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Two Longtime Houghton Faculty To Retire



COURTESY OF MICHAEL LASTORIA

Dr. Michael Lastoria is retiring from Director of the Counseling Center after 33 years. He will continue to teach and will tentatively be assisting in counseling.

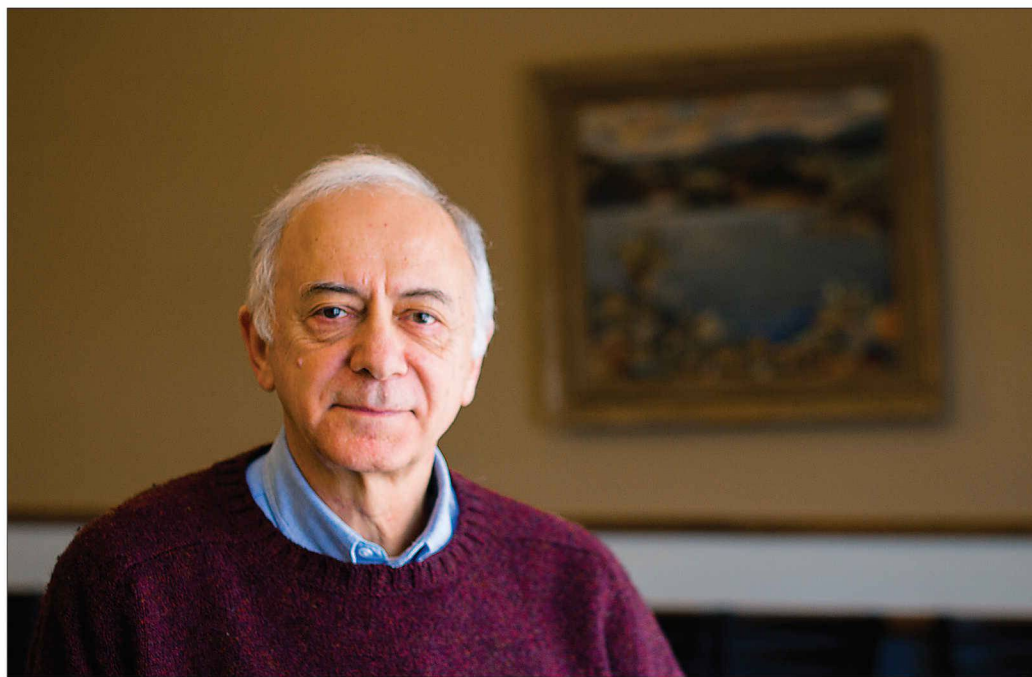
SYLVIA MORROW

After 33 years, Michael Lastoria will be retiring from his position as Director of Counseling Services at the end of this semester. Lastoria has been vital to the growth of Houghton's

Counseling Center, as well as student support systems in general.

Lastoria was key in some of the integral parts of the Houghton campus as we know it. In the mid-eighties, Lastoria started what is now

See **LASTORIA** page 2



ANTHONY BURDO

French professor, Jean-Louis Roederer, graduated from Houghton College in 1964 and came to teach at the age of 22.

ANTHONY BURDO

It is hard to imagine a man with a name as French as Jean-Louis becoming anything but a French professor. For Jean-Louis Roederer however, his vocation was anything but straight forward, and Roederer has since become far more than

a French professor to the Houghton community. Roederer, senior faculty member and Houghton alumnus ('64), has been teaching at Houghton College for 44 years.

The senior faculty member is chosen based on years of full-time service at Houghton College, not age.

Roederer was born in

Beirut, Lebanon to a French father and a Lebanese mother. As a multi-cultural child, Roederer spent the first decade of his life in a house speaking three languages and hearing five from his relatives. His father worked as a lawyer in international law,

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Baseball and Softball Teams Head To Florida

JON ECKENDORF

During the upcoming February break the baseball and softball teams will be taking their annual trip to Florida to kick off their seasons.

Since Houghton has hit almost record low temperatures, close to negative forty, both teams have been using the resources available in the Kerr-Pegula Field

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Student Developed Studio Produces 3D Animation

DANI EATON

Ice Nine Studios, a student developed production studio, has started work on their first project, a 3D animation called Allice.

Allice, according to Collin Belt '15 and Matt Grim '16, is similar to Pixar's Wall-E. In an apocalyptic ice age where nothing can unfreeze the planet, a robot, Allice, has been sent to do the impossible: thaw the ice. Allice, who Belt described as a "determined robot," like anyone on a mission, faces her share of challenges and obstacles while attempt-



COURTESY OF COLLIN BELT

The character Allice, from Ice Nine Studio's animated production, Allice.

See **ALLICE** page 3

NATIONAL // Measles Outbreak in the U.S.



LUKE LAUER

Measles, which was officially eliminated from the United States in 2000, is

having its worst breakout in over two decades. Cases of the highly infectious disease have been reported in up to 19 states and Mexico.

The outbreak started in December of 2014 in Disneyland, California. Officials believe the disease was brought by someone traveling from abroad. As of Monday, 107 cases were confirmed in the state, at least third linked to the outbreak according to the New York Times.

California has the majority of the cases, followed by Arizona with seven cases, according the Wall Street Journal. Some other states include, four in Washington, two cases in New York, one in Pennsylvania, and one New Jersey.

According to Anne

Schuchat, director of the immunization center at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. saw more measles cases in 2014 than any year since 1994. There have also been more measles cases in 2015, than in most full years since 2000, she said.

Most people recover from measles within a few weeks, but it can be fatal in some cases. The first measles vaccine is usually given to children between 12 and 15 months old.

This outbreak has revived the debate over the anti-vaccination movement. A movement that fears negative side effects such as autism, leading some parents to refuse to have their child vaccinated. Fears which were fed

by now-discredited research said the NY Times.

California public health officials are warning people against “measles parties.” “Parties” in which parent’s intentionally expose their unvaccinated children to the measles virus. According the LA Times a mother was invited to do this, but she declined. No “measles parties” have been confirmed.

“We have a measles vaccine today, which is incredibly safe and highly effective,” said Dr. Art Reingold, head of epidemiology at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. “It just doesn’t make sense to say ‘I’d rather have my kids get the measles than the measles vaccine.’ That’s ... based on misinformation that the measles is a

benign childhood illness,” he said.

Health officials believe the idea was inspired by a similar idea, called “pox parties,” which were popular in the 1980s, before the chickenpox vaccine was widely accessible. Parent’s would expose their children to chickenpox intentionally, before they became adults. The thinking was they would become less sick the younger they were. Despite concerns, there are still reports of “pox parties” in present day, even though the chickenpox vaccine is widely available said the LA Times.

Luke is a senior art and communication major.

LASTORIA from page 1

known as the Center for Academic Success and Advising (CASA) to support students with learning disabilities. Lastoria said, “obviously it was meeting a need,” and as part of the program’s growth it was transferred to its current management. Lastoria also drafted Houghton’s policies on sexual assault and sexual harassment. “That was also something that we did that I feel pretty good about,” said Lastoria, “Our sexual harassment policy and procedures I think had its beginning in the early nineties, and I played a major role in that.”

Lastoria described his relationship with the college as “a good marriage.” “The college invested in me along the way for those 33 years, and I think I gave back on that investment,” he said. An exam-

ple of this is the family studies minor, “a popular minor,” said Lastoria, which was co-created by Lastoria after Houghton gave him support to pick up the specialty of marriage and family therapy at the University of Rochester. Lastoria said that while many people may disagree over the state of the college on LGBTQ concerns, he has “been instrumental in at least shaking the tree” in terms of how LGBTQ topics are approached in discourse on campus. It is a conversation familiar to Lastoria who has published various research over the years on the sexual behavior of college undergraduates including a 2013 study surveying 19 Christian campuses nationwide.

Cindy Hannigan, Administrative Assistant to VOCA and Counseling Center, who has known Lastoria for over six years said, “I think one of the great things Dr. Lastoria has been able to do in his e

by getting to know so many students in classes, in chapels, in SPOT, on panels... really everywhere on campus.”

Wendy Baxter, who has worked in the Counseling Center for 19 years said, “It has been a really great experience working in this office...he’s really grown this center over the years.” Both Hannigan and Baxter cited Lastoria’s sense of humor as a contributor to, as Hannigan described it, creating a “very easy-going atmosphere” in the Counselling Center. Baxter said, “Mike just has a really fine way of interjecting humor into situations, and humor is important.”

Baxter said she appreciates “the professionalism, the availability, and the accessibility” with which Lastoria conducts himself. She said it has helped her grow as a therapist, and offering this accessibility to students and staff alike has been central to

how he “has represented the counselling center well outside of this office.”

Next year Lastoria will continue to teach the classes he currently teaches and may continue some counseling, but retiring from his position as director will leave him working at about half-time. He said, “I still have energy to work and to contribute. Whether or not I do that at Houghton after next year that’s left open, but I’m certainly willing and desirous of doing that.”

Lastoria said he is looking forward to “that time expansion...not having to squeeze everything in at once,” and hopes to audit a few courses in theology, history, and art – some core liberal arts classes that he wasn’t exposed to in his undergraduate degree at Rutgers University in Ceramics Engineering.

Lastoria, who has travelled to Israel, London, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ecuador

for the college, said he also looks forward to being able to take “short trips when [he] just feel[s] like it.” He hopes to play more golf which he described as his “passion” and looks forward to having time to do things like keeping up with yard work he currently tries to squeeze in on weekends.

Dennis Stack, Dean of Students, who is heading the committee in charge of finding a new director for the Counseling Center said, “Dr. Lastoria is in a lot of ways irreplaceable...he has been here for a generation of students, and I don’t know what he was like when he first got here, but I know the wisdom that he brings right now that is just amazing.”★

Across

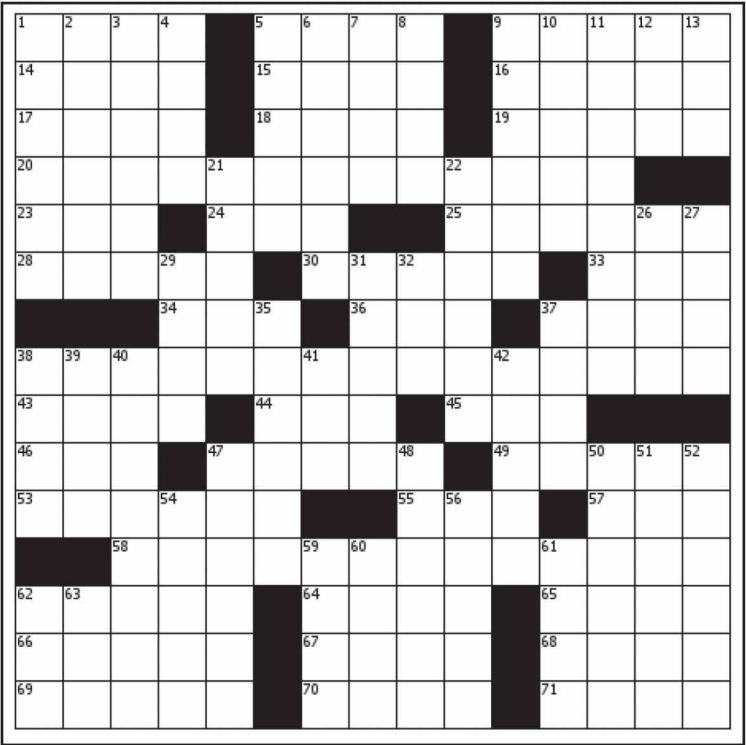
- Apr. midnight-oil burners
- Where some panels meet
- Social hierarchy
- Met highlight
- Sheet of glass
- Prove beneficial
- Type of ball
- Purposes
- Provides at no cost
- Start of a quip
- Teachers’ org.
- Creature with a mane and a beard
- Spewed forth
- Baseball blunder
- Knights’ attendants
- Down Under denizen
- Dead expanse
- Ho supporter
- Kind of dealer
- Middle of the quip
- 20thcentury Spanish painter
- Contains
- Demand payment
- Muckraker Tarbell
- “Au contraire!”
- Isn’t plumb
- Hitormiss

- Garden veggie
- Tampa Bay footballer, for short
- End of the quip
- U.S. business treaty
- Prayer accessory
- Harmless, as threats
- Tend to the radiator
- Glut
- Abound
- Some bear greetings
- Implored
- Turkey’s spot

Down

- Jackal, for one
- Favor
- What Operation Desert Storm began with
- Prudent
- Reject disdainfully
- Slacken
- Once again
- Wire screen
- It contains points in Arizona
- Affirms
- “Ditto”
- Diner’s prerogative
- South African golfer

- See eye to eye
- Since time immemorial
- Role for Gwyneth
- Protect the crops
- Cold capital
- Accumulate
- Squaredance partner?
- Back from a junket
- Excellent
- Qatar’s leader
- Verdi princess
- Bus change
- Didn’t play
- “The ___ Archipelago” (Solzhenitsyn)
- Bedouins, e.g.
- Potent drug
- Puts up with
- Chromosome holders
- Outline
- Loved to death (with “on”)
- Came to a close
- Rx dose, e.g.
- Recover
- “Higher and Higher” singer Coolidge
- “Fear Factor” ailer
- ___ broche (skewered)





Allice with the child-like robot, Delta. COURTESY OF COLLIN BELT

ALLICE from page 1

ing to melt the ice nine. After a while, however, she meets a ‘child-like’ robot named Delta and then, Belt says, “She sort of learns how to develop her own purpose after meeting this friend she didn’t know she wanted.”

The inspiration for the name of the studio came from Allice because this is the studio’s first production. Ice Nine Studios team is made up of Houghton students Hosanna Gifford ’16, Grim, and Belt. Each student places a different role on the team, making the project a collaboration each of their different talents and skills.

The idea for a studio started with Grim, who designs both the sound and music for Allice. He first had the idea of creating a studio with friends to produce portfolio pieces for future job experience. This thought became a reality when both Belt and Grim decided to form Ice Nine Studios. Grim said, “It was originally conceived as a way for us to work together and create great art, and it just kind of escalated from there.”

The film however, which

is being used for Professor Madison Murphy’s class, Media Arts: Advanced Projects, started long before the class with a significant amount of pre-production from the team. Part of this pre-production included forming the team that now makes up the studio. After decided to form a studio, Belt, who does the animation of the production, and Grim contacted Gifford about writing the script for Allice. According to Gifford, the production has been based on collaborative, with everyone contributing equally to the film, “Honestly, I don’t feel very much as far as writing just because we work together.” This, Murphy said, will work in their favor, “They have the kind of relationship that if they want to go to work at a distance on projects together, that could happen.”

According to Gifford the process can be difficult at times because they’re all still learning and said, “It’s definitely a labor of love because we don’t know what’s going on all the time. So it’s a matter of trying to do the best we can with what we know, and figuring out what to do with what we don’t know.” Murphy, however, has been assisting the team with the

production process starting last semester by providing critiques and assisting the team where she can, “Really my role has been giving them framework, insight, and lots and lots of critique, like ‘yes this is working, no this isn’t working, and have you thought about this? This is going to be a problem for you later on.’”

Murphy, while providing lots of critique, is also extremely optimistic about the future of Ice Nine Studios, “I think they’re going to be hugely successful if they keep up at this pace.” Murphy said she sees Allice going far beyond just being a project for the class and is also helping the team prepare for that as well, “As I watch them go through the steps I can notice ‘oh that might be a problem for you later on, why don’t you start thinking about it now’”? One of the largest preparations for the final production of the film, which Murphy says won’t take place until about April or March, will be rendering. Rendering is the process of building output files from computer animations, or the process of taking something from a computer and putting it on a screen. In this process there are many things that can go wrong causing for delays in deadlines and many other problems. To prepare for the rendering the team has been doing rendering tests to prevent such problems from arising.

According to Grim, the reaction to Allice has been positivity and support, so much so that they want Ice Nine Studios to carry on after they leave Houghton, “With all the press that Allice has been getting and the great response from everybody in general, the way things are going we’re looking into the possibility of making Ice Nine Studios an actual, ligament arts studio after we graduate.”

Murphy is looking forward to seeing what comes of Ice Nine Studios and it’s team saying, “They’re all exceptional people, and I’m excited.”★

Students Advocate for TAP Funds in Albany



The Albany capitol building. WIKIPEDIA.ORG

MARY CRONIN

Tuesday, high school and college students as well as faculty and financial aid administrators from throughout the state participated in an advocacy at the New York state legislative building in Albany. Houghton students planned to attend, but were not able due to weather.

The purpose of this was to rally for an increase in NY Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) funds. TAP helps thousands of college students who are residents of NY State pay for their educations. According to the NYS Higher Education Service, the maximum amount one can receive in TAP funds is \$5,165. TAP is a grant, meaning it does not have to be paid back. With the rise in student debt in recent years, advocacy for more TAP aid has become important for many. Most Houghton students are NYS residents who rely at least in part on TAP, thus making this issue a pressing one for a significant portion of the Houghton community.

The group of Houghton students, which was to be led by Houghton grad Isa-beau Higdon ’14, could not make the trip to Albany due to weather conditions. The group was made of students Chaz Ormond ’16, Sarah Schwec ’16, Michael Robrahn ’17, Grace Hollenceck ’16, and Dani Eaton (’17). The students, all of whom receive or have received TAP,

were encouraged to write letters to state legislators detailing NYS students’ reliance on TAP and the need for an increase in the maximum amount provided in place of the trip.

Ormond has high hopes for the outcome of NYS student advocacy. “First, it [TAP] has helped the majority of us, at Houghton College, to afford our education this far. Second, I have benefited [from TAP] because it allows me to have less of a student loan to worry about after I graduate. Though I do not receive the maximum amount, TAP has given me a significant amount that has aided in me paying my student bill for college. I would like to see an increase in the amount of money given to each student.”

Yet there is also the need for government costs to remain manageable too. Ormond noted “I understand that with the increasing student debt, there must be an increasing cost to the government to supply the finances to aid students’ education. Thus, I would suggest better budgeting. Many students are not able to pay back the loans they are given, or take an unnecessary amount of time to do so. I hope to see either an increase in aid, or a decrease in rising costs of tuition.” The latter suggestion continues to be an issue for colleges and universities, especially private institutions like Houghton.★

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House (KPFH). The KPFH provides an open space for both teams to move around and also batting cages to work on hitting, but it does not allow the typical outdoor experience of baseball.

“One of the biggest things I’m looking forward to is just getting outside,” said Brian Reitnour, head baseball coach. “Chances are that by the time we leave for Florida the snow will

still be on the baseball field, so just getting back on a field will be great,” he said.

“Florida is a great opportunity for us to get our season going. It allows us to play in some warm sunshine, get a tan, and develop closer friendships with the team. Every year we come back a closer knit team,” said Seth Cornell ’15, baseball captain.

Since this is the start of both teams’ seasons, players and coaches are very optimistic about the coming season and excited for the competition in Florida.

“This time of year is al-

ways exciting because it’s a fresh start. Our guys train year-round and they finally get a chance to compete,” said Reitnour. “We have 10 seniors on this team and our aspirations grow with each season. I’m looking forward to seeing how much we can accomplish,” he said.

Both teams seem to have a very busy schedule during the week. The softball team is scheduled to play ten games and will be playing teams such as Lydon State College, Hanover College, and Alma College. The baseball team is scheduled to play eight

games against teams such as Cleary University, Concordia University, and Hanover College.

The baseball team plays every day but Sunday and the softball team plays every day but Wednesday and Sunday. The baseball team will be doing a worship service on Sunday and barbeque with the player’s families.

Last year the teams had the opportunity to see some Major League teams spring training, but this year they are going earlier, so they will not be able to attend any games.

The baseball team will

be traveling from Davenport and Haines City, Florida during the week and the softball team will be mainly in Clermont, FL.

“There is no better way to get our season going then going to Florida for a week of games and non-stop fellowship with the team,” said Cornell.★

Houghton Take-Two: Returning as a Student Twenty-Four Years Later

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

Christopher Cilento is, in his own words, “not your typical eighteen to twenty-two year old student.” He is a non-traditional student, who first attended Houghton College in 1991. Yet financial difficulties allowed him to attend for only one year, and he found himself on the long road to his return to Houghton this semester.

Cilento described the years following his initial year at Houghton as a “downward trend.” He entered the military, seeking something “more practical” than his interest in art, and served for seventeen years. He was sent on three combat deployments to Afghanistan. Yet upon leaving the military, found himself unemployed for six months, falling into depression as he at last resigned himself to a job he hated.

A “one person intervention” brought Cilento out of this rut. “He gave me the swift kick in the rear I needed,” Cilento said, by reminding him that there was no reason to stay where he was and that his year at Houghton had been his best. After consideration and prayer, he both applied and was accepted within a week. “It blew my mind,” Ci-

lento said, and after that, “doors opened.”

“God has provided every time something came up,” Cilento explained. He began to prepare for the trip to Houghton without having enough gas money, but his needs were met just hours before he left. His concerns about bad weather were allayed when “the clouds parted” as he exited onto Route 19. He noted that he had left Sunday instead of Monday as he had originally intended. Monday brought three inches of snow. “I never would’ve gotten the truck up the hill,” Cilento said, shaking his head. He looks back at his trip to Houghton as “miracle after miracle.”

Having at last arrived at Houghton, Cilento is pursuing a major in applied design and visual communications. His “dream of dreams” is to work for National Geographic as a photo-journalist, but Cilento would be happy working for an outdoor or travel magazine or teaching photography. Having taken a few online courses before going to Houghton, he is happy to be attending the college. “It was not what I wanted to do. I was doing what I thought I should do,” Cilento explained.

Being a non-traditional student, however, is not without its struggles. Cilento mentioned



Christopher Cilento with his iconic walking stick that he received from his interpreter in Afghanistan.

“getting back in the groove of studying and taking notes” as his greatest difficulty upon returning to college, as he essentially must

“relearn” being a student.

Yet the environment, for him, is pleasantly familiar. “The whole atmosphere is pretty much

the same,” he explained. “Very friendly, very open.” During his 1991 year at Houghton, he “felt accepted,” and that is “one of the things that hasn’t changed.” He added that, surprisingly, one of the things that had not changed is that “they still have chalkboards here!” Cilento also discovered Professor Ted Murphy, who had taught him in 1991, was his professor once again, and was “the same as he was back then.”

Cilento laughingly noted a few changes in Houghton since 1991. “The trees are a lot bigger,” he said. “The style of clothing has changed dramatically.” The college experience itself is also a bit different, as Cilento is much more conscious of responsibility. “I used to live in the CC basement,” he said. “Now I go home and do homework.” He explained that his first year at Houghton, “if I didn’t like the class I’d stare out the window, doodle in a notebook.” Now, he is “more motivated to pay attention in class.”

Cilento recently submitted a cartoon to the Drawing Board, portraying himself as the “prodigal son.” “That’s what it felt like,” he said. He is certain he is in the right place. “I’m where I want to be and happier than I have been in a very, very long time. If someone asks if I am happy, I can say yes.” ★

ROEDERER

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and he was attuned to the rising tensions in the Middle East during the 1950s. One day, Roederer’s father sat him and his sister down and flatly told them that they were to learn English, because they were moving to America the next year. Several years later civil war broke out.

Once in America, Roederer attended The Stony Brook School in Long Island, NY where his father found employment as the French teacher. Roederer was active in many sports, however Roederer cites his high school Cross Country coach Marvin Goldberg, a Houghton alumnus, as having the greatest impact on his life and future career. Throughout the trials of his life, his coach’s shout to “Keep running!” would return to him and enable him to persevere. Coach Goldberg also initiated Roederer’s long connection to Houghton.

Roederer attended Houghton College as an undergraduate from 1961-1964 with a Major in French, and minors in Spanish and secondary education. While at Houghton, Roederer also met his future wife Sandy (then Carlson), a fellow French major, who he married in 1965. The year after graduation, Roederer taught French in a Long

Island high school, at 20 years of age. However, his calm demeanor and creativity with his students fostered a mutual respect. After a year of teaching in Long Island, Roederer received a call from his Houghton mentor and friend, Dr. Gordon Stockin, then Houghton’s language department’s program director. Stockin asked Roederer if he would be interested in returning to Houghton to lead its French program. Roederer accepted, and moved back to Houghton to teach that fall.

At the age of 22, Roederer faced the unusual task of teaching students his own age. Roederer took to the challenge head-on, and even started Houghton’s first Cross-Country team in addition to teaching. “I entered as the junior faculty member, and here I am at the other end of the scale!” Roederer said with a smile. Although Roederer found himself in a wonderful position out of college, and enjoyed his work, Roederer remained unsure whether teaching French was absolutely what God wanted him to do.

Over the next three summers, Roederer earned his Master’s degree in French from Middlebury College in Vermont, and continued to teach at Houghton.

Roederer has always fostered many interests, including a love of aviation. He learned to fly small aircraft in Olean, NY, and began to consider enlisting as a

military pilot. His wife Sandy was less than thrilled by this prospect, especially once they had their first child. Roederer then looked into missionary aviation, which was marginally better as far as his wife was concerned.

In 1972, Roederer was accepted as a candidate for Moody Aviation’s missionary pilot program. He resigned from Houghton, his family sold their house, and that summer the Roederers headed to Tennessee on a long shot. After a week of evaluation in many areas, including flight, and plane maintenance skills, Roederer didn’t make the cut. It seemed that he had been led down a dead-end.

A friend, seeing that Roederer had nothing lined up for the fall, offered him a high-school job in the Adirondacks, which Roederer accepted. Roederer taught there for the next four years, but he and his family could not be torn away from Houghton so easily, as they returned to spend each summer there. After four years of this annual migration, Paul Johnson, Roederer’s replacement at Houghton, asked him if he would consider joining him as an additional French professor. After Johnson warmly welcomed him back in 1976 the two became fast friends. They shared the French department until 1998, when Johnson retired. Between the two of them, Johnson and Roederer were the

French department, “Johnson had the gift of administration and did very, very well for the Foreign Language department.” Roederer recalled. He said Johnson “is one of the major reasons I stayed as long as I did at Houghton after coming back.” Roederer lauded, “He constantly pulled for me.”

In his time at Houghton, Roederer has taught every French course in the book, as well as Spanish for ten years. In the process, Roederer has become renowned among students for his gentle, amiable nature, and his sense of humor. “It’s like everything that comes up in class he has a funny life story he’s willing to share,” said Leah Shadbolt, a junior with a French Concentration. She first met Roederer when she visited Houghton as a prospective student, and has taken a class with him every semester since. “He’s just so patient all the time, and really kind.” The personal impact that Roederer has had on his students’ lives is evident in talking with them. “He was such great positive influence, and a great spiritual mentor,” Rachel Anacker, senior, confided, illustrating the support that Roederer provided when she was going through a hard time last fall.

The resilience and creativity that Roederer exercises in his teaching stem partly from his father, who often quoted the Por-

tuguese proverb, “God writes straight – but he uses crooked lines.” Looking back on his life, Roederer sees the many twists and turns as times that God was working. Even Roederer’s failure to become a pilot ended up being the event that brought Paul Johnson, Roederer’s longtime colleague and dear friend, to Houghton.

Although Roederer has many things he wants to do in retirement, he nevertheless foresees a huge transition. “I think it is going to hit hard, like running into a brick wall.” Roederer gratefully acknowledged the great support of his colleagues past and present, especially Marlene Collins-Blair and David Kinman over the last few years. “I see in them character that honors God in all they do, and a desire for excellence in their careers that inspires me to do my best each day.” Roederer said it is hard for him to imagine a better community to live in, or a better college at which to teach. “One of the most beautiful things about Houghton is the people.” Roederer expressed, “You have a great ethos here of helping each other.”

Jean-Louis Roederer and Sandy, his wife of 50 years, plan to remain in the Houghton community they so love. Expected to succeed Roederer as the next full time senior faculty is Gary Baxter, professor of Art. ★

Purple and Gold Week SPOT

Charismatic Hosts and Original Acts Win Over the Crowd

THOMAS ECKERT

There is a definite formula to SPOT. Like a long-running TV show, we come back to it each semester to be reminded of things we all like through means that become more familiar each year. We know, walking into the building, that we will hear jokes about “Ring by Spring,” housing, and Sodexo because these are things we all observe as Houghton students. They are artifacts of Houghton pop culture. Watching American popular culture get blended up with Houghton community has a certain charm to it.

This iteration was one of the more consistently exceptional productions I’ve seen in my three years at this school. The key word here is “consistency.” Former SPOTs have consisted of a slew of weaker acts, with strong acts peppered in between. This semester started strong and stayed funny throughout.

I sat in the balcony, a bit neurotic for taking notes during SPOT. All around me, people were Snapchatting, Instagramming, and “Yakking” as the heavy beat accompanied the countdown to showtime. I saw a lot of selfies being taken.

Connor Vogan and Matt Dean had great charisma as they entered and began the show. They were skilled at hosting without putting too much focus on themselves. They glued the acts together in a way that was memorable without being narcissistic. That takes nuance and it is exactly what hosts should do.

The choice to begin the night with Mike Kerr’s love song to squirrels was a great one. He held the joke until the

moment when you almost expected him to be earnest. The reveal was a well executed head to the show.

Connor and Matt did a great job of developing original bits that involved students and faculty. Houghton Superlatives were clever and delivered with great comedic timing. The Minute to Win It challenge was a fantastic feat of human athleticism with high anxiety provided by the tick-tocking of the band. SPOT Hashtags is a bit I hope returns in the future, with its highlight being the phrase “#WombMate” from the Webb twins. Midway through the show, Shelly Hillman was able to enact revenge on her boss, Dr. Plate by giving him a pie in the face.

As happens each semester, President Mullen was involved in a skit. She and her husband Paul Mills performed in a lip sync battle against Professors Johnson and Gaerte. The crowd elicited a choral “aww” as the proverbial Houghton couple synced to “A Whole New World” from *Aladdin*. The crowd ultimately gave the win to Johnson and Gaerte who performed “No Air”. The purple and gold competitions for the night ended with an egg roulette challenge between JL Miller and Jason Stephens.



First Gentleman Paul Mills storms off stage after losing the lip sync battle.

LUKE LAUER

An all too quick win by Jason gave the prize to the purple team for the night.

Throughout the show, a few acts and common themes stuck out to me. I firstly think that recognition needs to be given to the trio of Malcolm Bell, Jerbrel Bowens, and Marc Legrand who made each transition between acts incredibly smooth. People were dancing in their seats instead of impa-

tiently waiting for the next act to be ready which has cursed some SPOTs of the past.

An oddity that stuck out to me was that only one video was shown during the course of the night. It was a hilarious parody of MTV Cribs that mimicked the editing of that show perfectly, but the majority of acts were on stage. That being said, there was a real trend of acts being accompanied by slides

more interesting.

The night ended with an ensemble dance to “Move Your Body” by Beyoncé. SPOT wasn’t too long or too short. It was consistent and held a good mood throughout the night. There is some argument to be made that the criterion of parody for the acts was too limiting, but I think it resulted in a better show in this case. When we gather to enjoy comedy, we ought to gather around some familiar totem.

We have for many years needed something to hold us together as a community. As our sources of entertainment have become more diverse, it’s nice to know there are still instances of common culture for us to form around. That is the purpose of SPOT, I think. Not simply a night of enjoyment, but a common Houghton event that spurs on conversation and an occasional controversy. It’s a lighthearted way of lampooning our decision to spend four years freezing with 900 other people, at the same time appreciating each other in our unity. ★

“It’s a lighthearted way of lampooning our decision to spend four years freezing with 900 other people, at the same time appreciating each other in our unity.”

on the projector. The Yearbook bit and “Upperclassmen” gave the audience two subjects to look at and ultimately made the performances funnier and



JL Miller loses Egg Russian Roulette against Jason Stephens.

LUKE LAUER



Rachel Wright and Ayumi Schultz are SPOT on with their slam poetry parody of Beyoncé’s “7/11”.

LUKE LAUER

Redeeming Gender: Title IX at Houghton



ANTHONY BURDO

NANCY MURPHY

Last week’s STAR described recent mandates concerning the 1972 Federal law on gender equity known as “Title IX” to the problem of relationship violence on campuses. Students at Houghton can celebrate that they live in an environment free of much of the outwardly destructive behavior that characterizes many schools. What, then, does Title IX have to do with Houghton?

The goal of Title IX at Houghton is to promote the education of students, specifically as this relates to Houghton Goal #5: “Ground students in a strong biblical

worldview in the Wesleyan tradition that allows them to be deeply and thoughtfully Christian so as to transform culture through redeeming action.” Much of the conversation I hear around campus falls short of the standard of being “deep” or “thoughtful” and much of our energy seems devoted to defending a particular stereotyped vision of gender roles rather than invested in “redeeming action”. Houghton must do a better job of preparing its students to be leaders in the area of gender equity.

Former President Jimmy Carter’s *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power* states, “. . . in my opinion, Jesus Christ was the greatest liberator of women in a society where they had been considered throughout biblical history to be inferior.” If we are followers of Christ, we must be fearless in opening ourselves to the possibility that the privileges we enjoy hinder us from seeing the extent of the

work yet to be done. In calling us to be agents of redemption in the world, is Christ calling us to be “Human Rights’ Activists”? If so, what does this look like? Perhaps just as importantly, what are the distractions or petty disagreements that seem to draw us away from our calling?

My job as Title IX Coordinator is to encourage thoughtful consideration of questions such as, “In what ways are we influenced by the larger culture regarding gender in a way that is harmful to our understanding of what it means to be created in God’s image? How do both women and men contribute to and sustain the difficulties we have in relating to one another in Christ-honoring ways? How does language impact our views of women and men? What implications are there for using the word ‘girls’ to describe females over 18 and using ‘men’ or ‘guys’ to describe males over 18? Why don’t we

have a universal policy of gender-friendly language for our course syllabi?”

If they are to follow Christ’s lead in gender justice, Houghton graduates must wrestle with questions, such as, Why does the self-confidence of girls decrease sharply just as they reach puberty? Why is it okay to use disparaging comments when referring to girls and women (e.g. “You throw like a girl” – see Super Bowl 49 commercial)? Why do women speak less in mixed groups, including during class discussions? How much should it concern us that the phrase, “I totally raped you!”, is likely to refer to beating someone in a video game? Why is it that so many young women, including Christians, feel that they owe a man something if he compliments them and pays attention to them? How can Christian women be empowered to have a voice and to assert themselves while nurturing the belief that Christians are to

place service to others above self? How does a culture of patriarchy within the church contribute to a climate of female restraint and male entitlement that hinders the full development of both men and women? How do we respond to the complaint from a sister or brother that something we have said or done has negatively impacted her or him, regardless of any lack of intent to do harm?

Transformation needs to occur, but first we seek the truth with humility. Thankfully, Christ and scriptures such as Galatians 3:28, which states “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” give us direction. As Emma Brittain noted in, *How Houghton Handles Racism*, “. . . if we are not sensitive to race, we can’t be intentional about combating racism.” We must open ourselves up to conversations that are difficult, that make us uncomfortable, and on which we disagree. This is the best way to hold ourselves and one another accountable. There is work to be done at Houghton. ★

Nancy is a Counselor and the Title IX Corridnator at the College.

Houghton must do a better job of preparing its students to be leaders in the area of gender equity.

Looking Towards the Powerless



ANTHONY BURDO

SARAH SLATER

Last weekend, I and a group of eleven other Houghton students attended the tenth annual Faith and International Development Conference at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I’ve been thinking for the past month or so about what it means to be graduating with a degree in International Development. International Development is a relatively new area of study which means that there isn’t one established way to think about it or really any major areas of agreement at all. For every issue there are at least three sides, and the literature is filled with vehement arguments. Learning about development entails learning a lot of different ways of looking at the world and evaluating the arguments for each of them.

The framework used by a

lot of Christian development practitioners is known as transformational development; it is the framework typically used by the speakers at FIDC Calvin. Transformational development, as defined by Bryant Myers in *Walking with the Poor*, looks at poverty as an economic, relational, and spiritual phenomenon, not only present in the lives of those who suffer from resource poverty but in the lives of those who are rich. And I think the transformational development framework should be used by any Christians who are interested in engaging in any way with the world, which should be all Christians.

F u n d a m e n t a l l y , transformational development is concerned with seeing the world as it really is, not the way we want it to be. The opposite of transformational development is willful blindness to reality for your own benefit. President Mullen, in her chapel message at the beginning of the week, talked about how many of the problems

Our God is a God who looks at the poor when speaking to the powerful.

in our world have been caused by the self-deception of those in power. At one point near the beginning of the talk, she said: “...Sooner or later, this pattern of not calling things what they really are stops being a matter of the mind... and starts being a matter of the heart.” Practitioners of transformational development are not simply witnesses to the process but are themselves transformed.

At the conference this past weekend, the theme was “Healthy Humility: Learning to Learn,” particularly from the people whose perspective we typically ignore. One of the best sessions was a devotional by Dr. Ravi Jayakaran, a member of the Lausanne Movement and pioneer

of participatory development. His message was taken from the story of Simon the Pharisee and the woman who anointed Jesus’ feet. Jayakaran stressed the importance of being in a posture of orienting ourselves to the marginalized. The passage he referenced in Luke 7 reads that “Jesus looked at the woman and spoke to Simon”.

This is what we are all called to do as Christians. We are called to be a prophetic voice in society, aligning ourselves with the needs of the marginalized rather than the desires of the powerful. Liberation theology, born out of the experience of the Catholic Church in Latin America, has sometimes been controversial but it emphasizes something that Western Christianity is in danger of missing. One of the key elements in liberation theology is God’s preferential option for the poor—our God is a God who looks at the poor when speaking to the powerful.

I don’t mean to suggest in any way that the international development industry has always or even often aligned itself with the cause of the oppressed. That is unfortunately and sadly

untrue—counterexamples are too numerous to number. USAID has a long history of granting aid for reasons of foreign policy that has been used by the elite members of developing societies for their own benefit.

I do think though that at its best a Christian theology of international development has the right view of the world. Listening to the speakers at the conference—Kurt Ver Beek from the Association for a More Just Society in Honduras; Pauline Muchina from the Future African Leaders Project; Scott Sabin from Plant With Purpose; Michael Woolcock from the World Bank—I was inspired by their clear passion for righting injustice whether through environmental interventions, the empowerment of women, or the promotion of a legal system that works for rather than against everyone.

As a graduating senior looking toward the rest of my life, I want to be one of the people that looks to the powerless rather than to the powerful. I want to give preference to the marginalized rather than deference to the celebrated. I want to see the world the way it really is.

“And when the saints go marching in / I want to be one of them”. ★

Sarah is a senior international development and business double major.

Transformational development is concerned with seeing the world as it really is, not the way we want it to be.

Microaggressions

the Subtle Side of Racism



ANTHONY BURDO

MOEUN SUN

We live in a world today that doesn't pay attention to anything mediocre. Miley Cyrus has to either come in like a wrecking ball wearing, well, nothing, or Beyoncé has to drop a self-titled album out of literally nowhere. And thanks to technology that rivals that of the Jetsons', we have become subconsciously conditioned to ignore things that don't immediately grab our attention.

Love it or hate it, Miley Cyrus' shock factor keeps her

famous. By taking time out of our day, we, the consumers, allow for extremes that keep Miley Cyrus twerking, while celebrities like Hilary Duff (who also started as a child star) look on in the post-Lizzie McGuire life, largely unnoticed. And unfortunately for us, this culture manifests itself in other aspects of life outside of Hollywood and the gossip-starved media; it manifests itself in conversations that really matter to human co-existence, like racism.

I like to think that at Houghton, racism is a common enemy; something we can all rally against, kind of like seeing "ice pellets" on the weather forecast and still not getting classes cancelled (unless you aren't bothered by that, in which case... who even are you?). And for the most part, I think most of the Houghton population could adamantly deny being racist—at least, not intentionally.

This is where the problem lies.

The media does not talk about a celebrity's everyday life if it does not draw out extremes and intense emotions. Likewise, our community does not talk about

There needs to be a realization that good intentions are simply not enough.

the more subtle side of racism, the more nuanced side of it, if you will, because of the lack of internet and emotional outcry against it. But there is actually a word for this kind of racism: it is called micro-aggression.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term micro-aggression, it is defined as any form of unintended discrimination against minority groups—in this case, ethnic minority groups such as Asians. Whether that's asking if I "speak Asian" or "am really, really good at math," these sometimes humorous and even well-intended questions can act as a form of micro-aggression. Maybe this was some of you yesterday, and maybe some of you have never even thought about it. And that's understandable, though perhaps

not excusable, because we as a community have failed to talk about the everyday subtleties that micro-aggression manifests itself in. While we are quick to address more evident issues of racism, for which I commend Houghton, I think it would serve us well to think about the everyday realities of attending a majority-white school as an Asian. What does it feel like to be the only non-white student in your class? What about people assuming you know a certain Chinese student because, well, she's Asian? Or what about even hearing compliments from people who tell you your "English is very, very good"?

This is not to say that everyone at Houghton has been either a perpetrator or a victim of micro-aggression. And this is most certainly not to say

that race should be a taboo subject because of the potential awkward moments it could create. Rather, what I am trying to convey is that in order for us to fully understand the presence of micro-aggression that exists even on this campus, there must first and foremost be a sense of awareness and humility.

There needs to be a realization that good intentions are simply not enough—it's time to ask ourselves what kinds of effects our words may have on others, a continual process of self-reflection. And from there, engage in open dialogue with those who may be otherwise prey to acts of nuanced racism, to micro-aggression.

Just to be clear, I am not the only Asian voice on campus, nor am I even a representation of the majority Asian perspective and experience at Houghton. But if this article has done nothing else, let it at least be a tool from which you can start helpful and tactful dialogues with other Asian students. ★

Moeun is a senior international development and business double major.



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.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Last Friday the Chapel speaker was Dr. Wesley Hill, a gay, celibate, Christian. He advocated that Christians who are gay, should live a life of celibacy. He summed up his stance by saying, "I gave up marriage as a commitment to Christ." He, along with with many members of the Houghton community, believe that God requires celibacy for all who are not hetrosexual. And this is what I have a problem with.

My problem is with the God that proponents of this this view (giving up marriage for Christ) want us to believe in. What kind of God creates someone with a sexual attraction that they can NEVER act on? What kind of God expects his children to give up the possibility for the intimate relationship that only a marriage can

provide, to abandon and alienate ourselves from a fundamental part of who we are? An evil one! A God not worthy of believing in, let alone following. This is not the God of the Christian narrative. Thankfully, there is another way of relating to that God.

Dr. Hill and others want LGBT people to give up marriage as a commitment to Christ. And I agree that we do need to give up something as a commitment to Christ. But it's not marriage that needs to go. No, we need to give up God as a commitment to Christ. In order to commit to the loving, graceful, accepting, expansive, humanity-embracing way of Christ, we need to give up that former view of God. The God that creates people with an attraction they can never act on, that expects us to give up the benefits of marriage,

that wants us to forsake a fundamental aspect of what makes us human, he has got to go! Thankfully there are other ways of interpreting Scripture, other ways of viewing God. The God who is oppressive, demanding, and asks us to forsake our humanity is not worth our time. So join me in giving him up. Give up God as a commitment to Christ.

Matt Young
Class '18

Dear Editor,

I have concerns about the man who spoke in chapel this past Friday. My big question is why did he still want to be identified as a homosexual then even though he doesn't practice homosexuality? As Christians when we first accept Christ, we are brand new. Our past is behind us and we can live a new

life with God on our side. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) states, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" This man doesn't have to struggle with sin anymore. God has made him new. His identity is in Christ.

Galatians 3:25-26 (NLT) strongly proclaims, "And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." I don't understand why this man wanted to be known by his sin and not be identified as a child of God. God healed people of their illness, He has fed the 5000, and He most importantly conquered death! If the man claims he is a follower of Christ, I don't see why God couldn't heal him.

This universe is endlessly

big. Our human problems are not impossible for God. I have heard some people who try consoling say it isn't successful for this issue. Matthew 19:26 (NLT) strongly claims, "Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible." God doesn't always quickly heal people in an instant. It can take some time.

We need to be there for people who struggle with this sin. I don't hate homosexuals. I believe we need to pray and love them. I believe wholeheartedly that God who created this vast universe and who has conquered death can heal homosexuals. I think this should be Houghton's new direction with this issue.

Rebekah Bunal
Class '16

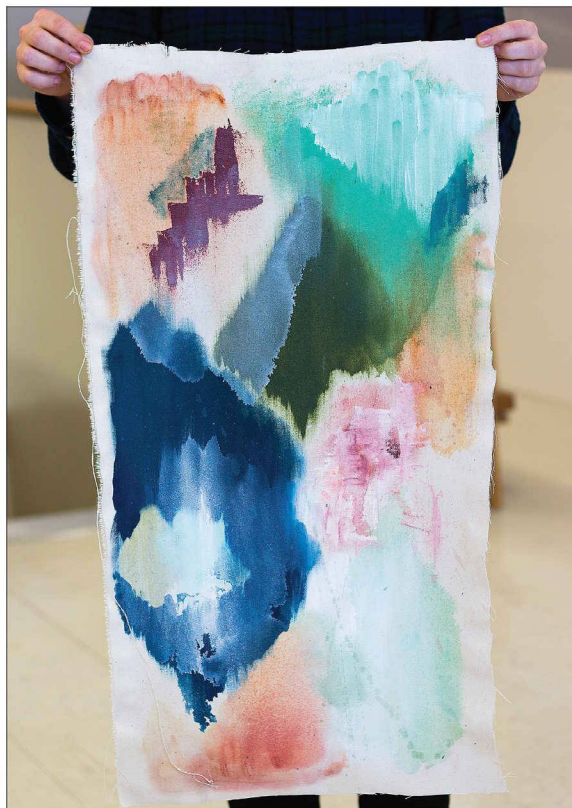
Artist of the Week

Katie Kloos

//senior BFA studio arts major



ANTHONY BURDO



Titles & Media

from left to right descending

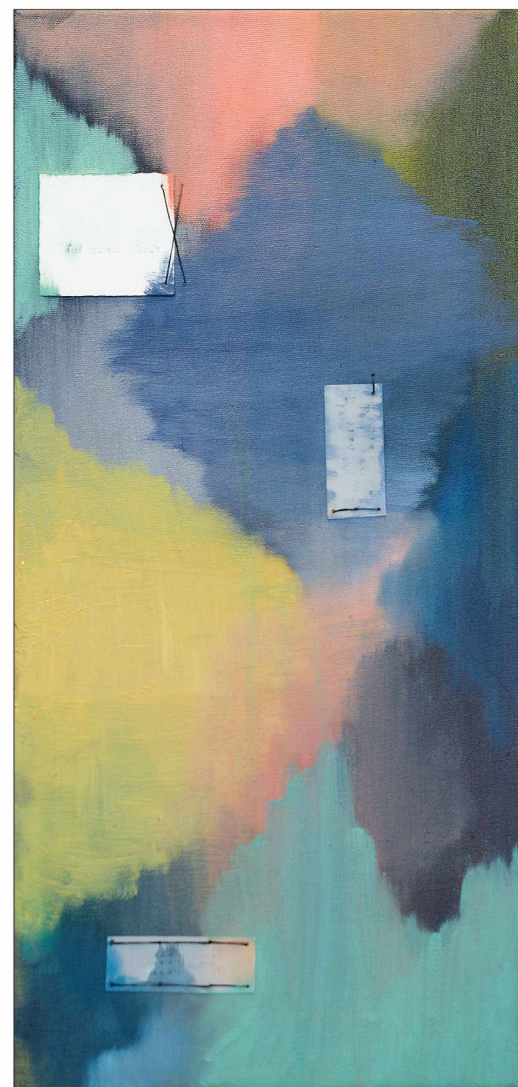
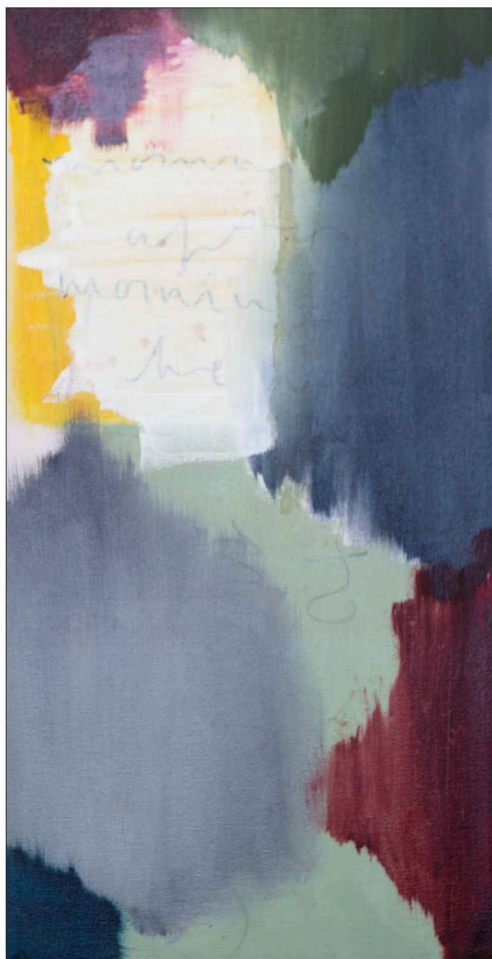
"I wish I knew the answers to these unknowns", *oil on canvas*

"morning after morning he wakes to remember", *oil on canvas*

"misty eyes", *oil on canvas*

"to see (part two)", *oil on canvas*

"I looked back (part one)", *oil on canvas*



“Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it.” -*Roald Dahl*