to interview them for a couple minutes. As we munched on cheese, crackers and grapes DJ and Jason told us what it was like to be part of an emerging band.

STAR: Tell us a little about yourselves.

DJ: I beat box and sing for the "internationally known" band Scratch Track.

JASON: I'm Jason, and I play the guitar for Scratch Track.

STAR: We looked you guys up on Wikipedia the other day, and you were described as an Acoustic, Hip-hop, Soul band. Do you think that is accurate?

JASON: It's really hard to narrow down a genre for us, just because we bounce through so many. Through the set we're going through a rock tune sound, to a hip-hop sound to a pop sound. We also have some jazz

on our record, so it's whatever fits.

DJ: Usually we describe ourselves as being kinda like a rock, soul, acoustic, alternative blues sound.

STAR: Do you do all of your own writing?

DJ: We try to. We did some covers too, but I mean, we would like to cover write more, but we haven't really had the opportunity and we are on the road so much. We don't live in L.A. or Nashville...but we really would like to spread our style across the world.

STAR: You did say you were "Internationally known."

DJ: Yeah, we've been to Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, the U.K. and also Japan...it's pretty awesome, people dig it. Most of the shows that we did are for the troops, but there were also a lot of locals there too. It's really refreshing when people don't know English but still dig your music. You know, in a Michael Jackson kind of way. Like you've kinda pushed through and done something that's for not just one sub-culture, but a kind of broad application.

STAR: What was the reaction when you were over there?

JASON: It was good...there weren't festivals, there weren't coffee houses, there weren't bars that we played in. It was all in military bases, but a lot of people came out. It was pretty much the



Photo from Scratch Track website

Scratch Track played their second show at Houghton College last Thursday.

same reaction as upstairs...

DJ: *laughing* Less jumping.

STAR: We also saw that you had a song on CSI New York.

JASON: That was from our first album

DJ: Yeah, that was a couple years ago.

STAR: How did that work? Did they approach you?

JASON: I think our management was in that...somebody always knows somebody

DJ: At first we tried to get our cd's out as best as possible...a lot of

times we get an opportunity like that and it's just walking in at just the right time...it was cool, really exciting.

JASON: Yeah, it was crazy to hear it on national TV, you know?

DJ: It was so weird too because our management

calls and was like, "Hey! CSI wants to use "Don't Go" and we were like, "Cool, ok cool!"

JASON: And that's not how things work in the music industry at all! It's gotta go through this guy, this guy, this guy...

STAR: How do you guys work? We didn't see a record label. Are you your own label?

JASON: Yeah, we are fortunate.

DJ: We do it all, right now we bumped management too so we do a lot of it on our own.

STAR: Do you prefer that?

DJ: Some days, yeah. Some days we feel like "We're going to do this." But I think we are at the point in our career where we've kinda surpassed that. It's hard to keep up with things. That's a good thing too. We've got a lot of things in the fire.

STAR: If you could take yourselves in any direction where would it be? Would you like to stay in smaller

venues, or would you like to go elsewhere?

JASON: We do play in bars, clubs, coffee houses, festivals, but I mean I don't want to speak for us, but it would be nice to have a bigger fan base. It would be nice to be able to go to Houghton, and then drive down to Cincinnati which we're playing tomorrow and have the same amount of people at that show that we did tonight. Even if it was like fifty people at every show, you know, everywhere you go. It's kinda like a dream for us. Success,

"Success, for us, would just be to have a loyal fan base. We want to be able to play 'til we can't anymore."

we feel, would be two hundred, three hundred people a show...

DJ: Yeah, success, for us, would just be to have a loyal fan base. We really want to be able to play 'til we can't anymore.

STAR: What is the songwriting

process like for you?

JASON: It just depends. Sometimes he'll tell me to throw something down, do a guitar part, and other times he'll have a vocal line. It really just depends. This last album, The Legend of Wild Bill...

DJ: Available on iTunes and our website!

JASON: *laughs* Yeah, it was quite a process, actually. Really if we sit on it too long we start to hate it. You can overanalyze things.

DJ: I would say that for every song we have, probably two didn't make the cut.

STAR: Last question: What artists influenced you the most?

JASON: Zeppelin. The Beatles. As of late I've been listening to a lot of old blues/ jazz stuff.

DJ: "Michael Jackson. Take Six. The Stilettos. Some pop music... we try to stay up on anything, see what's up, what the kids are going crazy for, we like a wide variety."

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2008

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QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY

Students and Faculty from Houghton

Programs



Our Common Ground: Finding a way to Deal with Disconnect

Disconnects are an inevitable part of life, but are we becoming too comfortable with our differences to strive for true community?

by Clara Sanders

As someone pursuing a dual degree, I am sometimes reminded of my double-life rather sharply – like when I mention “recorder consort” and my non-music-major friends look at me like I am talking about a scribal mistress. Or, more subtly, when I am unable to put in an evening devoted to the combating of human trafficking because I have to put in three more hours of practicing before leaving the music building at 1:30 a.m.

I have always wanted to be involved in more things than is actually possible, and when I find myself falling behind the other students in either of my degrees I feel a painful disconnect, like I cannot completely identify with either group because I cannot be wholly devoted to either; many double majors can probably empathize with this sort of issue. So I try not to think about it. I attend at least one class outside of the CFA every semester, and I have given up hope that my friends in these different areas will ever really understand or connect with each other.

What little of life I have experienced seems to be punctuated with these feelings of connection

and disconnection. The home-to-college transition is a very good and common example of this, because of the disconnect it creates between “home people” and “college people”; even when the two groups do connect, we often lose the context of our individual relationships in those groups.

In Monday’s chapel, Bishop Woodie T. White encouraged us to find common ground to bridge these gaps that mar our broken relationship with God and with each other. This is a frequent sentiment at Houghton already, though—we are all children of God and live together in community. How nice.

In reality, many of us acknowledge this sentiment, but few actually focus their efforts on finding and walking on that common ground. After all, that would require us to really love each other. That kind of commonality would pervade the parts of our lives we want to operate on our own terms: our opinions of others, our attitudes toward classes, the gossip we want to spread. When negativity

and hate manifest themselves in words said behind others’ backs, we assert our individual jurisdiction and rights over such feelings; however, when we offer words of concern or correction with respect and goodwill, we acknowledge the communal nature of life that is proclaimed by the faith we profess.


This is all rather idealist and seemingly socialist, but if we cannot find that common ground here at Houghton, how much harder we will have to search when we leave an intentionally Christian and educational environment!

Shall we focus our efforts on reducing or removing the disconnects in our lives, or simply learn how to live with them? The disconnects will never go away, but disregarding them only widens the gap. Recently I considered the common element of passion that I have for both of my majors and realized that this element could reconnect me with both of my pursuits, and possibly even provide a framework for understanding between artists and scientists, or other people who find themselves on

very different roads.

As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Houghton College, we find ourselves in the midst of a host of disconnects. What are the different expectations and desires of administrators, faculty, students, and alumni in regard to this weekend? Will both current students and alumni be able to connect with the “SPOT Through the Ages”? What will the Class of 1952 think of the music in chapel?

We celebrate the 125 years that Houghton College has used to foster connections and challenge the inevitable disconnects. As we come together and assert our common heritage not only in God but in this college, we are rejoicing in that common ground we have found together.

I invite you to think of this Anniversary as a tangible piece of common ground. Times and people and places change, but by God’s grace humanity’s state as children of God remains. May that reminder shape even our most personal actions and continue to connect us to each other. 

Clara is pursuing a dual degree in Piano Performance and Intercultural Studies

The HOUGHTON STAR is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas, and encourages community members to participate in the discussion.

Ideas expressed in these pages reflect solely the opinion of the writer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit any contributions for reasons of length or decorum.

Letters to the editor (signed) should be 350 words or fewer and be submitted by Monday at 7 p.m. to **STAR@houghton.edu**.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors:

We are writing to address a few falsehoods noticed in Micah Warf’s article “SPOT: Sit Back, Relax, and Enjoy (Their) Show.”

As the stage managers of this year’s SPOT we found that we could not stay silent. Upon reading the aforementioned article we were shocked to discover that the newspaper would allow for such a large article to be published with so many bold statements. We would like to set the record straight on what is really happening in this fall’s SPOT.

1. SPOT has “been taken almost entirely out of students’ hands.” SPOT is still a student run event. It is being lead and managed by current students.

2. “...SPOT will be a rehashing of material that has gone over well in the past, and the remaining portion will be composed of fresh acts.” SPOT is still over an hour and half of new acts that are being performed by current students. This is in addition to a smaller section of acts that highlight the history of SPOT from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and 2000’s.

3. “...not been publicly acknowledged...” The administration has realized that this is not the customary approach to running spot. Greg Bish and Dr. Timothy Nichols both have admitted this and have discussed

with Peter Savage (SGA President) that if the student body would like a second SPOT this semester that the SGA needs to take it to the Student Senate. If the Senate also agrees, the administration will agree to it 100%.

4. “Even more troubling, these are hosts who have already had a shot at SPOT.”

Yes, this part is correct, the SPOT hosts have done this before however this is the reason that they were chosen for hosting again. After talking with three past SPOT hosts, they have admitted that it took a little bit of persuasion. *Maybe* that would not have been the case *this time* however this is not something that the administration could sit around and wait to find out. The current SPOT hosts agreed to take this position and have been working on it all summer and helped to develop the “125th Then and Now Theme”.

Homecoming for years has been a time for current students, faculty, administration and alumni to all join and celebrate. The administration has worked very hard to do things in a special way for students this year and we find it poor that instead of thanking them for their hard work, it has been criticized and poorly represented. From an insiders perspective we believe that this SPOT will be one of tradition, fun and a celebration of student life on campus, then and now.

-Ashley Hackett and Jackie Shaw, Class of 2009

Dear Editors:

One week ago, I finally received my diploma from Houghton College. It turned out that I had some loose ends of coursework that needed to be completed before I officially joined the Houghton College Alumni Association. Research paper finished, diploma in hand, and proud of my accomplishment, I decided to visit the Houghton webpage and – what else? – check my Houghton e-mail account one final time.

Buried amongst the 957 e-mails were two gems that caught my eye. The first was labeled, “STAR Request – sent on behalf of Katarina Kieffer, STAR Editor.” Intrigued by what request Katarina Kieffer, STAR Editor might have for me, I opened the e-mail. Houghton students, it read, had begun to feel “prank-ish,” and the *Star* newspaper box had been borrowed. Might someone please return it?

The second e-mail was more succinctly labeled: “Chapel Attendance.” Concerned that I had missed my quota for the previous spring semester, I hastily opened the message. A quick read-through relieved me of my initial fears; I was stunned to learn, however, that as many as 40 (!) students had been “scanning and scrambling” during each chapel period. I trust that appropriate measures have since been taken to bring this 3% of the student body to justice.

I was reminded, though, of the legendary borrowing of the chapel

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scanners that took place during my senior year at Houghton. A group of students fashioned themselves as revolutionaries and temporarily borrowed the equipment used to monitor students' attendance at each chapel service. Accused of theft, the perpetrators were threatened by various administrators with arrest if the scanners were not returned within a few hours.

The faux-revolutionaries backed down, and immediately returned the borrowed equipment. (Hardly the stuff of Paul Berman and the student revolutionaries of 1968.) The school newspaper published an editorial defending the students, but lamented that they had given in so quickly to the demands of administrators.

Reflecting on these events, I was struck by something: in my day, prank-minded students borrowed important things from administrators and members of the faculty, not other students. What have students become?

And so, to the avant-garde students who have borrowed the newspaper box, I therefore suggest the following: why not return the newspaper box, and try out that scanner-borrowing act instead? I'm sure the newspaper would be grateful, and the e-mails that I've received suggest that many Houghton students aren't attending chapel in the first place. You may even be able to count on the *Houghton Star* as a friend in need, and perhaps even as a comrade-in-arms.

Yours,

William Airhart, Class of 2008

Dear Editors:

I was very pleased to read the editor's comments regarding this semester's SPOT. That being said, I can understand the administration's position. They want all the icing on the cake that is the 125th celebration weekend to be perfect.

When I first heard that they were having about 30 to 40 minutes of "classic SPOT" acts involved, I actually thought it might be interesting. What did SPOT look like before we all got here? I'd like to know. But am I willing to find that all out while it's taking time away from other current student's acts? I'm not so sure.

The writer of the article claimed that this year's SPOT has been taken completely out of the student's hands. I disagree. The majority of the acts that will show are still acts from current students. The students still had some say, just not as much.

Through all their careful planning, I think they did one crucial thing that crossed the line: they chose the hosts, and they're people who've hosted before. I have nothing against the current hosts themselves. I thought they did a fine job last time and I have no doubt that they'll only do well again. But what about the young Jonny Junior who never has hosted SPOT before and has always wanted

From the Editors' Desk...

Breaking the Silence on a Hushed Topic

In the (recent) past, homosexuality was a heavily discussed topic on campus. Where is that dialogue now?

by Margaret Boecker

With the 125th anniversary weekend basing itself around a sort of "homecoming" for alumni, one assumes that Houghton College, as an alma mater, is a place alumni actually want to visit. This seems to be true. I have seen many graduates return to visit in the past three years, and have even heard many of them comment that they "miss Houghton." Why would they miss it, though, or want to come back, unless something as elusive as a memory of this place stands out as having been especially happy or beneficial?

Of the graduates I have spoken to, I've noticed a common theme when they bring up what they miss most about attending Houghton: the opportunities for valuable, lasting relationships and friends. Surely our relationships (or lack thereof) have the ability to affect the outcome of our career here. As students, what will we find ourselves reflecting on the most when we depart from here after these four brief years? I believe it will depend heavily upon the kind of interpersonal encounters we've had.

In the event that those encounters go wrong, individuals are severely affected. I recently came across some intriguing dialogue within the Facebook group for Houghton College Alumni, particularly some comments from an alumnus regarding his very negative experience of being a gay student at Houghton. His harbored bitterness toward the institution does not affect the reality behind the fact that often times, a gay person living in a community such as ours feels socially and psychologically

a chance? One of his chances was just taken away, in a way that he didn't deserve. What would be wrong with someone new hosting SPOT? That's my big question here.

I would also like to say that I think the idea of an extra SPOT this semester is kind of insulting. It's as if they're admitting their own fault and trying to make up for it. Frankly, it takes away from the special-ness of SPOT. If I had Norwegian waffles more frequently than just Christmas morning, they wouldn't be as special. The same applies with SPOT. These days, it's once a semester and it should stay that way. Any more often and we risk bastardizing the entire event. The quality of the acts would go down, the excitement wouldn't build, and the productions wouldn't be as grandiose. I, for one, don't want a second-rate apology SPOT from the administration. I'd rather just take what they give me in their part of the event, and then walk home with my dignity.

-Eric Stevenson, Class of 2008

abused.

One of the numerous responses to this alumnus came from Christine (DiFonzo) Loos, '06, a past Houghton *Star* Editor-in-Chief. Her optimistic claim was that in the years she attended Houghton, along with forums and articles written in the paper, dialogue was encouraged pertaining to the issue of homosexuality. She stated that "there is a lot of support at Houghton now, and more openness I believe. Or (at least) I hope, after all that was done in 2004-2006." From what I've observed during my own career ('05-'09), however, I would not readily say that there is a lot of openness to dialogue about homosexuality. Truly, homosexuality is one of the most difficult issues to grapple with in the Christian community. It is also one of the hardest things for us to accept—but why?

Most likely it is because many of us grew up in a Christian context and have been taught that the Bible contains our guidelines for determining right and wrong. In the same way that we've learned that sex outside of marriage is wrong, we have learned that a homosexual lifestyle is wrong. But even some Christian girls get pregnant out of wedlock, and homosexual individuals are still present with us in Christian communities. In these delicate situations, do we not often take it upon ourselves to do the work that is not meant for us to do—admonishing, even condemning? Even outside of our Christian

boundaries, we do not ever associate the negativity of deprecation with positive results. What do we achieve by condemning a gay person, or an unmarried pregnant woman? Can we really do anything to change people and situations by acting in this way?

Whether we believe that homosexuality is acceptable, or an atrocity, or a sin equated to all other sins—it simply makes no difference, because it is finally God who works in each of us individually. We, in ourselves, are powerless aside from that. Our consistent response, then, should be one of kindness.

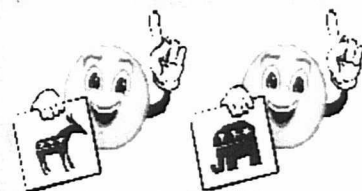
Yes, homosexuality is one of the most difficult issues for a Christian Community, but that doesn't mean we should ignore it.

If we take just one thing from our time together in Houghton, let it be the relationships we have built with our fellow students, our professors, and all members of the community. We are charged to treat one another in love. Who knows what kind of change this could bring about?

It should be evident that when we judge our brother or sister—or far worse, shun them—we both end up the worse for it, because we each suffer the loss of that relationship. It's not worth it; relationships are too precious. So let us disagree, but not reject one another; let us raise questions so we come to know what we believe, but not condemn another whose beliefs are different. After all, we are called to love, and this is how love is accomplished.

Margaret is a senior Art major, and serves as Sports and Culture editor.

POLITICAL FORUM

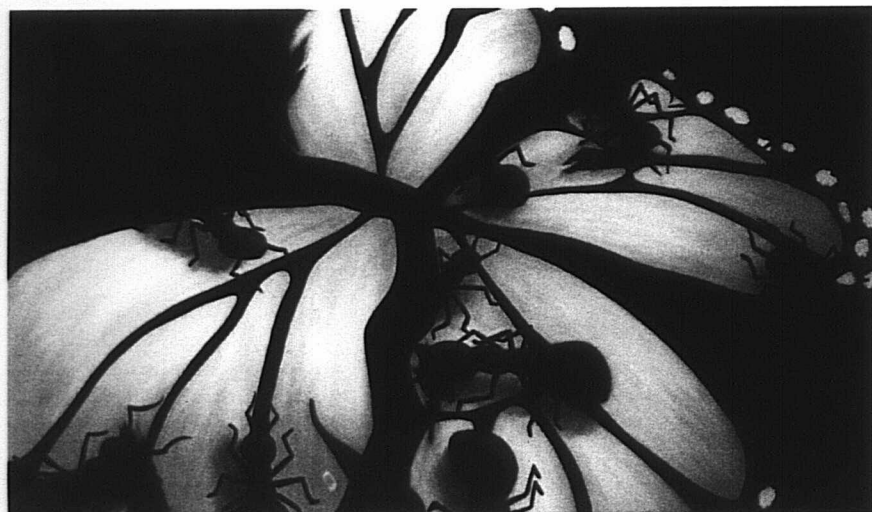


Monday, October 6
7-8:30pm
Chamberlain Center
Room 125

Sponsored by Gadfly, SGA, and the Star



artist. OF THE WEEK.



Destroying Beauty, painting

CAMEO LUSSIER-LAWRENCE

Notes from the artist:

I'm an artist and I create images of the different crazy things I see in my head. My hope is that when people look at my work, they get to see through a little window into my warped mind. It's okay if you don't get it, 'cause the only way to fully understand my art is to understand all my weird inner workings which are basically impossible to discern. I could try to explain, but that might leave you more confused than you were when you started. All in all, I hope you can simply enjoy looking at my art if nothing else.

Cameo is a senior Art major with a concentration in Painting.



Hiding, painting

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Alumni Art Exhibit Opens Tonight

By Jeffrey Andersen

Amid all of the festivities this weekend one event not to miss is the opening reception of the Alumni Art Show, appropriately titled "Homecoming", opening this Friday evening. This is an important show for Houghton, demonstrating the continuing vitality of the arts program here.

The show represents the work of graduates from as far back as 1951, to as recent as last year. Nearly every genre is represented, including photography, sculpture, textiles, graphic design, still life and landscape. Houghton alum prove themselves to be an adroit bunch, capable of social commentary and wit, building on old traditions and combining multiple media in new ways.

The watercolor paintings of Eila Shea – teacher at Houghton Academy and daughter of Aileen Ortlip Shea in whose memory the most recent show was held – hang

above the porcelain pieces of Alice Barry, which combine printmaking and ceramic processes. Three of the four Barry sisters (all of whom graduated art majors from Houghton) are represented in this show. Current Houghton students might also be familiar with artists Paul Christensen, Jeff Babbitt, and Mindy Airhart.

Said Art Department Chair Jillian Sokso, "I think it's a good illustration of what our students are doing, of what kind of professional activity and successes they are having. It's exciting to see the work from all of the different years all together." Houghton alumni around the country are teaching and being recognized, but most importantly they are always learning. Hi Nan Kang, whose poignant photolithographs addressing eating disorders, graduated a sculptor from Houghton and only learned printmaking in graduate school. Anna Maria Johnson's textiles are made of wool that she sheared,

spun, dyed, and wove herself, skills that aren't taught at Houghton. Also of interest are the witty multimedia works of Paula Swisher and art books created by Amanda Bentley.

The reception is tonight, October 3rd, at 7pm in the Ortlip Gallery.

SUDOKU answers

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