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New Open Hours to Begin in Fall

LUKE LAUER

Starting next year, residence hall open hours will be extended on the weekends. Included in the changes, Thursday nights will become the only night without open hours. This all in response to the Residence Life Student Satisfaction Survey.

According to Marc Smithers, director of residence life & housing, starting in the 2015-2016 school year, all residence halls will have open hours extended to 1 a.m. on Friday night and extended until 12 a.m. on Saturday nights. In surveys for the last several years, Smithers said, "Students [have been] asking for an updated open hours policy, especially talking about wanting to stay later on the weekends."

Saturday open hours will now start at 7 p.m., instead of 4 p.m., to reduce confusion, add consistency throughout the



ANTHONY BURDO

Next semester the dorm hours will allow students of the opposite gender to remain in rooms until 1 a.m. on Friday nights and 12 a.m. on Saturday nights.

week, and compensate for later hours on Friday and Saturday according to Smithers.

Additionally, open hours will now be in effect on Monday nights in only the men's dorms,

Rothenbuhler and Shenawana. On Wednesday nights, only the women's dorms, Lambien and Gillette, will have open hours. This is based on a staggered model used at Taylor University

according to Smithers.

A way to remember the days is "Monday men's, Wednesday

See **HOURS** page 2

Three Faculty Hired for Next Year

DANI EATON

Last fall, several new faculty were hired in the music, math, and communication departments. Brandon Bate, Sarah Hutchings, and Madison Murphy were hired in the fall of '14 and will continue on as part of the faculty in the fall of '15. According to the Dean of the College, Linda Mills Woolsey, both Bate, assistant professor of mathematics, and Hutchings, assistant professor of music theory and composition, "will be returning, moving from interim positions to longer term positions." Both Bate and Hutchings will be on the Full Time Tenure Track. Bates, an '04 Houghton Col-

See **HIRES** page 3

College To Get Mascot

ALICIA NEEDHAM

Recently, interest in having a real mascot, complete with a full costume, has peaked among staff members and the athletic department. Currently Houghton has mascot garb including a plaid kilt and bagpipes for the Scottish highlander, but not a full costume and it has not been worn consistently in the past. The new mascot, according to Jeff Babbitt, director of marketing and communications, would be, "a real-feeling mascot, like an animal costume" and would similar to "one that you would recognize when you think of mascots like the Syracuse Orange or the Texas Longhorns."

According to Babbitt, this

See **MASCOT** page 2

Day of Giving Returns With Bigger Donations



DESIGNED BY TYLER ASHLEY AND CORY MARTIN

Today, April 24, 2015, Houghton will observe its second-ever day of giving. Last year's one-day giving challenge raised \$746,304.

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

Today, April 24, 2015, Houghton will observe its second-ever one-day giving challenge. The challenge gives the Houghton community a chance

to support the college within a twenty-four hour period. The day emphasizes Houghton's unity, offering alumni, students, faculty, staff, and their connections the chance to give together.

Last year, Houghton issued

this challenge for the first time, raising \$746,304 within the day. This year promises even greater potential, as donors have offered \$200,000 in dollar for dollar matches as compared to last year's \$150,000. Additionally, the donors have

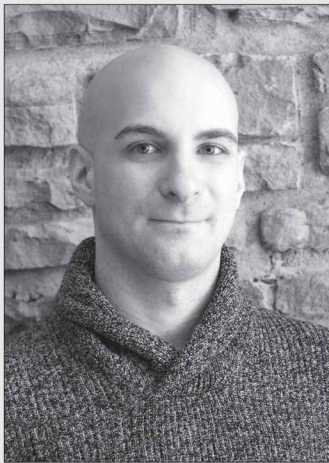
promised \$300,000 if there are 1500 or more donors during the day, while last year, \$100,000 was promised for 500 donors. "Any amount of gift counts," Rick Melson explained. With each participant, Houghton is one step closer to unlocking the \$300,000.

Donations throughout the day can be put toward a number of Houghton related causes, including capital projects, endowment, the student scholarship fund, or general giving. The dollar for dollar matched \$200,000, however, applies only to donations given to the student scholarship fund as well as general giving. Pledges and gifts can be made in the campus center, by phone, at the office of advancement, or online.

The online element is critical, as Amy Tetta notes the one-day giving challenge is "very social media driven." There will be several videos throughout the

See **GIVING** page 2

National // Presidential Election Update



ANTHONY BURDO

JOE POYFAIR

On November 8, 2016, the United States starts its’ 58th presidential election. Taking place every four years, presidential campaigns and elections have evolved into a series of fiercely fought, and often times controversial, contests that are now played out in news medias throughout the

United States and the world. At least a dozen Republicans and a handful of Democrats have expressed an interest in running for their party’s 2016 Presidential nomination. With each passing day the list gets narrower. With President Obama being unable to seek reelection in 2016 due to constitutional term limits, he’ll sit in the back seat for this ride to paving history for the United States. For the Democratic Party there are twenty-one individuals who have announced their candidacy. There are still twenty-three possible candidates who have filed and are waiting on confirmation. This is making the Democratic Party with forty-four possible candidates. The Republican Party on the other hand has thirty-seven announced candidates who have already announced their candidacy and fifty-four possible candidates who have filed for the elections but are still waiting for their confirmation. This gives the Republican Party ninety-one

possible candidates. Running for the Democratic Party in the 2016 presidential election is Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former Secretary of State. Clinton has started campaigning in the last few weeks. Clinton would need to win over the Obama coalition of the black community and the young, college-educated voters who support President Barack Obama. Clinton would also need to maintain her base of support among the white working-class women. In order to win crucial states like Florida and Colorado, Clinton will need to convince Hispanics that she is with them every step of the way when it comes to immigration laws and other issues that are becoming more of an issue in politics. Clinton’s message to all Americans is this, “Expect a nearly constant emphasis on leaving a better country to voters’ children and grandchildren. Clinton will weave in her own experiences as a mother and grandmother to try to persuade

voters that she is best positioned to address income inequality and to aid the middle class. Her economic message will highlight issues that resonate with women in particular, including a higher minimum wage, paid family and medical leave, early childhood education, and affordable child care.” Running under the Republican Party is United States Senator, Ted Cruz. Cruz has opened his presidential campaign headquarters in Houston, Texas. To win the republican nominations, Cruz will have to bring together the party’s anti-establishment wing, which is made of separate-but-overlapping voter blocs, including Christian conservatives, libertarians, and Tea Party voters that are angry with the leadership of both the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Senator Cruz’s message to the citizens of the United States of America is this; “Mr. Cruz will seek the Republican nomination by running not just as the

most conservative candidate, but also as the boldest one in the field. He will emphasize his headline stances against President Obama, particularly his attempt to defund the health care law, which made him a deeply unpopular figure among his party’s leaders.” He goes on to state, “ He argues that in recent political history, Republicans have won only when they run as conservatives. Mr. Cruz’s message will be that he represents the most emphatic turn away from Mr. Obama and liberalism.” As time progresses, the spot for President of the United States of America will be sought after by a multitude of highly qualified individuals. It is our job to determine “who” that right person is to lead this nation we call the United States of America. ★

Joe is a senior political science major.

MASCOT *from page 1*

past semester two focus groups were held. Twelve students were brought in and asked questions in regards to the idea of having a mascot, what a mascot could do, and the qualities a mascot should possess. From the students, they received quality feedback on the characteristics the mascot should have. First, students felt that the mascot should be gender neutral. The school thought about getting a mascot that looked like a Scottish man with the highlander

garb for the sake of consistency, but it would be an accurate representation of the student body and the athletics program because most of Houghton’s students are women. Also, the students mentioned the mascot needed to connect with the athletics branding Houghton already has in place. It became apparent a lion would perhaps work with that. Additionally, the idea of the lion would be unique because it would be different from other schools Houghton’s athletics teams often play against in the Empire 8 Conference. Lastly, students wanted the mascot to

look professional and to be kid-friendly. Houghton has never had an official mascot, but became the Highlanders in 1967 through a student vote due to the additions of intercollegiate sports the same year. According to Babbitt, in 2004 the athletics department undertook a re-branding project in which they brought in a company from the outside that specialized in logo design. Babbitt added, “It was a time where we needed a fresh look.” Ultimately the company produced the lion, Houghton’s current purple and gold colors, and the “HC” that appears in

athletics and on Campus Store merchandise. Originally the lion was just meant to be a secondary logo, but it gained traction and began appearing on everything associated with Houghton. The rampant lion does tie into the Scottish heritage however, since it is the unofficial Scottish flag. It symbolizes bravery and courage and comes from a seal of Scottish nobility. According to Babbitt, there will be tryouts for the mascot in the fall. The mascot will then be launched at an event like Homecoming. The student chosen to portray the mascot would be compensated through

a work study job, or a similar form of compensation. Babbitt said, “[We] want someone who is energetic, has athletic ability to jump around and dance could help develop the personality of the mascot, would pump the crowd up, and would mingle with people at events.” The mascot would be present at sports games, events such as Homecoming, Purple and Gold Week, Help day, campus visit days, and Kingdom Bound. According to Babbitt, the true test of success of the mascot will be if people try to take selfies with their mascot because that means they are excited to see it. ★

GIVING *from page 1*

day starring President Mullen and current Houghton students. Additionally, a specific hashtag can be used. Last year #One-Houghton was the slogan of the one-day giving challenge, unit-

ing the Houghton community across social media and bringing attention to the challenge. This year #IAmHoughton is the trademark phrase, signifying, as Rick Melson said, “We are all Houghton.” Amy Tetta explained it further stating, “We’re all Houghton as a group, but it takes individuals to stand up and

say ‘I am Houghton.’” The hashtag helps advertise the event, since the challenge is very much centered on the idea of one day. Although this year the Houghton community will have a little more time to prepare for it, Melson emphasized the idea was “a big focus on Houghton College for one day.”

Tetta echoed this. “This is the day, this is the challenge,” she explained. “There’s not a lot of build up.” The giving day runs from midnight to midnight, with the challenges of the donors expiring on April 25. The one-day giving challenge gives Houghton the unique chance to give together.

“It’s an exciting day. It gives us a chance to come together,” Tetta said. Melson also anticipates the day. “Last year we just had such great success. The one-day giving challenge is an incredible opportunity for Houghton alumni and friends to rally together on one day to support Houghton college.” ★

HOURS *from page 1*

women’s,” said Smithers. This will benefit students in many ways. One of these ways is more interaction cross hall among the students according to Krista Maroni, Lambein resident director. She said, I’ve noticed that students tend to stick to visiting one building of the opposite gender (whichever that might be for any given couple or

friend group).” Jon Craton, Rothenbuhler resident director, said in addition to listening to the majority, Residence Life also wants to “respect the smaller constituency on campus that appreciates the privacy and freedom that comes from not having opposite gendered students on their floor every night.” School night open hour times on Sunday through Wednesday will remain the same from 7-11 p.m. This leaves Thursday the only night with no open hours in the dorms.

Addressing the the potential student concern for the change’s effect on quiet hours, Smithers said, “We don’t see when hours are not quiet hours all the other hours as ‘loud hours.’ There’s a healthy respect for community in both non-quiet hours and quiet hours.” Part of the decision is also budgetary and practical, said Smithers, because these open hours will now reflect the hours of the proctor desk. “This will be reflecting the lounge hours, so the lounges will close at the same time that the desk close,

at the same time open hours close,” he said. “We are trying to make it less confusing.” Responding to requests for open hours all hours of the day, Smithers said, “we value the kind of community we can build in the residence hall and so when we have this constant pressure to invite people into our residence hall that takes away from the floor community and the hall community that can be built.” “We like to set aside times when we can open up the residence halls to outside visitors,”

said Smithers. “But we also like to have the bulk majority of our time be for the residence, for the hall, for the floor.” Overall, Residence Life expects students to respond positively, as well as benefit from the changes. Maroni said, “There will always be push back, any change no matter the size has some, but I think this will benefit the student body overall. They’ve been given more trust, freedom and hopefully more ownership over their ability to effect campus rules and policy.” ★

HIRES *from page 1*

lege alumni, is excited to continue on in the math department, “I feel blessed to be able to continue with the college in a tenure-track position.”

Also on the Full Time Tenure Track is newly hired Assistant Professor of Applied Mathematics, Jason Bintz. Bintz, who graduated from Covenant College in ‘03, will begin teaching applied math in the fall of ‘15.

Murphy, a Houghton College ‘11 alumni and interim assistant professor of media arts and visual communication, will also be staying on as a second year interim professor. Murphy, specializes in 3D visualization and animation, will continue to assist the communication department.

In addition to newly hired faculty returning, there will be more hires within the math,

recreation, and biology departments. Laura Alexichik, who has taught for Houghton before and is an ‘01 Houghton alumni, will begin the fall of ‘15 as an Interim Adjunct Professor of Recreation. Also new to faculty next fall will be Rebecca Williams. Williams, who graduated from the University of Windsor in ‘08, will be an Assistant Professor of Biology.

The college had a total of 11 faculty searches for this academic year. There were two failed searches, one in the communication department and another in the science department. Woolsey said, “We did not have a strong enough candidate pool for Web Design and we made an offer in Biochemistry but the candidate declined the offer.”

Offers have also been made to candidates in art, accounting, finance, and one will soon be made in voice. The college is currently awaiting answers from the potential faculty members.★



UNIVERSITY
STORAGE

University Storage is a new business starting this spring at Houghton College. Jason Stephens, Shenawana resident director, in collaboration with Houghton Student Enterprises, is starting and managing the business. Every year, students ask what options there are for furniture storage at Houghton. While Houghton offers storage for smaller items like suitcases and totes, there is no space available for furniture. Stephens saw this as an opportunity to help students and also provide internship opportunities for business students. Currently, there are five students working with University Storage in a variety of areas including marketing, finance, and operations.

To help alleviate the stress that come with the end of the year, University Storage offers hassle-free summer storage options. There are four price points depending on the size of the items being stored, the prices range from \$20 to \$60. Prices include: free pick-up from your current room, summer storage, and free delivery to your new room in the fall. In an attempt to keep prices down, we charge per item with multi-item discounts available. You can rest easy knowing that University Storage is an LLC and fully insured, which means it is taking the proper steps to keep your items safe over the summer.

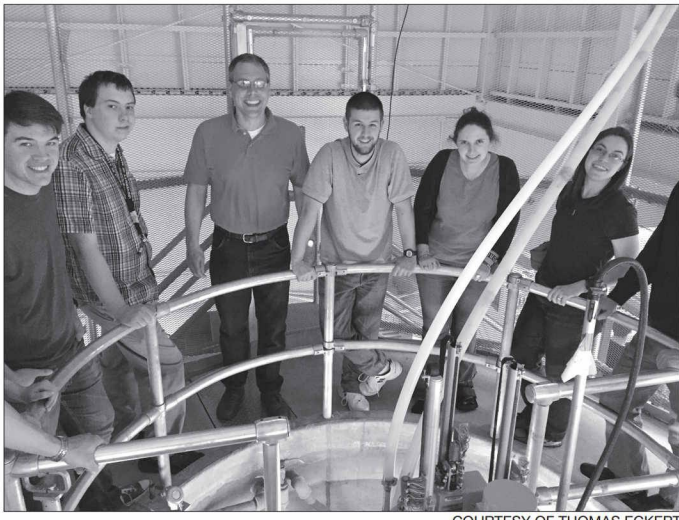
For more information you can check out their website at: universitystorage.squarespace.com or e-mail them at: universitystorage.houghton@gmail.com.

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Physics Department Visits University of Maryland

THOMAS ECKERT

This past Thursday, students from the Houghton College Physics Department had the chance to tour the radiation research facilities at the University of Maryland (UMD). The students were given cats-eye marbles that had been irradiated by the university’s gamma ray irradiator, turning them a pitch black. The color will slowly fade to clear glass over the course of a few decades.



COURTESY OF THOMAS ECKERT

Students from the Houghton College physics department standing above MUTR.

On the tour, students were given a look at a three-meter diameter rotating sphere filled with molten sodium metal for studying the development of magnetic fields of planets. They saw the linear accelerator (LINAC) and watched it deposit charged particles in pieces of acrylic. When the surface of these acrylic pieces was cracked, the particles surged towards this weak point, producing a lightning-like pattern called a Lichtenberg Figure.

Students peered into a 6-inch diameter hole, at a glowing Cobalt-60 source beneath 15 ft of water. Gamma rays emitted from the source launch electrons that travel faster than the speed of light through water. They produce a visual “sonic boom” that emits an intense

sky-blue glow. This process is called Cherenkov radiation. The source is used for many applications including artificially aging technological components and radiation hardness testing.

The next stop was UMD’s 250 kW nuclear reactor, MUTR. The reactor is used as a source of neutrons for experiments including cancer research in radiology, neutron detector development, and materials science. The core is housed in concrete and submerged beneath 17 ft of water, it is a research reactor and it does not produce electricity. It transfers its thermal power into its 6000 gallon natural water pool. The reactor utilizes the special TRIGA (Training, Research, and Isotopes by General Atomics) fuel that cannot meltdown because an increase in fuel temperature will reduce the fission reactions that limits the achievable power. This core glows even more blue than the cobalt source due to Cherenkov radiation.

The final stop on the trip was to the University of Maryland Electron Ring (UMER). This complex machine is at the “intensity frontier” of particle accelerator research. A low energy accelerator sends a high throughput of electrons into the ring. Experiments are performed on the self-interactions of the electrons in the ring as they accelerate in high densities. ★



JUSTIN BULLARD

This is the final issue of the STAR until next fall. We are pleased to announce Holly Chaisson, our current Features Editor, will be Editor-in-Chief for the 2015-2016 academic year. We are also thrilled to welcome Hattie Burgher, as the new Features Editor, and Bjorn Webb, as the new Business Manager next year. Dani Eaton will continue as News Editor, Allyson Murphy as Opinions Editor, Tyler Ashley as Web Editor, and Anthony Burdo as Photo Editor.

We would like to say a special thank you to all our writers who contributed during the 2014-2015 academic year. We could not have functioned without you. Thanks for reading and see you next year!

Senior Class Plants Their Legacy

SOPHIA ROSS

Though the senior class gift is not a consistent tradition in Houghton’s 132-year history, gifts to the college from previous classes are still recognizable and well-loved landmarks on campus today. The Luckey clock and bell system, the bridge between Rothenbuhler Hall and the Randall townhouses, the Rock – all of these were donated by a graduating class. On Wednesday, April 22, the Class of 2015 planted their gift, a Christmas tree, beside the Campus Center, intending that it, too, will enhance the Houghton experience for future students.

The history of senior class gifts at Houghton has slowly evolved over the years. Houghton’s first president, Dr. James S. Luckey, began the practice by asking graduating students to pledge a sum to give to the college within their first ten years of graduating. The Class of 1925 used their pledge money for the first class gift on record: the memorial outside Fancher marking the birthplace of Willard J. Houghton. Not every class that followed gave a gift, but several classes continued with practical gifts, such as hymnals (Class of ’37), clocks (Class of ’42), and campus benches (Class of ’48). By the 1990s, the tradition had changed so that class cabinets gave money from their budget surpluses rather than pledges.



The Senior class gift, a Christmass tree, being planted outisde of the Campus Center Wednesday morning.

The system reverted back to pledges and donations in 2009, when Dan Noyes, Executive Director of Alumni Relations, and a group of students decided it was preferable for classes to use their budgets entirely for class activities. Now, cabinets encourage their classes to donate the amount of their class year; for example, the class of 2009 donated \$20.09, and so on.

The process classes undertake to choose their gift has also changed. While previous senior class cabinet members made the final decision among themselves and the Alumni Relations Office,

their role has shifted. Now, the group solicits ideas from their own class members, and collects practical options from which the entire senior class selects by voting.

“We want the class to feel like this is their gift,” said Noyes. “This process creates a good experience for everybody, and we get things we wouldn’t have even thought of, like this tree.”

The idea for the Christmas tree originated at the end of last semester in a conversation between Senior Class Cabinet President, Luke Lauer, and Director of Student Programs,

Greg Bish. The idea further developed for Lauer in a conversation with a fellow class member, who mentioned that Christmas decorations were lacking. The class cabinet, currently composed of President Lauer, Social Chair Katie Szwejbka, and Treasurer Nathan Sircy, figured that a Christmas tree would fill this need as a focal point to be decorated for the Christmas season, while also acting as a landmark they could visit during reunions.

In February, the senior class voted for the Christmas tree and its decorations as their official class gift, and the cabinet

proceeded to secure a location. With help from Grounds Supervisor Dennis Eerdman and Director of Community Relations Phyllis Gaerte, the cabinet chose a spot outside of the Campus Center, close enough to an electric outlet so that the tree can be lit at Christmas time. The tree, a ten-foot white fir, was planted Wednesday, Earth Day 2015.

The cabinet envisions future students leading a tradition associated with the tree. “What that looks like exactly, we’re not totally sure, but our goal is to make it some sort of class tradition for the seniors, because the seniors don’t really have a forwwmal tradition,” said Lauer.

Szwejbka added, “I think there’s a lot of potential for this to be not just something the college takes care of, but something that the student body interacts with. I’d actually compare it to the Rock. The college could paint the Rock every couple weeks, but students take that initiative and they have fun with it. I’d love to see the tree function in the same way.”

According to Noyes, this kind of legacy that generates future participation is central to the senior class gift tradition.

“That’s the kind of community that Houghton has been built on,” he said. “Alumni support has allowed Houghton to continue to thrive after 130 years, and that’s what we’re continuing to build going forward.” ★

Recommended Record: Passion Pit’s *Kindred*

AVA BERGEN

Eclectic indie pop band Passion Pit released their third album *Kindred* this past Tuesday, full of vibrating, bubbly synth and sparkling vocals. The album is front-runner Michael Angelakos most cohesive work to date, deftly weaving sonic euphoria with sounds of nostalgia and inward struggle.

While previous Passion Pit hits, like “Make Light” or “Little Secrets” are deceptively upbeat, often masking cynical undertones, the lyrics of *Kindred* are more at-tune with their vibrant sound. This is most likely due to Angelakos’s brazen honesty concerning his own personal struggle with bipolar disorder. Despite the stigma attached to mental health diseases, Angelakos halted his 2012 Gossamer tour in order to seek help for the extreme highs and lows he experiences. “Once I started accepting

my mental condition, it stung for a little bit, and then everything improved,” he comments.

Arguably the catchiest tune on the track list is “Lifted Up (1985)” a song bursting with Passion Pit’s characteristic frenzied electronica, dedicated to Angelakos’s wife, Kristina Mucci. Glitchy synth and Angelakos’s giddy voice proclaim, “1985 was a good year/The sky broke apart and you appeared.” Contrary to a typical love song, the speaker acknowledges his intrinsic faults, and subsequent failures: “Oh, but yeah I’m so tired/I fight so hard and come back beaten...Oh but yeah, all my life I stay here waiting.” In “Whole Life Story”, also inspired by Mucci, the listener is given insight into their complicated relationship. Amidst peppy handclaps and sugary synth-sounds, a falsetto voice cries: “I’m sorry darling, how could I have turned this/Into such a, darling, difficult position for you”. Yet this apology is quietly accepted: “And you

didn’t make a sound/You were looking out the window at the city/Then you turned and said you loved me.” The most beautiful aspect of *Kindred* is its persistent optimism despite acknowledged failures. In an interview with TIME, Angelakos speaks in regards to his inspiration: “Growing up. It’s all the things I wish I had been doing instead of dealing with all of the complications from my disorder. It’s also about figuring out my relationships with other people and how to deal with love in a very real way.”

This is evidenced especially in lilting tracks like “Five Foot Ten (I)” and “Until We Can’t (Let’s Go)”, where pounding, out-of-control synth undulates the listener up and down, a visceral parallel for Angelakos’s intense mood shifts. Admirably, the only extraneous track on the album is the autotune experiment gone wrong, “Ten Feet Tall (II)” where Angelakos’s high pitched, overzealous technowarbling serves more to give



Kindred album cover art. Passion Pit's new album was released this past Tuesday.

the listener a headache than convey any concrete emotion. Taken as whole however, *Kindred* does well to reflect it’s creator’s liberating ideal: “Being as honest and transparent as you can be...that’s actually really, really empowering. It shows you have guts.”

Angelakos’s attempted honesty makes *Kindred* as a whole chaotically compelling. It’s messy, but underlying its sonic extremes is an overall message of perseverance. ★

Supernovas: Past Editors-In-Chief Reflect On *The STAR* and Beyond



COURTESY OF JOEL VANDERWEELE

Joel VanderWeele
Editor 2009-2010

After graduating from Houghton with a double major in Math & Philosophy in 2010, I went on to graduate school at the University of Notre Dame where I earned Masters degrees in Architecture and Architectural Design and Urbanism. In the past four years my wife Amy [Buckingham] VanderWeele ‘10 (former section editor) and

I have lived, worked, and studied in Chicago, South Bend, Washington DC, Rome, and Philadelphia. After four years of living out of suitcases, we have now settled down in Providence, Rhode Island where I work as an architectural designer for Union Studio Architecture & Community Design and Amy works for the Town of Cumberland’s Office of Children, Youth, and Learning. I had the time of my life working for the Star. Amy and I still bring it up once in a while, laughing about terrible headlines we came up with at 3 in the morning, or that time a student mumbled about our poor judgment in subject matter and was later spotted discussing the finer points of an article with a friend in the coffee shop, or best of all that time a Financial Aid staffer came up to us with tears of laughter in her eyes thanking us for our April Fools’ story, “Baptist Bus to Visit Houghton.” It was thrilling to be so dialed-in to the conversations around campus and it was a tremendous honor to lead the dialogue week in and week out.★



LUKE LAUER

Sarah Hutchinson
Editor 2013-2014

I was a wet-behind-the-ears, wide-eyed freshman wandering around the campus activities fair when a boisterous voice yelled out, “Well, hello there!--join the Star!”

The voice belonged to Monica Sandreczki, then editor-in-chief of the Star. Her influence prompted me to sign up and so began a four-year stint at Houghton’s weekly. There were many things that impacted me from working at the Star, but what I will always remember is this: locking up the Star office at 2 AM (and sometimes later) on Thursday mornings after sending the paper to print. The chilly, lonely campus at that hour might as well have been paradise with the elated, full feeling rising from somewhere in my chest. Our paper, a team effort, was going to be published. We had spent a week keeping our ear pricked for stories, pestering writers (“are you going to send that article in? ARE YOU??”), chasing down sources (sometimes literally), drinking umpteen cups of Sodexo Starbucks coffee, and it was all for producing this essential piece of campus dialogue. Work at the Star was lots of

fun and deeply satisfying. Now, after graduating last year with a degree in political science, I work for a health organization that serves refugee communities in Buffalo, NY. While my work is rewarding in a different way, I admit that sometimes I start to get wistful for the work at Houghton’s little paper. So thanks Monica, Kristen, all other section editors that I’ve worked with, and most especially last year’s be-sweated staff. It was a blast. ★



COURTESY OF MONICA SANDRECZKI

Monica Sandreczki
Editor 2010-2011

I’ve reported stories and hosted our news show, Morning Edition, for our National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate in Binghamton, NY since the end of 2013. But getting here was no small feat. Recent-Houghton-Grad-Monica - young and naive,

yet self-confident - was just crazy enough to apply for the job after an internship at the NPR station in Kansas City. What a time that was! Interviewing NRA members, mixing audio, investigative reporting. But it all started from the first, most beloved, stepping stone that is the Houghton Star. 2010-2011 was a year that turned girls into women (you remember, Kristen?), honing news judgment through whatever means accessible. The most grandest - and of-

ten the most depressing - night of the week was Wednesday night when the editorial staff worked magic laying out the paper until 3:00am in the Star office. And of course, took a break to cut the lights, get office chairs in position, and crank Lonely Island’s “I’m on a Boat.” Thank you, Houghton Star. All good things to the future of the newspaper that still means so much.★

Photo of the Week
Best of the Semester

WINNER //
Matt Munkittrick ‘16

“I am studying in Rwanda with the GoEd program. This is a picture of Nate Peace and I from our semester here, taken after playing a game of soccer on the street with a group of neighborhood kids. It was captured with a GoPro on a stick, held by Arnold.”



COURTESY OF MATT MUNKITTRICK

Short Term Missions = Long Term Failure



ANTHONY BURDO

ALEX FISHER

Last summer, I was scrolling through my Facebook newsfeed, and I noticed that a large group of high schoolers who I am friends with went on a short term, or one week long, missions trip to Guatemala. I noticed that these young men and women put photos online to display their servant-like-attitudes and their parents, mostly mothers, shared these photos commending their children for all of the good that they are doing in the world.

In particular, one mother captioned a photo of her daughter holding a Guatemalan child on her lap by saying, “My daughter is amazing. She is changing the world.”

This is a pretty bold claim to make. The fact that

her mother, and many others, see short-term missions as an opportunity to bring the “hero” in to “save” people in countries such as Guatemala is extremely troubling.

In his book, *Toxic Charity*, Robert Lupton wrote, “Contrary to popular belief, most missions trips and service projects do not: empower those being served, engender healthy cross-cultural relationships, improve quality of life, relieve poverty, change the lives of participants [or] increase support for long-term missions work.”

True servants are not seeking praise or recognition for their good deeds and Michelle Acker Perez, long-term missionary, suggested in *Relevant Magazine* that if you are planning on being a “hero” for a week while on a missions trip, then you might as well not even get on the airplane.

I hear too often about people who want to go on mission’s trips because they want to travel around the world. I mean, let’s be real, who wouldn’t want to go to these awesome places for a week’s vacation? Long term

“Will you be putting people out of jobs by conducting construction based missions work such as building a church?”

missionaries Hannah Nielsen and Jenny Collins said in their article on Shorttermmissions.com, “the ease of travel and the number of agencies eager to accept short-termers has made it possible for ‘experience junkies’ seeking an adventure to participate, even though they may not be truly interested in selfless cross-cultural service.” This can leave the local communities or long-term missionaries embittered, feeling as if they have been used to host a glorified vacation that used up valuable time, energy, and finances.

Additionally, there is an issue in missions with people doing services for others who could easily do the project themselves.

“Last time I checked, people in developing countries can paint a wall, so why are you doing it for them?” asked Perez. Missions trips should be about doing things with people, not for people.

Perez’s question resembles this story that I have heard many times throughout my international development courses: if you give a man a fish, you have fed him for one meal. If you give him a fishing pole and teach him how to fish, you have fed him for a lifetime. “We need to be the ones to paint the church, build the ditch, and put on vacation Bible school. We can’t just send money. We have to send people. These are what causes me to question motives,” said Darren Carlson, founder and president of Training Leaders International.

It is estimated that close to two billion dollars is spent a year on short-term missions trips alone in the United States according to Thegospelcoalition.org. Before you’re willing to spend anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for a week long “vacation” and

“helping” those in the country you are traveling to, I encourage people to turn around in their own backyards and serve those in your local community. Ask yourself, if Jesus was in my neighborhood, who would He be talking to? Would he be talking to the homeless man that lives in your park? The kid with disabilities who never has anyone to partner with for school projects?

If you do decide to take a short-term missions trip, I encourage you to research the activities and the organization you will be serving with. Will the work you are participating in be working with the communities or for the communities? Will you be putting people out of jobs by conducting construction based missions work such as building a church? Is this work even relevant or sustainable for the community?

When you enter a different country, you are an ambassador for your own country. Be willing to ask questions and share about yourself and American culture, as well. Even then if you decide to go on a short-term missions trip, I encourage you to come back with stories and names of people that you served with, not just an entire album of cute nameless kids. ★

Alex is a senior communication and international development double major.

“If you are planning on being a “hero” for a week while on a missions trip, then you might as well not even get on the airplane.”

“You’ll Never Get a Husband If You Don’t Shave Your Legs” And Other Lies...



ANTHONY BURDO

KATIE KLOOS

One time when I was home for break, my mom told me this: “you’ll never get a husband if you don’t shave your legs.” She wasn’t trying to be mean. My mom is a great mother and only wants the best for me, however; this sentence encapsulates what is wrong with Western Christians and their ideas about female purity in the context of sexuality and marriage.

In Christian communities, I’ve been called “sasquatch” and have physically repulsed

people because I am a woman with leg hair. I’ve been told that it’s gross that I wear spandex shorts for volleyball but don’t shave my legs. My female friends with tattoos have been asked “what if you can see your tattoo in your wedding dress?” and “what will your future husband think?” Growing up, I wasn’t even allowed to wear fake tattoos since my body is a temple and all. The idea of female body image is deeper than just leg hair and tattoos. It surrounds our culture and influences how we raise our children.

These microaggressions (see Luke Lauer’s thesis art project in the Ortlip gallery about this very topic) against us ladies are based on the premise that our main priority as women is marriage. Nigerian Author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as quoted in Beyoncé’s song *Flawless*

“The idea of female body image is deeper than just leg hair and tattoos. It surrounds our culture and influences how we raise our children.”

“God gave you hair and it’s your choice what you do with it.”

discusses gender roles and feminism:

“Because I am female ... I am expected to make my life choices always keeping in mind that marriage is the most important. Now marriage can be a source of joy and love and mutual support but why do we teach girls to aspire to marriage and we don’t teach boys the same?”

I don’t know how many of you use Spotify, but there is one ad that has popped up while I’m listening to music that has some unknown singer say she feels most confident on stage with smooth legs. Really? Not because you have a great voice or have been working really hard on your vocal range or are

a good person? I understand that this is a marketing ploy, but it’s perpetuating the lie that women have to maintain physical beauty in order to be accepted and feel worthy. Men don’t have to look good in order to step outside their house or feel confident.

The end tagline for this ad is “start taking care of your legs.” This implies that shaving is a sign of hygiene; something my mom has said to me as well. Granted, college has changed my hygiene standards, but I’m not a total slob. The fact that I don’t shave has nothing to do with my cleanliness. Men with facial hair aren’t considered unclean.

Two years ago I stopped shaving my legs. Why don’t I shave my legs? There are practical reasons: I think it’s a waste of time, money, water, etc. There are also reasons of principle: men don’t have to shave their legs according to society and I believe in equality.

Body hair is natural. God

gave it to both men and women for real biological reasons. Only recently have women started removing body hair regularly (1915 for underarm hair and 1930/40 for leg hair).

Despite my personal resistance of leg shaving, I do not believe every woman should shave. Feminism is about a lot of ideas but to me it is all about choice; doing what you want because you want to and not because of societal ideals and gender expectations. Do I look down on other women who shave? Of course not. If that’s what makes you comfortable, then you do your thing. There are other legitimate reasons for shaving one’s legs no matter your gender: swimming faster or improving aerodynamics because of cycling, etc.

Moral of the story, shave your legs or don’t because it’s your decision. God gave you hair and it’s your choice what you do with it. In the meantime remember my battle cry: “haters gonna hate / shake em off.” ★

Katie is a senior BFA studio art major.

Letters from the Editors



ANTHONY BURDO

degrees of bitterness or fondness, I can't say I always thought Houghton was the best place in the world. Now though, as we draw to the end, I can say I think Houghton is one of the best places in the world.

Sure we had a lot to complain about, but in the grand scheme of things walking to get your napkins, living through polar vortices, or taking an IS class you didn't really love don't matter all that much. It's the people who care about those complaining students. Having a VP of Student Life willing to listen and talk to you about issues you are passionate about even though he's late for a meeting; having intellectual conversations with President Mullen on a bench outdoors; and we all have that Professor that is willing to help you with anything, at any time.

Let's not linger on those little things we didn't like, but remember the people who made this little biodome bubble worth coming to.

I want our class to be a good collection of alumni, not some horde of peasants. Some of you may never want to come back. Other may say "Why would I ever give more money?" I say keep in touch and be an alumni that's an asset to your alma mater. Don't be one of those alumni we are worried about offending, be a friendly advisor and guide, not a Facebook troll.

Maybe who don't see yourself coming back to campus, but be an alumni students can contact to find their first job or internship. Maybe you can't give a ton of money while paying back your loans, but I say it's worth investing, in any small way, in the place and *people* that invested in you.

In closing, Class of 2015, you're a pretty awesome bunch of people and I don't think you are peasants, so don't be after you graduate either. Go do great things out in the world, but keep in touch and remember what the people at Houghton did for you.

In the words of Bilbo Baggins, "I regret to announce — this is The End. I am going now. I bid you all a very fond farewell." ★

-Luke Lauer,
STAR Editor & Historian President



LUKE LAUER

Dear Fellow Students,

For all the complaints that Houghton is too small, too rural, and too "bubble-like," there is much to be said of its merits on these accounts. Living in such a small community is of course frustrating at times, perhaps even boring, but it provides us a wide array of unique occasions for involvement, commitment, and dedication. In some ways Houghton can feel fairly limited in what it has to offer students in comparison to other significantly larger schools, but in other areas our opportunities far exceed the collegiate status quo.

Being involved on campus is one of those things your Transitions leader urges you to do your first couple of weeks here, an injunction most of us blatantly ignore, too caught up in the excitement of our first year. However, after the nerves have settled and we fall into a routine, the chances to be involved start springing up like the flowers we hope will emerge after the much-too-long winters. We have quite a plethora of opportunities at our disposal: the SGA, The Drawing Board, Printed Matter Press, Global Christian Fellowship, the STAR, and dozens of other clubs, all of which are chances to make our marks

on campus, to create our legacies. While involvement certainly has its resumé-building perks for us students, it is also incredibly beneficial to the college as a whole. Committed students help make Houghton distinctive and a place hopping with creativity; we elevate Houghton's reputation and add to its street cred. In all seriousness, Houghton would be a much less vibrant place without the bustling of students organizing floor events, performing SPOT skits, slamming poetry at a Lanthorn event, or singing their hearts out at a CAB coffeehouse.

Being involved gives a dimension to your college experience that isn't communicated with the piece of paper they hand you when you walk across that stage. When you're involved, Houghton becomes your Horcrux. I mean this in the best way possible: you give a little part of yourself to the school, and that little part you leave behind becomes an indestructible and valuable connection you will remember fondly twenty years down the road. I won't lie, in the midst of finals or if you're juggling a double major, involvement really does feel a bit like selling a piece of your soul. Not to worry though, you'll emerge more intact than ever.

I came to Houghton with the mindset that I would only eat, sleep, and breathe my classes, graduate in three years, and move on to bigger and better things. After all, isn't that the point of college? Thankfully I've changed my mind. You've been given this chance to become a part of Houghton's narrative and to let its story shape yours, so why not embrace it? My advice to you is this: find your sanctuary from academics and worship there regularly.

In the words of Albus Dumbledore, "Indifference and neglect often do much more damage than outright dislike." ★

-Holly Chaisson,
Past, Present, & Future STAR Editor



The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

As the school year comes to an end I want to share about how God has been working in me. A year ago I lost my only child to cancer. Bonnie died less than a year after graduating from Houghton college in 2013.

I have struggled with my loss. Every day I yearn to see

Bonnie again, but I know she is with God in heaven. As John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." It comforts me to know that those in Christ will never perish because they have everlasting life.

The Holy Bible teaches that every human being has a

soul. Our soul is our true self. It is where our complete, core existence is found. Our soul is who we really are. Every Christian can have the assurance that even in physical death there is eternal life that follows. Our body may die but the soul of every Christian goes to heaven. A believer's physical body then awaits Christ's call when their physical body will be united

with their soul. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 says that those who have fallen asleep (died) will be gathered, both soul and body, unto their Lord.

My question is, "What is in your soul?" Is your identity based on your looks, what you do, your sexuality, receiving justice, or getting your own way? Or is your soul grounded in Christ? Is your main desire in

life to love God and keep His commandments in order to honor Him?

Life on earth is not fair. We will not always get what we think is our right. However, our identity needs to be in Christ alone, even if that requires us to let go of those things we treasure here on earth.

- Yours in Christ,
Dr. Jim Szymanski

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2014



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2015 SENIOR ART EXHIBITION

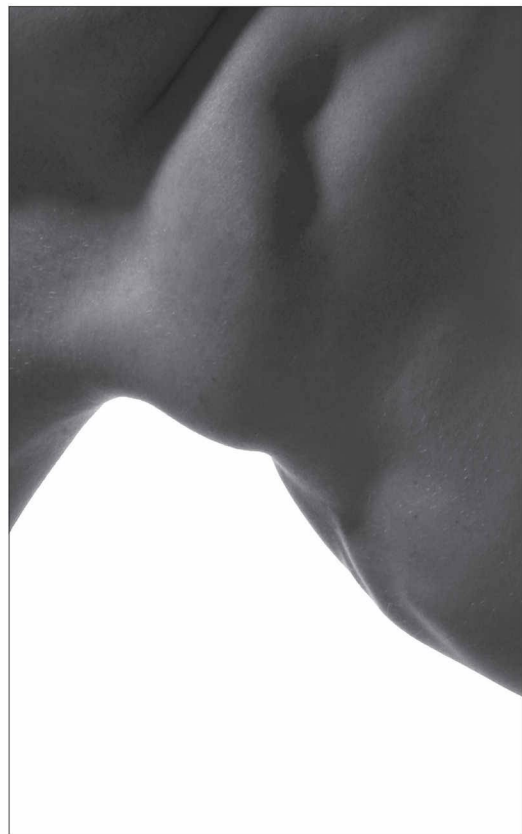
Saturday, April 25 | 6-8pm | Ortlip Gallery | Featuring Seventeen Seniors



I know what I know, Katie Kloos



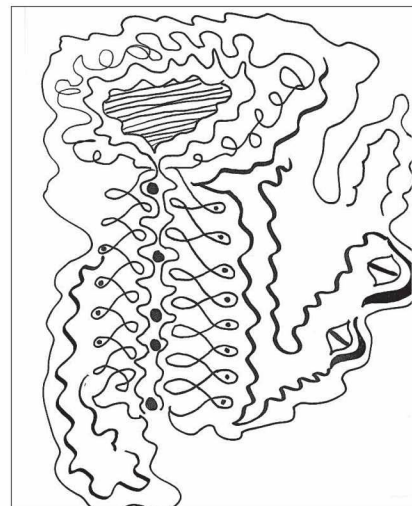
From Dust, Mikey Erdogan



Untitled, Carly Omdal



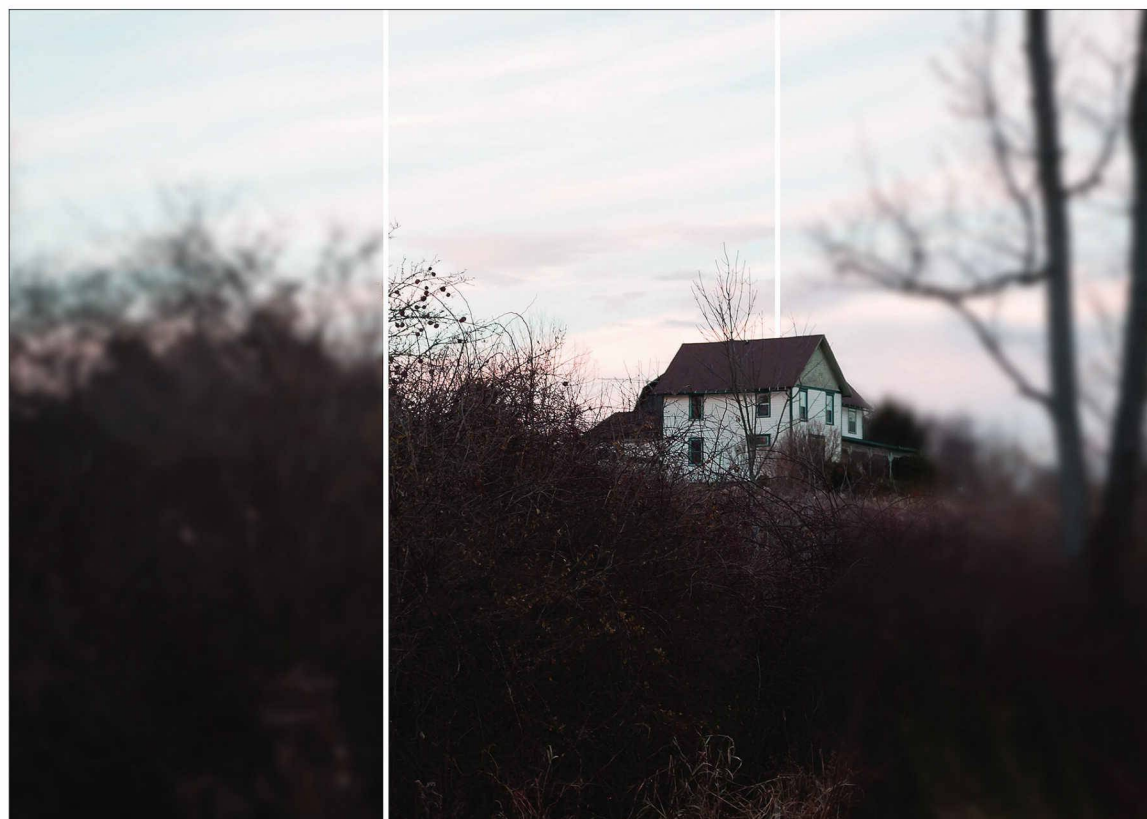
Stevie Ray Vaughan, Evan Castle



Growth, Carrie Fuller



Like A Child, Jane Stairs



House, Hannah Folkerts



Surrounded, Laurissa Widrick