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**ARTIST OF THE WEEK:  
KATELYN HEINS**

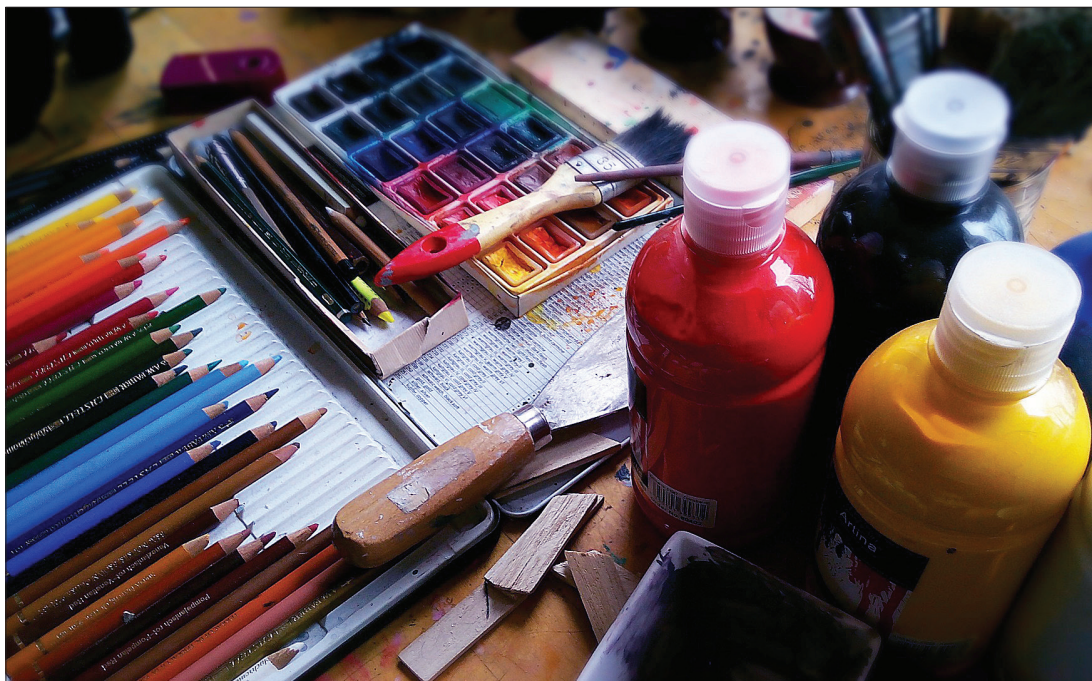
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## Ortlip Gallery Hosts Juried Student Exhibit

ANNA SCHILKE

The 30th Annual Student Art Exhibit will open in the Ortlip Gallery on Friday, February 22nd at 6pm. The show – which has been a Houghton tradition since 1989 – will feature work from current students selected by an impartial juror. At the opening, prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Best of Show will be awarded. This portion of the ceremony will begin around 6:30pm.

The Student Art Exhibit was initiated thirty years ago by Roselyn Danner. According to Professor Ted Murphy, it was designed not only to display the work of current students, but to help those students improve their craft and prepare for the real world of gallery shows. “Making work is a part of classes,” he says, “but exhibiting is a critical part of ‘finishing’ a work. Students...learn from seeing their work in an exhibition. It is very different from a typical studio critique.” Alicia Taylor-Austin, who is the Director of the Ortlip Gallery, concurs. “It is important to showcase student achievements in the gallery for many reasons, primary among them is to give artists who are currently attending Houghton as students a chance to experience the kind of submission process that they



COURTESY OF BODOBE ON PIXABAY

will encounter after graduating from the program,” she says.

Murphy adds that the show also allows community members to see what the art students have been working on throughout the year. Even though his role in the art department means that some of the pieces were likely developed for his classes, Murphy is enthusiastic about attending. He comments, “I’m always excited to see the work and see the efforts

that reveal what my colleagues are teaching.”

It’s not only faculty who feel this way. Kara Christy, an art student set to graduate in May, agrees. “The student show is highly anticipated by both art students and art makers,” she says. “It’s a great way to showcase pieces that we’re proud of and an opportunity to get an outsider opinion from the juror.” Christy also believes that the show builds

community among art students, even though they are in competition with each other for slots. “My friends and I would help each other decide which pieces we wanted to enter, make our own frames...and head down to the gallery to struggle over title choices and put ridiculous prices on our works,” she says. Abigail Reeth, another Senior art student, thinks that art professors play a large role in pushing stu-

dents to enter and in cultivating the friendly spirit that Christy characterizes. She remarks, “[They] are helpful in encouraging students to submit their work and helping them through the process of preparing work to be displayed in a gallery.”

The selection process to which both Christy and Reeth allude is done by an impartial third party who is selected by the art faculty and brought in to judge the show. It’s a process that’s open to all students, not just those who have taken art classes at Houghton. All mediums are accepted, although students are limited to three pieces that have been created in the last year and a half. Once the pieces have been compiled, the juror does a blind selection, each piece is assigned a number and evaluated with the names or the year of the artist attached. After selections are made, a posting is sent out. Further prizes, including the sought after “Best of the Show,” are awarded the night of the opening. There are also some monetary prizes that are awarded, and the President and the First Gentleman are expected to make an appearance.

This year, the selected ju-

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HOUGHTON OFFERS  
MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN  
EDUCATION (LITERACY)

KRISTEN SAVASTANO

Houghton announced on February 15th, 2019 that it will begin a fully online Master of Science in Education (Literacy) program with classes starting on September 2, 2019. The first application deadline is April 1st, 2019.

This program has been approved by the New York State Department of Education and will allow students to apply for a certificate as a literacy specialist in New York State (either birth through sixth grade, fifth through twelfth grade, or birth through twelfth grade).

The program will focus specifically on teaching literacy in rural contexts, collaboration, and co-teaching. The degree may be completed in a time span of (at the least) one year to (at the most) four years. The program aims at providing rural schools with more specialized literacy teachers, as rural schools tend to have a higher demand for these teachers than those of suburban or urban contexts. For students

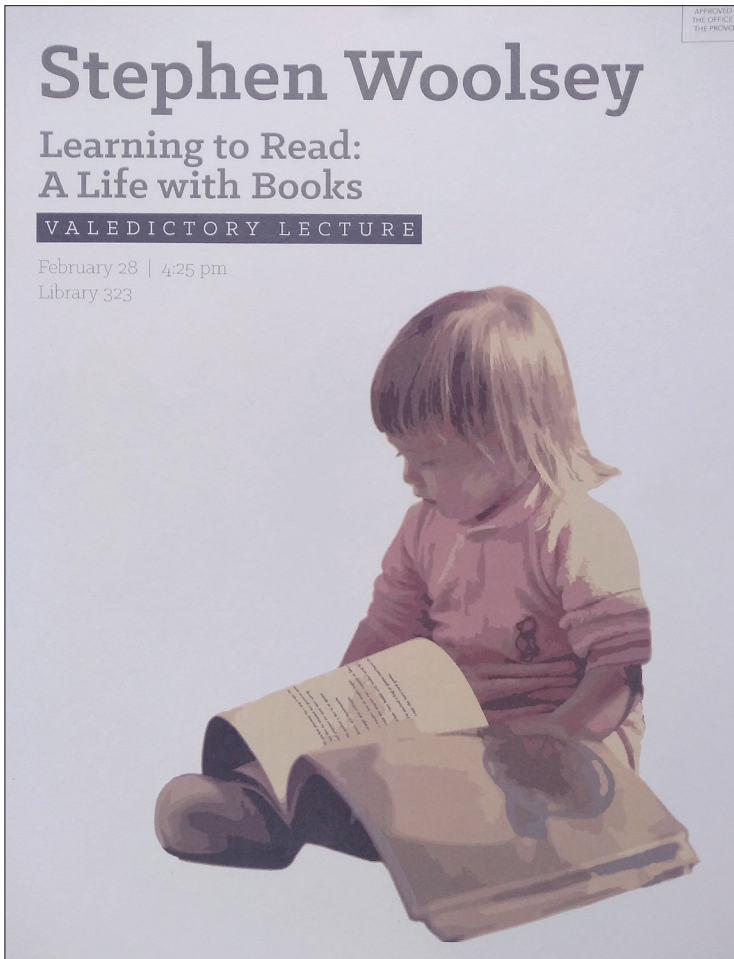
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## Woolsey to Hold Valedictory Lecture

MELISSA HODDE

Dr. Stephen Woolsey will offer his final words as Professor of English to the college on February 28th at 4:25pm in Library 323. The valedictory lecture, part of a tradition for retiring professors initiated by President Mullen, will be titled Learning to Read: A Life with Books. Dr. Woolsey is calling his lecture an “autobio-bibliography” because, as he said, “it’s partly autobiographical, but also a sort of informal and very partial bibliography of some books and writers that have had a profound influence on me.”

When speaking of the image on the poster promoting the lecture, he said, “It’s actually a photograph I took of our daughter when she was really little.” She is reading - or rather, trying to read - Oxcart Man. He says, “What intrigued me was that she was clearly looking at the print rather than the pictures, as if she knew there was some mystery there that she didn’t have the key to, yet, but was trying to - almost by sheer willpower - decode.” He smiled. “It was one of her favorites. And she probably



COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

The poster for the event, featuring a stylistic photo of his daughter.

practically had it memorized at that point, but I think was trying to figure out how we did it.”

Woolsey’s bibliography also begins early. “I sort of track it through my childhood and then into high school, college, grad school, and teaching,” he said, “and my intention is at least partly to express my gratitude for teachers, but also students who have taught me to read over the years.” He adds, “I don’t think I’ve ever taught a class in which I didn’t learn as much as I was trying to teach, just from the careful reading of students who were looking at texts and seeing things I hadn’t seen.”

Nearly all of the books Woolsey plans to include made an appearance in one or of his classes. He noted, “I mention two that are audiobooks that Linda and I have listened to as we’ve been driving around, and I actually quote a little bit at length from one of them that made a big impression on me, that we just finished a week or two ago, and then there’s one we’re ‘reading’ right now that’s also really beautiful and elegant and powerful - and of course,

See **WOOLSEY** page 2



# TWO STEW RECIPIES TO HELP CURE THE MID-WINTER BLUES

PAIGE COLLINS    It’s that time of year when the mid-winter blues start creeping in. The workload seems unbearable, the skies are constantly gloomy, and all you want is for spring to come. Whenever I start to get the winter blues, I find that enjoying a big bowl of stew helps warm and cheer me up. Here’s a couple different recipes from my kitchen to make and enjoy this winter. ★

### Beef & Bean Stew

#### Ingredients:

- 2 Lbs beef stew meat
- 1 medium sized yellow onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 12oz can of red kidney beans
- 3 medium sized potatoes
- 3 carrots
- 3 celery ribs
- 1 32 oz carton of beef stock

#### To taste:

- 1 bayleaf
- ⅓ teaspoon of sage
- ⅓ teaspoon of thyme
- ⅓ teaspoon of garlic powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

(These amounts can be doubled if you prefer stronger flavors)

#### Crockpot:

Cut up meat into bite sized chunks, about 1 inch in size. Dice vegetables and throw them into the crockpot along with the meat. Drain liquid out of the can of beans, and dump beans into the pot. Pour stock into the crockpot and season with the herbs and spices. Cook according to you specific crockpot instructions. Enjoy!

### Chicken & Mushroom Stew

#### Ingredients:

- 2 chicken breasts
- 1 medium yellow onion
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 Lb mushrooms, portobello or cremini
- 3 medium potatoes
- 1 32 oz carton of chicken stock

#### To taste:

- ¼ teaspoon Rosemary
- ⅓ teaspoon sage
- ⅓ teaspoon thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste

(These amounts can be doubled if you prefer stronger flavors)

#### Stovetop:

Begin by dicing the potatoes and placing them in a medium sized pot. Cover diced potatoes with water, as a dash of salt, and bring to boil on the stovetop, cooking until the potatoes are tender.

On the stovetop, heat up olive oil in a pan on medium to high heat, to cook the meat. Once the meat is cooked all the way through, let cool and chop up into bite sized pieces.

Dice the onions and slice the mushrooms. Add more olive oil to the pan and reduce heat to medium. Throw in onions and mushrooms, saute until mushrooms are tender and the onions transparent. When the vegetables are almost done, throw in the minced garlic.

Once all the ingredients are cooked, add them to a large pot and pour in the chicken stock and add the seasonings.

Let pot simmer on low to medium heat for 30-60 minutes. Enjoy!

# WRITE FOR THE NEWS SECTION

Are you interested in journalistic writing?

Do you want the chance to write about upcoming events?

Then the STAR wants you to write about the news on campus!

Email editor@houghtonstar.com

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GALLERY from page 1

wanting to teach in suburban or urban contexts, however, the faculty of the program will provide opportunities for collaboration and conversation with students who plan on teaching in rural settings. Collaboration between education, family, and community will be emphasized as well as critique of thought and practice in the educational world. ★

ror is Rachel Wright, a former Houghton student who graduated with an art degree in 2016 and is currently a practicing artist in PA. Seoyoung Je, a gallery assistant for the exhibition, is a fan. “She drove all the way from Philly, PA,” Je says. She also remarks on the importance of the position itself. “The juror decides which work is submitted to the show

based on professional standards and naturally with personal sensibilities. That’s why an artwork could be accepted or rejected by different jurors. It doesn’t necessarily mean the piece has no value.”

Murphy, Taylor-Austin, and Christy all note the importance of the fact that the exhibition is open to all students, not just those who are taking art classes. “I think it’s important to make the distinction that individuals who have submitted to this show are not “students” first but artists, people making visual art to express themselves and explore ideas relevant to their time” says Taylor-Austin. She adds “this show is purposefully open to submissions from individuals currently enrolled in any program at Houghton because the art department recognizes that artists can pursue a broad range of scholarly activity.” Christy agrees, and adds a word of caution. “This is an opportunity that most students take for granted; it can be very difficult to get into a gallery after college and it’s awesome to have your work showcased.” She also recommends that people stop by and visit the gallery even outside of the opening ceremony, concluding, “It’s a peaceful and inspiring stop in a day to enjoy some artwork by people you may know.” ★

**WOOLSEY** from page 1

those I haven’t included in classes.” The titles mentioned are The High Mountains of Portugal by Yann Martel and A Gentleman from Moscow, by Amor Towles. The addition of these works reflects Woolsey’s affinity for audiobooks, in the right context. “One of the things we realized a

long time ago was that on a road trip, there’s a special pleasure in seeing the countryside pass by but also listening to words, stories that really rochly evoke other times and places.”

Despite a few obscure titles, Woolsey expects that former students of his will recognize quite a few of the books he mentions. “I mention some from last term in American fiction, and I mention the Humanities class that I’m doing right now, so both past and present.” Zora Neale Hurston, Cormac McCarthy, and Willa Cather are all slated to make an appearance. He later adds, “I do mention The Fellowship [of the Ring] a couple of times.”

For students who haven’t attended most or any Woolsey classes, the lecture could be a prime opportunity to get a preview of authors to catch up on, as well as adding their own input to the conversation. When asked if he hopes to offer students a ready-made recommended reading list through his lecture, he noted, “What would be wonderful is if they also came up with the question I’ve loved over the years, ‘Have you also read \_\_\_\_?’” Woolsey is consistently passionate about receiving suggestions on what to read next. A rich source of these recommendations, he says, are requests from students to work with them on Honors projects and independent studies, often with generous reading lists of unfamiliar books.

The demand for Woolsey as a learning and reading partner among Houghton students is unsurprising; if the words of the chalkboard in Java are to be believed, Woolsey is a deeply loved figure on campus. When asked to

comment on this unconventional form of student feedback, he said, “It’s humbling and overwhelming and this is part of what I’ll miss - I mean, just people’s generosity of spirit and great kindness, expressed in so many ways, including that. It’s part of what I’m grateful for.”

That gratitude rests at the heart of his motivation for the emphasis in his valedictory lecture. He said, “There are scholarly projects I’ve worked on that would have been possible topics, but as my last public lecture, it just seemed like a good time to say thank you to the books and the writers and the people I have read with - I’ve had a lot of years to do it, and I’m just deeply grateful, and I will miss a lot of it even as I go off to do other things.”

Woolsey hopes to invest his spare time as a retiree in photography, volunteering and revisiting older drafts of short stories, as well as continuing to work through the “to-read” section of his library. Although he notes that every book he reads seems to offer five or ten more for the list, he doesn’t seem concerned about it. “I don’t see how anybody could be any more lucky than to spend a whole life reading books he or she loves, and then getting to talk about them with [students]. How could it get any better than that?” ★

STAR Rerun

OUR HOUGHTON HERITAGE

ROBERT S. CHAMBERLIN

*This rerun column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history This particular article is from Volume 11 Issue 12 of the STAR published on March 15th, 1919.*

If I knew all the things that bought Houghton I might better praise her preciousness. She is a child of noble ancestry. Born of Christian ideals, she is today the embodiment of those ideals.

As a Christian school, the worth of Houghton is measured by the thoroughness with which she clings to the rugged and thorny path that leads along the crests of Golgothas and through Gethsemanes to the radiant glories of celestial dawn. As long as Houghton standards are synonymous with Christian standards, upon her will be reflected glory and beauty, splendor and brightness from the light of the gospel of our Lord and Savior.

Not only is Houghton the child and the embodiment of Christian ideals, but she transmits those ideals. And the glory of the ideals which she gives is that they make for growth towards nobleness, toward Christ.

She gives bread, not a stone. It will not greatly profit to learn about the English Constitution, or the graph of quadratic equations or the relation between H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and zinc, or the laws that govern habit if we have eyes that see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that do not understand. Knowledge about the works of God does not of itself reveal to us the Creator. But Houghton makes this peculiar and priceless contribution, she opens up the great unseen world of spiritual realities as well as the more immediate world of material truths. She enables us to look around us without losing the high vision of Faith.

To those who are privileged

to call Houghton Alma Mater is the challenge to live those ideals for which Houghton stands, to prize the memories and the friends that Houghton gave, to find, to know the Friend of friends and taste the richness of His life. To us is a challenge to so live those ideals, to so appreciate those memories, to so taste that richness of life, that our abundance shall overflow into hearts that are hungry, existences that are barren, upon forms burdened with anguish and care and sin, and, best of all to pass them on, thus making them real to others and richer to ourselves. To us is a challenge to share what Houghton embodies with those to whom Houghton itself is but a

name, perhaps not that.

In a large sense we are children of a day not yet begun, children of a timeless eternity. Who are privileged to live in that age? Those who are holy of heart, those who know the Lord. The vitality that stands the test of that age is the sum and substance of life: the lack of that vitality is the sum and substance of death. Our mission, our aim, is no less than this;-- to bring men and women by prayers, by words, by influence, into this endless life. Working and effecting this end in love, we will best give to others the great ideals and imperishable memories of Houghton and and gloriously meet the challenge that comes to us.★

Woodland Thoughts

WILLIAM RUSSELL

*This particular article is from Volume 11 Issue 12 of the STAR published on March 15th, 1919.*

Silence lay on the waters  
And over the mountain wall  
Where the murmuring trees of the forest  
Echoed the zephyr's call.

I walked alone by the lake-shore-  
Alone, yet with sorrow wed-  
And I heard not the night birds calling,  
For a soul that I loved had fled.

Sad was my lonely spirit  
And in its pain it cried,  
"Ah, Soul shall we meet again never?  
Oh why did you part from my side?"

Yet only the waves made answer,  
Lapping against the shore;  
Did they moan-or was it but fancy-  
"No more, ah never more?"

-----  
'Twas dawn and the morn's warm sunrise  
Was shedding its rosy- glow  
Over the brow of the mountain  
Flecked with the spring's last snow.

And there by the brink of a streamlet  
That ever through forest flows,  
I found the emblem of springtime-  
Of Hope-a dainty rose.

I marked the art of the Master  
In each tiny, exquisite vein,  
And scented its morning fragrance-  
The essence of dew and rain.

Each soft, pink petal unfolding  
Its delicate, roseate scroll,  
Seemed the breath of a morning dew-drop  
Or the smile of a human soul.

Peace filled my soul as a river  
And I cried in my joyous surprise,  
"Yes Soul, again I shall meet thee  
"In the roses of Paradise!" ★

Highlander of the Week

Edena Sanchez



Photo courtesy of Houghton Athletics website

Edena Sanchez, a member of the Houghton Track and Field team, has earned the Female Highlander of the Week award for the second week in a row. Sanchez, along with the rest of

PAIGE COLLINS

her team, has had a successful week. Sanchez achieved a personal best in the 200m at the RIT track meet, and between the Mens and Womens Track and Field Teams, there were 29 personal bests achieved for the Highlanders. "It's a domino effect" Sanchez stated, "One [runner] did it and then another and another. Never in my life have I seen people put their hearts onto the track like that everyday. I love that, the enthusiasm and pure happiness that comes when your hard work pays off"

Sanchez states that what helped her reach such a productive week was "Going that extra mile." She explained that this includes doing the little things, like "getting a nice cool down

in, stretching very good, going to the trainer, icing, giving it 100% during practices, and working on form."

When asked what she attributes to her personal success this season Sanchez replied, "Definitely my change of mentality." she continued "The idea of running for the glory of God... It wasn't until this year that how I view track did a complete 360." She explained that in the beginning of her career "I started wanting to run for my own personal success." This has changed, Sanchez testifies that now it's "Less of me and more of Him. He is my strength." She concludes that "Something changed, something clicked."

Sanchez has a few goals as she finishes up this season and continues into next. She states

that she wants to shave a second or two off both her 800m and 400m times. Although, Sanchez states that her real goal is to give all the glory to God. "To be honest, my biggest goal is, when I am completed, even the littlest thing like 'oh good job', I always want to say 'all glory to God.' I want to make that clear as day. I don't want to come off as though this is an accomplishment on my part. I just want people to see I'm doing this for Him. Any complement, anything that's posted, [I] just raise it up to Him, He deserves it."

"Definailty God." was Sanchez' response to what her motivation is. Sanchez remarked how her Track and Field career hasn't always been successful or easy, but that "He was there through every single thing."

she concludes "I'm motivated through Him, in any situation, the good the bad."

Edena says that she goes all out on cheat day and loves anything fried. If you happen to see her with a plate loaded with wings and pizza you'll know that she's enjoying them thoroughly as she's craved them all week. Edena's two favorite TV shows are The Office and Law and Order: Special Victims Unit, which one is her preference depends on her mood. If Sanchez ever becomes a superhero, be sure not to be a supervillain as her powers would be mind control and waterbending, a hard combo to beat.

Edena Sanchez is a Sophomore, Majoring Psychology with a concentration on Clinical Counseling. ★

Write for the International Perspectives Column

*Are you an international student?*

*Do you want to report on current issues in your home country?*

*If so, the STAR wants to hear your insights!*

Email editor@houghtonstar.com



# JET Connects Students with Buffalo Refugee Families

KAYLEE HALLER

Every Saturday, Houghton’s Journey’s End Tutoring, also known as “JET,” gathers students from all majors and interests to invest in the refugee families who very recently moved to America. JET has involved many current students and alumni throughout the past few decades. Each student is given some training and tips to understand the process in which this program works. After, they are placed in a household- with (sometimes) multiple children- to provide English tutoring, while also encouraging the parents to learn beside them. Miranda Hayes, the President of the program, admitted that the first or second time it can feel awkward, but when you stick with it, she believes the reward is worth it. She continued to talk about how relationships are formed, learning begins,

and often college students’ eyes are opened to a new culture and personal stories of these refugee families. The experience has touched multiple hearts on this campus and the program continues to thrive because of willing students to give up their Saturday mornings to help others. Miranda and Honus Wagner, the Vice President, were very appreciative of the program and the ways in which it has affected each of them personally. Miranda said, “The relationships that we build and the long lasting connections that we have are absolutely incredible.” Honus added, “We also teach in their homes. We teach entire families, so there is a certain degree of intimacy that that involves rather than just having them come to a facility.” This environment enables students to truly experience another cultural home setting and establish a friendship with the children and the parents. Miranda, a senior, has been involved in JET since the first



Students involved with JET travel to Buffalo each Saturday to work with refugee families.

semester of her freshman year. Miranda came in as a biology major and found to her surprise

that God would use JET to show her a different passion, one that would eventually inspire her to pursue teaching. Miranda tells one of the stories of her freshman year experience in JET, about a Syrian father who explained some of the struggles of moving to a foreign place so far from his home and family. Her heart was touched by his pain and gratitude to be in America. She said, “The things that these people go through...but yet they still have hearts of gold. They are still just so motivated and eager to learn.” Honus agreed, “In the midst of these people’s lives and the enormity of the things they have gone through, what we give relatively speaking is not very much... but we do give them a little bit more interaction and we also provide a certain level of support... So it is

quite rewarding.” Miranda and Honus send out an invite to any student on campus wanting to serve and they encourage everyone to “Get involved. Just do it!... Don’t be scared of the awkwardness.” God might use it to change your own journey. Miranda reiterated that “JET has completely changed [her] life.” Her future has been completely flipped upside down and she has found a new path in store for her in wanting to teach. “JET helps expand your worldview,” Miranda explained. She believes JET provides an amazing opportunity for students of all backgrounds and skills to be able to serve refugees in the name of Christ. ★



Photo  
of the  
Week

WANT YOUR PHOTO TO BE PHOTO OF THE WEEK?

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS TO EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM



# The Highlander Shop Features Local Artists

SAMANTHA MOORE

Many people go to the Highlander Shop for the latest Houghton apparel, snacks, school supplies, or many other household items, but they don't realize that there are also handmade pieces made by local artists also available for sale. Phyllis Gaerte, who now works in Alumni Relations, but used to be the Director of the Highlander Shop (previously known as The Campus Store), said that the store has been selling the works of local artists since the 90's. Individuals wishing to sell their work at the store must be Houghton alumni, staff, faculty, a student, a campus department, or a local community member. Before someone begins selling their work, they must meet with the staff member who is in charge of the consignment items. They will then present their work and depending on available space and whether or not it is a "good fit" with the store, it may be put on consignment with the store.

Although the original rea-

soning behind the store's intentions are unknown, current Director Helena Oden said, "It has been a nice way to support local artists and facilitate ways for students to be able to explore what types of items might sell as they begin to think about future endeavors." One such student who has decided to take advantage of this opportunity is Senior Art major, Abigail Taylor.

Last year, Taylor was approached by a Highlander Shop employee, who informed her the store was looking for artists who would put their work on consignment. Taylor inquired with the store and within the next week, her work was for sale in the shop. Taylor said that she does have success in the store, particularly with her notecards, but the options are seemingly limitless when it comes to her work. When asked what she sells, Taylor said "I sell original paintings and drawings, as well as prints of my work. The prints come in the form of notecards, postcards, mugs, and even t-shirts and home goods."

Taylor is one among several artists who sell in the Highlander



The Highlander Shop features pieces from various local artists.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLA SIMMONS

Shop. Local pottery business A Stones Throw Pottery also has many handmade ceramic pieces available. Customers can also browse handmade soap, jewelry, and the works of local authors.

The Highlander shop supports students and other Houghton members in this seemingly

small, but impactful way. Taylor said, "Selling in the campus store has been a huge honor! It makes me really excited that my work is out there in the store every day and that I have the opportunity to sell alongside alumni and other artists who are inspirations to me."

In addition to supporting the local artists who do sell their work there, the Highlander Shop encourages artists to inquire about selling their own work. ★

# Extra! Extra! Sub-Barfs Eliminated!

DANIEL BERRYMENT

For the last four years, Morgan Smith has been a feature on Houghton campus. She is a tall figure emanating, as her roommate Shannon Piggot says, "dignity, intelligence, and friendliness." Smith is known among friends for her bright sense of humor and insistence on always wearing red. "Red is the most valuable color, the best color," Smith told the STAR. "Wearing it fills my soul with eternal shining joy. I know I could choose to wear an inferior color, but I don't know why I would."

Like Katherine Stevick, who was featured in the STAR recently for her project on Latin American liberation theology, Smith has also been hard at work on developing an honors thesis. When asked what she chose to do her project

on, Smith exclaimed, "The logics!" With both patience and passion, Smith launched into expository mode, setting the groundwork to understand what her project is about. As she explained it, logic is a sort of language or dialect for expressing the pattern of an argument. She is critical of classical forms of logic. "Classical logic assumes that everything we say in language can be reduced to or expressed as singular statements about individual things. Rather than talking about cars in general having certain 'x, y, z' properties, you say if 'x' is a car, it has these properties."

The difference might be nebulous to those without a background in philosophy of language. It becomes more clear upon realizing that certain words like water, clay, or barf don't have plural forms, but just seem to refer to clumps of stuff. "When you try to translate words like this into existing formal logic, you run into problems." There is no useful way to speak of

nouns like this within the classical logic structure.

This is where Smith's project enters the picture. It is an endeavor to create a new logic system specifically for mass nouns "Here, we talk about stuff rather than individual things, and it is happy." To understand why we need a new logic, Smith explained that older modes of logic commit philosophers to talking about these clumps of stuff as things with an independent metaphysical unity. Meaning, basically, that if a philosopher wishes to speak about barf while using an older logical system, she will be committing herself to the existence of, "infinitely many, essentially unified, overlapping sub-barfs," as Smith said with a laugh. "Apparently the Lipscomb children went through a whole phase where they had to be told to stop talking about sub-barfs at the dinner table."

The Lipscomb children are not the only ones talking about Smith's sub-barfs. Recently she has been accepted into

MIT, the grad school of her choice, after submitting a preliminary version of her project and even received a call from one of the scholars she cited in her paper. She intends to continue studying philosophy of logic and language with a few minors on the side, hoping to ultimately earn her Ph.D and go into research. A double-major in Philosophy and Bible at Houghton, she also dreams of going to seminary somewhere down the line, even though she has yet to figure out what she will do as an ordained minister. "I intend to never leave school. My role within it will gradually change over time, but...." She trailed off and shrugged.

In addition to finishing up her honors thesis in this last semester, Smith has also been leading a book club, reading Alexander Pruss's One Body. It is a book about Christian sexual ethics, attempting to present a coherent and theologically sound philosophical position. It's a challenging topic, Smith admitted, but a

rewarding one. "I think the Houghton community would benefit from more opportunities to discuss topics like this in a disciplinary, academic, and collaborative setting where we are more deliberate about having these conversations. Not just in dorm rooms."

Smith will be delivering her faith journey in chapel on March 15th. She declined to give away any surprises, but promised that it would include some great music from Sojourner's Mennonite Fellowship. However, without getting into specifics, Smith did reflect that she has met some really wonderful people through her time at Houghton. "There are some real gems here," she said pensively. This is certainly true, and with a fierce wit and graceful attitude, Morgan Smith shines bright among them.★



# It’s Not About You



ANNA SCHILKE  
MONICA FARFOGLIA

In recent years, it has become a societal goal to always meet the needs of the individual. This social atmosphere can inspire a general turn inwards, consequently creating incredibly selfish individuals. I don’t think anyone wants to be known for being selfish. I’m certain that many people try everything they can to be selfless, but because selfishness is ingrained into how we function, the line between selfishness and selflessness can be fuzzy. I want to specifically explore three ways in which we are actually being selfish when we think we’re being selfless. The first act of masked selfishness can occur in conflict. When something

in life— like a relationship, a class, or a career—causes hurt or doesn’t happen as planned, it’s easy to revert to the statement, “It’s because I’m not good enough.” The thought, “I’m not worth it,” might even surface if the event in question has to do with a relationship. It’s a common misconception that this is a very selfless way to think about a problem because we’re taking on the burdens and responsibilities of what happened. The truth is that when we do this we are turning the attention from the situation or the decision of another person back to ourselves. To put it very plainly, sometimes

own choices, but it does mean we should let others be responsible for their choices and understand that life just happens sometimes. When conflict arises, we tend to turn inward, breeding selfishness instead of letting go of burdens that aren’t ours to carry. Selfishness can even be found in the hearts of those who help others. People are encouraged to help others because it will breed happiness— or its proven that it will make our lives better. I’m not here to say that these statements aren’t true, because anyone who has served another can confidently say that it does

“...There are so many instances where it’s hard to discern if what we’re doing is selfless or masked selfishness...”

the way we’re treated or the way a situation plays out in life has nothing to do with us at all. It doesn’t speak to who we are— whether we’re good enough, funny enough, valuable enough. Any time we try to make ourselves the focus of something that has nothing to do with us—even if it’s misplacing the blame— we are being selfish. This isn’t to say that we shouldn’t claim responsibility for our

cultivate good feelings. An issue arises when the high of feeling good about ourselves is the only reason we choose to serve someone. Now we aren’t serving someone else because we genuinely want to ease someone’s burdens or because it’s what we’re called to do as servants of the Lord. We’re serving because we want to feel that pride. We want the recognition of our “selfless” service. This mindset can also

cause us to be choosy about when we extend a helping hand. What happens when serving someone is hard? If it’s not fun? If it doesn’t make us feel good? This causes us to overlook someone in need because we’re so focused on what we can get out of this exchange instead of who we are serving. We need to realize that it’s not easy being a true servant. When we lose sight of what it means to serve, this selfless act can become a selfish one. The last point I want to make is about how self care, while not innately selfish, can become selfish when practiced irresponsibly. This isn’t to discredit the concept of self care because I think that it is essential to an individual’s holistic health. However, it can quickly go too far when we claim to act out of self care in order to socially exempt ourselves from taking responsibility for the potentially hurtful consequences of our actions. An example of self care that can rapidly change into something selfish is seeking alone time. We can responsibly practice self care by removing ourselves from the group or turning down an offer to hang out in order to recharge. On the other hand, we can begin to turn down plans and leave group settings if we get tired of dealing with those around us or don’t want

to put the effort in to engage socially. We begin shirking our social responsibilities as people involved in various relationships and commitments because we don’t want to spend our time focusing on something or someone other than ourselves. All this to say, what separates good self care from selfish care is our motive. Are we making this choice to rejuvenate and rebalance? Or are we making this choice because we’re more concerned about staying comfortable and unchallenged? Self care is beneficial when done correctly, but can become a crutch we use to cover up our selfish behavior and desires when used frivolously. As the focus shifts more and more to the individual, it is easy to cultivate selfish habits. There are many instances where it is hard to discern if what we’re doing is selfless or masked selfishness. This line can be especially unclear when we face conflict, serve others, or practice self care. Yet we don’t have to be stuck in this way of thinking. The first step in turning this trend around is recognizing that sometimes it’s not about us. ★ *Monica is a Senior majoring in Biology*

# Abstract Art: It’s Not That Easy



ANNA SCHILKE  
ABBY TAYLOR

You’ve heard it before. You’re standing in a museum, a room with art, or you see some abstract art online. The person next to you utters the age-old phrase of art misunderstanding: “That looks so easy. I could do that.” Actually, no. They can’t. I’m not trying to sound pretentious, but there is a lot more that goes into abstract art than a blank canvas and a few strokes of a paintbrush or pencil. I’m not going to explain art theory (even though there are a lot of

things I could say about color theory, the elements of art, and the principles of design), but trust me when I say this: abstract art is not “simple” or “finger painting for adults.” It is a time consuming and, at times, VERY frustrating process that involves a lot of trial and error. If you don’t believe me, take Painting I or II from Professor Murphy. Abstract painting is arguably harder than representational work, at least in my own experience. That abstract artist probably made 10 pieces before that one. They stood, squinted, and stared at that piece for hours. With abstract art is that it’s hard to know when a piece is actually done. Imagine you’re painting a pear. You work for a few hours on the pear, and then after you’ve messed with the colors and the paint just enough--perfect! Your painting looks just like a pear, and

“...please check yourself before you spew out ‘That’s so easy! I could do that!’...”

people see your art and they say, “good job! That looks exactly like a pear.” But in abstract art, the artist doesn’t have this luxury. They’ll just work and work until it feels completed, or successful, or in some cases they’ll paint over it and try again. And even when it’s done, and they are proud, someone will come up to it and say the classic “what’s it supposed to be?” or the favorite and aforementioned, “that looks so easy.” And then all the work they put into the piece is pushed aside, and the artist is left with a choice: explain their piece (but

remember, it’s abstract, so that’s very difficult to do), or leave it with a simple, “it’s abstract.” Art that is nonrepresentational is about what the viewer brings to the piece, so there isn’t always a good explanation of what it “means.” It’s about the harmony of color, balance of strokes, and the artist’s emotions that are wrapped into the work. Some people can have stronger feelings towards a particular piece than others, and that’s okay. And sometimes an abstract piece is confusing or doesn’t make the viewer feel anything. But this confusion can lead to dislike, the cycle of misunderstanding art revs up once again, and we are back to square one. So, since we’ve established that a.) abstract art is a complex process that takes time, and b.) a non-artistic person most likely could not create something as successful if given the

chance, then logic brings us to the conclusion that abstract art is not easy, and should be treated in the same way that representational work is treated. Making a degrading comment like “that looks so easy” is actually very disrespectful to the artist who put time, money, and extensive effort into the colors and composition of a piece. If you want to talk more about abstract art, find me anytime on campus and I will happily discuss the many complexities of nonrepresentational work. All I’m saying is, next time you’re in a museum or you’re looking at art and you either don’t understand or don’t even like it, please check yourself before you spew out “That’s so easy! I could do that!” Because at the end of the day, it’s the artist’s work that is in a museum (not yours), and they are the one who put time and effort into making something that they are proudly hanging on a wall. Just because you don’t understand or like something, doesn’t mean that it is worthless or not valuable to someone else. ★ *Abby is a Senior majoring in Studio Art and Education*

“...Actually, no...There’s a lot more that goes into abstract art than a blank canvas and few strokes of a paintbrush...”



# Letter to The Editor

Dear Editor,

Since the article appeared in the STAR titled “Murphy Brings Horror To Houghton” there has been a push back and misunderstanding among many on campus. I feel I need to address a few rumors and concerns.

The first is that I do not myself typically watch or have much interest in the genre of film known as Horror. My adult children have an interest... but their parents...not so much. Nancy and I do not participate in their Holiday tradition of watching scary movies. The evening news is scary enough for me.

Horror Film is one of the major genre categories in all the dozens of Film textbooks I consult for my classes on Film. It is important and influential in the art form of film. Students at Houghton have often asked that such a class be offered. I have agreed because I feel it is a valuable opportunity to critically exam just why this genre has so much endured.


Some at Houghton question “horror film” as somehow “unchristian” - that it goes against Philippians 4:8. I do not think Paul was implying that this is how we should live every part of our lives. If we did follow this as our rule the first thing we would have to give up is the Bible itself. There is much in scripture that is horrifying and unsettling. I suspect that Paul is talking to a particular group of people who have decided to focus far too much of their energy on negative things and conflicts in their community. He was not attempting to establish a LAW for how to avoid bad things. Adult life requires we deal with the good, the bad and the ugly (attention:film allusion)

Art is not only about beauty and joy. Art is also provocative. Art is about the human condition. There is a reason we are drawn to this genre. Horror films project (pun intended) our fears and anxieties. Horror films explore the latent and repressed otherwise unacknowledged fear in a culture. *The Blob* (1958) was not about a pink weird mass of material that wobbled around gobbling up slow moving adults. The Blob was about how frightened mainstream America was of the emergent population under 25. TEENAGERS were the shapeless mass threatening to change and devour everything in their path. *The Blob* was what we in art call a metaphor! *The Blob* in retrospect had it right. We baby boomers have pretty much destroyed the planet.

Art cannot undo for you what life had provided. No art is that powerful. Watching a film like *Psycho* (1960) is not going to make you a serial killer. This class is designed to think critically about the meaning behind Horror as an art form. There will not be torture films or what is called “slasher films”. I refuse to go down that sub genre. If it makes me a hypocrite in some peoples eyes well ok...I am inconsistent. We all have our line and this where I draw mine. I can’t take gratuitous suffering, especially if it includes children. Someone else will have to offer that class.

If this is something a student feels would trouble them then don’t take the class. But please don’t assume that those who do have an interest or love of this genre are somehow people you need to save from themselves. It is an appropriate and important topic taught widely across campuses and now...coming to a classroom near you...at Houghton in the Fall of 2019.

Sincerely,  
Ted Murphy, Professor of Art



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.



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# SPEAK OUT!

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# Artist of the Week

## Katelyn Heins

// junior fine arts major



“From a young age, I have always been drawn to art. I think I connected so well with art because it gave me a way of speaking that didn’t require words. Through my art, I am able to create physical evidence of what I am feeling in a particular moment. It becomes inescapably me. Every time I sit down at the potter’s wheel, I can feel my mind centering and correcting itself as I center and correct the clay. Every time I open a bottle of paint, I feel myself float from reality and get lost in the action of art.

“Art has become a community for me. I hope that I can provide that same community for other people. ”



*Disconnectivity*



*A Mass of Intellect*





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