



SPOT REVIEW  
FEATURES, P. 5

# the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

FT. ED: MASCULINITY AND OTHER  
MYTHS | OPINIONS, P. 7

CREATION CARE | FEATURES, P. 4

ARTIST OF THE WEEK:  
ALEX HOOD FEATURES, P. 8

February 14, 2014 Vol. 110, No. 16

## New Endowed Chair of Music

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Today, February 14, 2014, Houghton will celebrate the endowment of the Horne-Blanchard Chair in Music. This is the first fully endowed chair in Houghton's 131 year history.

What is an endowed chair? Linda Mills Woolsey, Vice-President of Academic Affairs, explained that by way of funding an endowed chair, "donors have an opportunity to give a gift that will underwrite the salary of a professor" which will establish a perpetual chair of instruction in addition to relieving the college budget. In addition to providing for a faculty member's salary, "the fund also provides for an extra fund that the professor can use for projects, whether that is their own research or collaborative research with students."

While Houghton has many partially endowed chairs (such as the Hoselton Chair in Business and Economics, the Moreland Chair in Biology, and the Van Gorden Chair in Communications and Writing) the Horne-Blanchard Chair is the first one that is fully endowed. According to Rick Melson, it takes approximately \$1.5 million to fund an endowed chair. The Blanchards have been contributing to this endowment since 1987, when David Blanchard was a member of the Board of Trustees, but the fund had only come to maturity this past fall semester.

The donors, David and Allene Blanchard have been invested in Houghton since Allene Blanchard (nee Horne) matriculated here in 1954. Allene Blanchard, a graduate of 1957 with a degree in applied piano, expressed her own experience as a student here. "I was privileged to have highly qualified instructors in piano and music at Houghton. The value of this teaching and coaching was worth far more than it cost me. It was made affordable for me by the sacrificial service of staff and faculty at Houghton and by financial support from several individuals." By providing the funding for the Horne-Blanchard chair, Allene Blanchard hopes that it will be a vehicle "to attract first-class talent to Houghton College and to subsidize the cost of this academic pursuit for talented students."

David and Allene Blanchard have been heavily involved in the business of the college in the years since Allene Blanchard's graduation. From 1987-2003 (excepting a one-year leave of absence), David Blanchard was a member of the Board of Trustees and served for eight years as the Chair of the Finance Committee and

for several years as Chair of the Willard J. Houghton Foundation. As part of his work with the latter organization, David Blanchard was instrumental in developing the Inn at Houghton Creek and bringing in the Subway franchise near the townhouses. In addition, while he was a member of the board, David Blanchard was also "asked to Chair a Capital Campaign. In this campaign, Wilson Greatbatch endowed the School of Music and Masters in Music programs with \$15M and we raised a total of about \$30M in the Campaign."

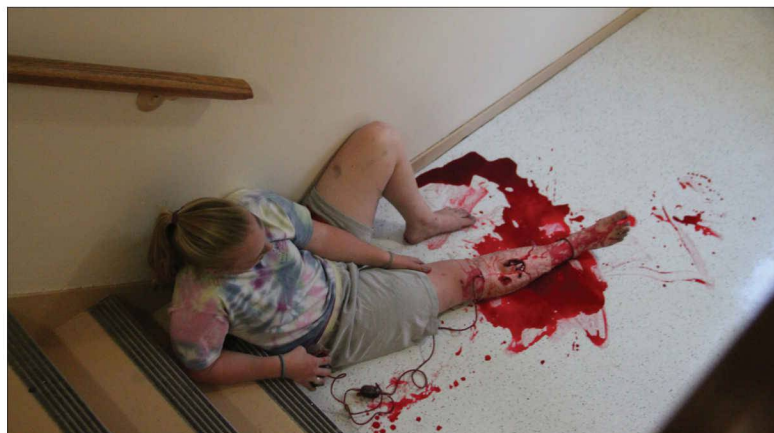
Regarding the endowment, Allene Blanchard said, "To God be the Glory, that He has enabled us to be able to pass on to others some of His magnanimous Blessings to us." David Blanchard echoed her statements saying, "We both firmly believe the admonition of Paul in II Corinthians 9: 6-7: 'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'"

The recipient of the chair is Brandon Johnson, associate professor of vocal music and conducting and director of choral activities, who was chosen particularly for the number and quality of projects that he has been undertaking over the years. Johnson is a tenured faculty member who has been teaching at Houghton for 11 years and has been instrumental in expanding choral activities at Houghton, according to Stephen



Johnson, new Horne-Blanchard Chair.

## Update on Emergency Response Preparedness



Eliza Kelly participated in a fire drill with simulated injuries.

JEFF BABBITT

GRETCHEN REEVES

Coinciding with water problems and outages, faculty will be meeting with the Board of Trustees this Friday, February 14 to finalize an emergency response plan. The plan, which covers emergency situations ranging from bomb scares, electrical outages, floods, and hazmat spills, details a communications plan amongst facul-

ty and responders in the community in the event of an emergency situation. Dr. Robert Pool, vice president for student life and head of the emergency plan, describes the plan as allowing for a "coordinated response" amongst faculty and staff on campus.

The changes to the plan, which

See EMERGENCY page 2

## Europa Galante Performs at Wesley Chapel

JONATHAN HARDY

Last Monday night at 7:30 the Houghton community was audience to a rare night of Baroque music courtesy of twice-Grammy-nominated period ensemble Europa Galante. Period-appropriate performance practice is a matter of involved study. Ensembles reviving Renaissance and Baroque music in period-appropriate performances have grown in popularity since the second World War. Despite interest falling off slightly since the 1990s, they now fit in with the mainstream of classical music.

Europa Galante was created by their director, Fabio Biondi, for the purpose of performing and reviving works from the Italian Baroque and early Classical period. With the Fondazione Santa Cecilia, Bondi and Europa Galante have worked to rediscover 18th century Italian operas by almost forgotten composers. They are one of the most widely acclaimed and awarded early music ensembles currently and have performed in La Scala in Milan, Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York. In fact, their next concert

following the Houghton concert was in Carnegie Hall.

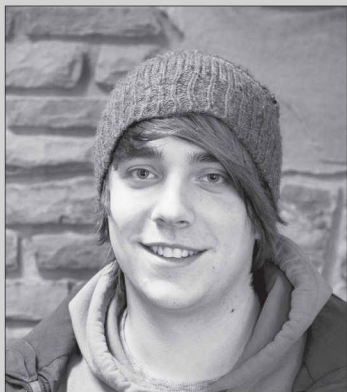
In a previous interview with Dr. Stephen Plate, director of the Greatbatch School of Music, about this year's Artist Series concerts, he expressed his excitement at having an internationally-renowned group perform at Houghton and fulfill one of the goals of the Artist Series concerts, which is to bringing to Houghton performances not often found in western New York, much less Allegany county.

Their program Monday included Vivaldi's Four Seasons concertos as well his oboe concerto in G. They played a similar program at Carnegie on Tuesday. "It has been so long since I have heard music like this!" said graduate organ/collaborative-piano major William Strydhorst. The selection is unique in period repertory for being a programmatic work, an instrumental piece based on a poem or story rather than preset form, over a hundred years before it became common practice. Their distinctiveness as well as the driving rhythms characteristic of Vivaldi's music and characteristic Italian lines have ensured that these pieces have endured in the concert repertory

See EUROPA page 3



# WORLD // Values Collide During Olympic Games



LUKE LAUER

WYNN HORTON

Last summer, on June 30, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into a law a piece of legislation banning the “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations” in regions or areas exposed to minors. Article 6.21 reads as follows:

“Propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors: 1. Propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations among minors expressed in distribution of information that is aimed at the formation among minors of nontradi-

tional sexual attitudes, attractiveness of nontraditional sexual relations, misperceptions of the social equivalence of traditional and nontraditional sexual relations, or enforcing information about nontraditional sexual relations that evokes interest to such relations, if these actions do not constitute a criminal offence, - is punishable by an administrative fine for citizens in the amount of four thousand to five thousand rubles.”

This move sparked an outcry from activists and organizations both inside and outside of Russia. In the United States in particular, many urban bars and clubs began refusing to sell Russian vodka as a protest against the discrimination happening on the other side of the world. More public figures--Tilda Swinton, Cher, Madonna, Lady Gaga, Stephen Fry, and others--raised their voices in protest of Russia hosting an Olympic event meant to “unite the world.”

After calls for a boycott of the Sochi games seemed to fade into the background, attention turned instead to the Obama administration and whether or not the United States would make a statement regarding President Putin’s anti-LGBTQ stance. Months later President

Obama’s office published the list of his hand-selected delegation to be sent to Sochi to represent the United States’ government. Topping the list were former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Ambassador Michael McFaul, White House aide Rob Nabors, and two openly gay American Olympic Champions – two-time ice-hockey gold medalist Caitlin Cahow, and 1988 figure skating gold medalist Brian Boitano. In a recent interview Boitano informed USA Today, “Everyone knows why we’re here. We’ve made it obvious and quite public as to why Caitlin and I are supporting the delegation and are here. I think Russians know that and I think Americans know that and we’re proud to come from a country who supports tolerance and diversity and we stand strong.”

Since the Olympic Games began last week, other international athletes have voiced their opinions about Putin’s continued stance against gay rights in the face of Western opposition. “Homosexuality is not propaganda,” writes New Zealand Olympian Blake Skjellerup, “Anyone, no matter their sexuality, religion, or race, can play sports. One facet of who you are does not make you

a weaker athlete. Being proud of who you are, and representing that makes you a stronger athlete, and the Olympic Games should be actioned in a place that provides that safety and opportunity.”

Putin, however, staunchly continues to defend the law he signed into effect. In his State of the Nation address this past December, two months before the opening ceremony in Sochi, Putin attacked the “norms of morality” of the West. “This destruction of traditional values from above not only entails negative consequences for society, but is also inherently anti-democratic because it is based on an abstract notion and runs counter to the will of the majority of people,” he said. As the games continue to unfold, it is predicted that athletes of multiple countries will pursue gestures of tolerance, bearing little regard for Putin’s disdain. ♥

*Wynn is a junior political science major.*

## EMERGENCY *from page 1*

was partially reworked by previous vice president Sharra Hynes, includes new protocol on active shooter scenarios and “some new information in ways to handle suicide, death threats ... serious injury of a community member,” according to Pool. Also added to the plan was a piece drawing on support from Sodexo, which provided that in the event of a disaster preventing those on campus from leaving and blocking outsiders from entry to campus, an extra few days’ supply of food would be kept on hand for rationing.

These changes coincide with two water pipe breaks over the past month, as well as separate internet and power outages in the past few weeks.

The internet outage, which occurred between 11:28 am and 2:48 pm on January 29, was campus-wide. While internal services such as Moodle and faculty email worked for those on the campus internet connection, the outage left the campus cut off from internet communication with the outside world. According to Don Haingray, director of technology services, the outage was caused by a hardware issue on the end of ION, the company which set up the fiber route through which the college gains internet access. ION, which operates more than 2200 miles of fiber optic cable across New York state, is currently working on establishing a dual fiber route in the state’s southern tier, which would allow internet customers to rely on a second cable for service in case of damage to one. Also affected by the outage was Alfred University, which relies on the same route for internet access.

While tech services does have a single cellular modem used for troubleshooting, there are no alternate internet connections capable of ser-

ving the entire campus. Erin Bard, network administrator, even stated that “one of the problems that I noticed at the time, trying to use [the modem], was that Verizon was having issues as well.”

Also of recent interest was a campus-wide power outage, which occurred February 3 at around 5:40 am. The main cause of the outage was a blown transformer at a nearby substation belonging to Rochester Gas & Electric. In addition to the college campus, the outage also affected residents in Fillmore, Houghton, and parts of other surrounding towns. However, power was restored within an hour of the beginning of the outage.

With more serious outages in mind, Pool states that the college keeps two main generators on hand for backup, one which powers the Paine science building and another which powers the Nielsen athletic center. Haingray also adds that there is a backup generator available to tech services to keep servers running during an outage.

Regardless of any effects of internet and power outages on campus, Pool states that communication of any emergencies to students will still be made via phone calls and text messages. Using software from the Wireless Emergency Notification System (WENS), students may opt to sign up for emergency notifications sent out by the college. As such notifications are sent from offsite, they would not be affected by an outage on campus.

The operation of WENS on campus, which is overseen by Ray Parlett, director of safety and security, is stunted by the fact that only 25 to 30 percent of students are signed up for the service. The service is one of the main tools used in a situation of an urgent or emergency nature. Said Dr. Pool, “We were almost to that point last week when the power went out,

but ... within 10 minutes it was back up. So, we didn’t have to institute the WENS notification system.”

Also laid out in the emergency response plan are procedures for fires, most of which were tested in a comprehensive drill in Gillette Hall last semester. The drill, which used fog machines and resident actors with imitated injuries and called in emergency responders from the area, proved to be an overview of the competence of the college’s emergency responders. Parlett, the coordinator of the drill, explained that the college worked with “the fire department, ambulance [services] from Houghton, but they brought in Fillmore, and they might have brought in some folks from Hornell and Belfast as well. We worked with the Allegany county emergency services department ... and we worked with the state police, who were there for observational purposes. We actually had a couple of fire investigators on the scene for investigational purposes as well.” Faculty involved in the emergency response plan were also present on the scene “to work through some of the exercises” as Parlett explained.

As for the outcome of the drill,

Parlett stated that “in terms of the actual response, I was pretty encouraged.” The smoke alarms responded to the smoke “quicker, two or three minutes quicker than I thought” The local fire department also responded “within seven or eight minutes [and] ... had a truck up here for an initial response.” According to Parlett, all residents were successfully evacuated by the fire department, including those planted in the building with simulated injuries. The only weak point highlighted by the drill was a glitch in the WENS program which prevented emergency notifications from reaching about a dozen of the faculty. Since then, the issue has been fixed.

According to Dennis Stack, dean of students, “by law, we need to do one type of drill per year, although it can be something called a ‘tabletop,’ which is more of a theory-driven drill of something that could happen,” adding that “we are actually looking at another scenario for maybe even this spring.” Pool added that while months of training might help in preparation for an emergency, “you’re never perfectly prepared for what’s going to happen.” ♥



Emergency responders on scene.

JEFF BABBITT



**EUROPA** *from page 1*

ian lines have ensured that these pieces have endured in the concert repertory for centuries. For some listeners, however, nothing is quite the same as hearing them performed on instruments they were made to be played on, making for a more accurate production of the music and enabling listeners to hear the music as the composer himself may have, or as near as can be had three hundred years later.

Europa Galante has been known for their performances of Vivaldi since their founding in 1990, recently

receiving Grammy nominations for recordings of Vivaldi Concerti and Bajazet and most recently receiving the Diaspason D'Or for Vivaldi's opera L'Oracolo. Monday's performance displayed some of the reasons for these nominations. Fabio Biondi's magical solos, particularly in "Winter," mixed with the accompaniment of the ensemble. Biondi started performing internationally when he was 12, receiving continual acclaim since then.

The next Artist Series concert will be on March 29th featuring Houghton alumni Robert Joubert in the recital hall. ♥



Europa Galante performing in Wesley Chapel.

LUKE LAUER

# BLAST FROM THE PAST: Senior Recitalists, Douglas, Horne, Will Present Bach

... On Wednesday evening, February 27, at 7:30 p.m., Miss Allene Horne will present her senior recital in the chapel. Miss Horne, an applied piano major, is a student of mr. Eldon Basney.

The recital will consist of three groups. Allene will open the first group with Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in G minor and Canane IV." In the second group, she will present "Third Piano Sonata" by Vincent

Persichetti.

The Andante and Scherzo from "Concerto in E Major" by Moszkowski will conclude the program.

Miss Horne, who has studied piano for nine years, is presenting this recital in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor of Music degree in applied piano. ♥

*From the February 15, 1957 edition of The Houghton Star*

# Houghton Students Attend Faith and International Development Conference in Grand Rapids, MI



Conference attendees

SARAH SLATER

SARAH HUTCHINSON

Between February 6 and February 8, a group of 22 Houghton students attended Calvin College's Faith and International Development Conference (FIDC) in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

According to Ndunge Kiiti, intercultural studies, Houghton students have been consistently attending this conference since 2006, though "we've missed maybe one (or maybe even two) years." However while intercultural studies and political science faculty typically organize the trip to Calvin, this year the organization of the trip was mainly due to student initiatives from Sarah Slater and Hanna Kahler, juniors.

Kahler was most interested in attending this conference because of the influence her older sister who attended a few years prior and found the conference to be "wonderful." To Kahler, "it was always something on my bucket list."

However, because of budgetary problems, it appeared at the beginning of this year that the trip to Calvin might not run after all. According to Slater, "usually there's several thousand dollars in the budget in the intercultural studies department to do a conference trip but there wasn't that money allocated this year" which prompted Slater and Kahler to take charge.

Slater and Kahler were mostly in charge of raising funds across many organization on campus, which included the SGA, the Intercultural Studies department, and GCF, in order to help assist the costs of transportation. Said Slater, many of the challenges revolved around funding and "keeping sane" during the two and a half week period that she and Kahler were given to organize the trip.

The group representing Houghton at Calvin was the largest at the conference at 22 students. Compared with years past,

there were also more diversity of Houghton's majors represented. Said Slater, "I'm pleased that we had more majors than usual. Usually it is just upper-level intercultural and political science majors, but this year we also had students from business, art, psychology, and physical therapy. We had a lot of student diversity." Slater was particularly pleased because, "Part of the nature of international development is that you're trying to include everyone so I feel like a conference about international development should reflect that."

The focus of the conference revolved around the idea of "cultivating community" and, according to the conference handbook, to answer the questions, "Who is cultivating community? How? Who belongs where? Why? What does community look like?" by looking at these questions through the light of "Christ's work on the cross."

The keynote speaker at the conference was Brian Fikkert, a professor of economics and community development and author of "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... And Yourself." Fikkert spoke about his work involving microfinancing in developing countries and also, in keeping with the theme of the conference, his core belief that human beings were made for relationships with God and each other.

Other speakers at the conference included: Rob and Tara Cahill, directors of Community Cloud Forest Conservation; Dr. Minus Hiruy of Hope University College in Ethiopia; and Tarek Abuata, Palestine Coordinator for the Christian Peacemakers Team.

For Kahler, "it was pretty cool to meet these professors that were foundational in their field and had written these books.... Overall, it was nice to get a feel for the development organizations that are out there." ♥

**CHAIR** *from page 1*

Plate, director of the Greatbatch School of Music.

Plate "couldn't be prouder to have the first endowed chair at the Greatbatch School." Plate also expressed the he was proud to have Johnson as the recipient. "Brandon Johnson represents everything right and he has a great vision for building choral music," said Plate. Plate concluded by remarking on "what a phenomenal thing this is for this school." ♥



Allene and David Blanchard.



**Have an opinion on today's news stories?**

Send a letter to the editor to: [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)



# Creation Care House: Engaging in Environmental Stewardship

BEN LAYMAN

Designed as an effort to create more options for students to get involved in the act of environmental stewardship, the Creation Care Townhouse is continuing to have an impact.

Houghton’s Sustainability Coordinator, Brian Webb, sent out an e-mail last summer to all townhouse residents, seeking anyone who was interested in the opportunity to pursue creation care. Webb said that his purpose in creating the Creation Care House was to designate a place that could engage students on the topic of creation care in a more intentional and ongoing way. “I was familiar with the model of a living learning community...I really liked the idea of taking that model and applying the topic of creation care to it, particularly since creation care, stewardship, sustainability, whatever you want to call it, is very appropriate to the residential context.” Webb also said that these types of communities are particularly impactful because when students go on to live on their own, they are able to take the principles they’ve implemented and continue them into an awareness of how their habits impact the world.

After conferring among their housemates, future residents of Perkins 49 took Webb up on his offer. House member Lauren Bull stated that their admittance into the house was anything but grueling. “There wasn’t really a formal selection, we just kind of volunteered,”



Composting bins outside of the Creation Care house.

LUKE LAUER

she said. Her housemates include Winona Wixson, Brittany Libby, Lydia Wilson, Jory Kauffman, and Amy Eckendorf. After the group had been selected, a number of different options were afforded to them in terms of which area of creation care they wanted to explore. The group chose food and water.

Bull said this meant they would be composting, low-flow faucets and toilets would be installed in the house, as well as having monthly meetings and brainstorming sessions with Brian Webb to learn more about sustainable food practices and the difficulty of eating organically

in college, among other things. It was all part of this initiative that moved two large composting bins to the townhouse area, available for all residents’ usage.

Webb said his goal for designating the Creation Care House was to create something that was both internally and externally focused in educating and encouraging good stewardship practices within the townhouse, as well as enabling the students to take their knowledge to the community, particularly in the other townhouses.

Last semester, the group sponsored a visit to a local farm where all the

vegetables were naturally grown. Bull said the visit along with listening to the farmer and his wife talk about his farming practices was part of the learning process of coming to awareness in being more intentional. “It’s really cool to see how achievable it is. They made it look very attainable.” The venture was posted with only 24 slots, all of which were filled. The first of this month marked a showing of the documentary *Fresh*, examining America’s food system, all organized and promoted by the Creation Care House. They are currently planning gardening workshops to be held later this semester.

As for the future of the program, Webb said he is leaving room for expansion. “Ideally,” he said, “I would like to get two houses next year. If I had two quality applications from groups of students who are committed to it, then I would accept two houses.” He also mentioned that the following year’s application process would be a little more difficult, hoping for more of a competitive bidding process, not made possible this year because of the rapidness with which this was developed. He is also hoping that next year the Creation Care House will be able to bring in some sort of creation care expert each month about their area of expertise, adding weight to the program’s intentionality and credibility.

In its educational and communal benefits as well as its perceptible success, the Creation Care House has measured out to be something sustainable in itself. ♥

## DAILY CALENDAR

- 14 / FRIDAY
- Symphonic Winds: Valentine's Day Concert  
7:30 PM | Wesley Chapel
- Friday Night Flix: Tangled  
9 PM | Recital Hall
- 15 / SATURDAY
- Athletics  
10 AM | TF @ Ithaca Invite  
2 PM | MBB vs. Stevens Tech  
4 PM | WBB vs. Stevens Tech
- Purple and Gold SPOT  
10 PM | Wesley Chapel
- 17 / MONDAY
- Rwanda Rising Presentation  
7 PM | CFA 231
- Student Recital: Jayci Roek, piano  
8 PM | CFA Recital Hall
- 19 / WEDNESDAY
- Guest Artist: Clayton Hamilton, saxophone  
6:30 PM | Wesley Chapel
- Graduate Recital: William Strydhorst, collaborative piano  
8 PM | CFA Recital Hall
- 20 / THURSDAY
- Faculty Lecture: Jonathan Case  
4:15 PM | Library

# Her, Questioning Relationships

THOMAS ECKERT

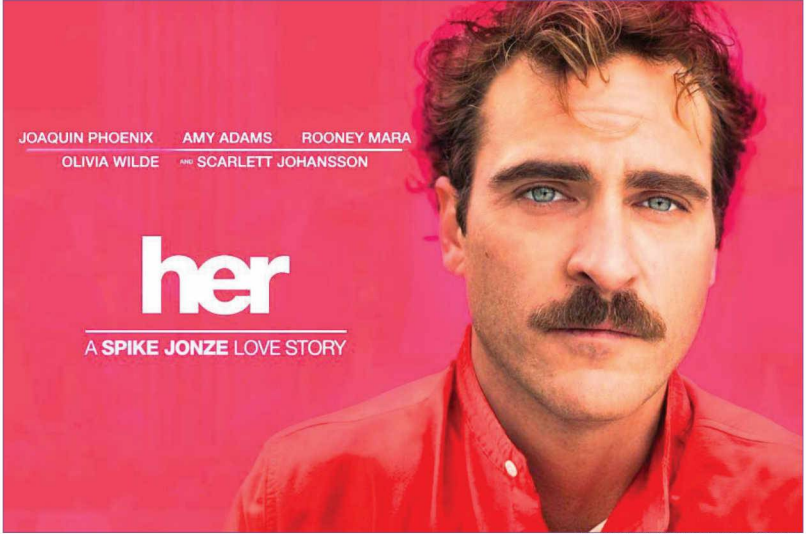
In his latest film, *Her*, Spike Jonze invites his viewer into a pastel-colored future that will daze them in reflection for weeks following. Set in the near future, the film opens on Theodore Twombly (Joaquín Phoenix) working at BeautifulHandwrittenLetters.com, a ghostwriting service for the romantic and lazy. As he leaves work, he speaks a voice command to his phone, “Play melancholy song.”

He walks out onto the streets of a bustling Los Angeles, making his way back to his apartment. He is in a slump - lost in daydreamed memories of his estranged wife who is seeking a divorce from him. The world Theodore travels through is not unlike our own. Those around him tinker with gadgets on the train, exploring their own unique and pixelated realities.

The world painted by Jonze is believable because it reflects the world of today. It does not indulge in science fiction tropes of latex jumpsuits and flying cars. It seems a very accurate prediction of the world we will soon inhabit. The devices that make our lives wonderfully convenient today have become staples in Theodore’s time.

The film ignores the limits of its genre. It does not show the viewer a future for the sake of its own self-indulgence. Rather, it uses the vantage point to weave a human love story. At the same time, it examines issues of human connection without seeming preachy or superior.

After seeing an advertisement for an artificial intelligence, OS1, in a subway terminal, Theodore picks up a copy for himself. Alone in his apartment that night, he activates his purchase. After a few basic



HOLLYWOODONTHEPOTOMAC.COM/

“Her” movie poster.

questions and a loading screen, it springs to life with a cheerful, “Hello? I’m here.”

“Hi?”, Theodore responds.

Awkward at first, their stilted introduction eases into laughter. The OS identifies itself as female. Theodore asks for her name. She comes up with one on the spot, “Samantha”.

The role of Samantha is played by an unseen Scarlett Johansson. Imbued with programmed personality, she helps Theodore through his trepidations about the world. Together, they grow. As they become fonder and fonder of each other they begin to form a relationship that will change the both of them by the end of the film.

This relationship is beautifully scored by a collaboration between Arcade Fire and Karen O, orchestrated by Owen Pallett. The soundtrack mixes melancholy acoustic instruments with humming

electronic sounds. It fits unobtrusively into the story, adding to it in subtle ways. When Samantha composes music to express her deeper feelings, her compositions grow more varied and detailed as she grows in intelligence and complexity.

As a viewer, Jonze’s future will challenge your view of what a relationship truly is. Thematically, the film is a love story. Soft music and bloom seep smoothly into the narrative. These are balanced by a story that shows a deep relationship with flaws and imperfections. It poses a question to the viewer. Why do we indulge ourselves in connecting to others?

Is it so we can lay our burdens on another and take theirs in return?

Is it so we can experience the edges of our human limits in both serenity and frustration?

Is it so that we can learn something new about ourselves? ♥



# #SPOTOn: Strongest SPOT in Years

ALLYSON MURPHY

This year's spring SPOT was a clear success. Just by **luki**ng at the audience one could tell as everyone constantly **joh**ned in laughter together. Senior roommates, Luke Ogden and John Carpenter did a superb job #tag teaming back and forth throughout the two hour show with an array of facetious comments and jokes. They kept it short and concise with fewer acts, while regularly engaging with the audience, therefore making this one of the strongest SPOTs in years.

As normal, not all acts were equally amusing, though few disappointed. The show started out a little slow with a typical Christian school jab. The song may have had one or two clever lines, but overall it served as the usual conservative Christian relationship song with overdone points, such as getting "friend-zoned." Also, the Mariachi band did not garner quite as many laughs as was perhaps hoped, but overall the show was strong and flowed well.

During setup breaks the extremely talented duet of Malcom Bell and Jerbrel Bowens entertained with upbeat piano-percussion pop songs that kept the audience lively. Also during breaks, Luke and John creatively entertained with their various top 10 lists.

The Flight of the Concords song Jenny



John Carpenter (left) and Luke Ogden (right) host Purple & Gold Week SPOT.

LUKE LAUER



Nathan Hatch (right) and Nathaniel Efthimiou (left) perform.

LUKE LAUER

was brought back again and done quite well. And videos such as the *RAs Reading*

*Tweets* and *Amazing Race* were also clever and fun components to the show.

Due to some stuff that happened following the fall SPOT, Nathan Hatch could not afford to be quite as scandalous in his musical performance, although his Party Rock duet with Nathaniel Efthimiou still trumped some other acts included in the show.

The news update could not phelp making some jabs at Russia's unprepared setup for the Olympics, and, though touching on serious issues, the two were only joshin'. This second performance of Hatch's cracked people up with some **eggcellent yokes** from both him and co-anchor Josh Phelps.

And I must **profess-or** should I say concur with many peers that Ben Murphy's clever punny story elicited an **aBendant** amount of laughs. Returning later with his Jimmy Fallon inspired thank you notes, more laughs were released as he thanked Luke Crawford for "reminding us what

Jesus would look like if he was a 6'4" Canadian white ginger from Thailand with a giant smile." And also he was sure to thank Sodexo as well "for a bar-like atmosphere in a dry town"- though as Luke and John remind us we should all be getting drunk... on Jesus.

Another fun wordplay skit included a quintet of sophomores who produced a clever script consisting of an impressive amount of Lord of the Rings quotes and references. And though funny, I urge you to also take warning from the skit: If you are in the music building and need a drink, resist-"do not disturb the waters."

Overall, briefly **mullen** over the night's events from the clutch president appearance to Sodexo jokes (napkins are a staple food) the show was strong and entertaining. Good work hosts, people shall be tweeting about this for days to come-well, as long as the Internet is working. ♥

## Coming Up: Bluegrass and Folk CAB Coffeehouse

RACHEL WRIGHT

This upcoming Tuesday in Java 101 the CAB Coffeehouse will feature a bluegrass-focused performance by students Abby Talone, Zach Kitchen, Colleen Winton, and Annie Hassen. These four have been playing music together for some time, including a performance last semester at the alumni coffeehouse that took place during Homecoming weekend. Aside from Coffeehouses, several of the group's members have also played for Koinonia on Sunday nights.

The two hours will feature a variety of instruments. Annie Hassen will be playing the violin, a key element of traditional American folk music. Junior Zach Kitchen will be playing the mandolin, while fellow junior Colleen Winton will be performing on both the acoustic guitar, and also egg shaker. In addition to more traditional folk instruments, Winton will be contributing her whistling skills to the performance.

Senior Abby Talone, who is a Koinonia leader, will add her strumming talents, playing on her Martin & Co. acoustic guitar. The four are intending to incorporate a variety of harmonies and vocal styles into their performance to emphasize their "folky feel", as Talone put it.

The group chose songs that would best showcase their intended sound and create the desired casual and rustic ambiance. The selection of songs they will be covering include songs and artists such as "Flowers in Your Hair" by The Lumineers, "Your Love is Strong" by Jon Foreman, and "Like the Dawn" by the Oh Hellos. Additionally they will cover other artists such as the popular English folk rock band, Mumford and Sons, the Christian acoustic folk band, All Sons and Daughters, and similar folk-based musicians.

This American traditional style of music, or folk music, dates back to the early 1930s, from which it developed into our current genre of "hipster" or "indie" music. However, folk music is an intrinsic



The group practicing for the Coffeehouse.

LUKE LAUER

part of our history as Americans, as it incorporates elements from both the blues, country, bluegrass, gospel, and old-timey - a picture of how the integration of the American people as a nation began with the integration of music. ♥



# TWO VIEWS

## Can a Christian hold convictions strongly, yet at the same time be willing to compromise?



CORY BRAUTIGAM

Browsing over the lunches of my second grade classmates, I searched for food items that I thought my taste buds would find more satisfying than the bag of pretzels in front of me. Hmm ... we had a small pack of Skittles (an option), a bag of baby carrots (too healthy), some Goldfish (those

looked good, but their owner was a girl and girls still had cooties), and an array of other snacks, none of which measured up to my pretzels. So, I decided to eat my pretzels. Into my body they went, part of my body they became. Such is the way with convictions.

Your convictions define you. They are a part of you. This is always the case. But there is a hierarchy of convictions. What is it that differentiates the Christian from the non-Christian? It is her fundamental convictions, held by grace. The Christian could not and should not compromise or barter on issues challenging fundamental convictions. However, there is a time to compromise and barter on certain issues; history reminds us of the dangers of thinking otherwise.

The word conviction is derived from the Latin noun *convictio*, or verb *convincere*, which translates to “with conquer,” implying that holding convictions involves both a conqueror and a conquered. Holding convictions can do violence. But be not fooled: there is also danger for the disciple of Christ who is unwilling to hold convictions uncompromisingly.

In Romans 8:38-39, Paul says that he is convinced that nothing can separate “us from the love of

God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He is convinced of this, he holds onto it with certainty. The Christian must have distinguishing fundamental convictions, rooted in the certainty of the love of Jesus, on which she is not willing to compromise or barter. There are also issues that the Christian should be willing to compromise and barter on in order that she does not compromise on a more fundamental conviction within the hierarchy.

Economic theory tells us that a free market economy with pure competition maintains allocative efficiency; that is, goods and services go where they are most desirable. In the same way, if we compromise and barter on all issues, we will end up holding whatever convictions we find most advantageous to us. The Christian should be uncomfortable with bartering on issues that conflict with fundamental convictions. To barter on these issues makes one’s convictions meaningless and turns one into a disciple of self. Instead, Jesus calls us to follow

him and be his disciples. If we have no discipline in holding fundamental convictions uncompromisingly, then how are we to be disciples of Christ?

Look at the conquest and evangelization of the Americas that marginalized native peoples.

Many people would see this as Christians who were unwilling to compromise and barter on issues with the native people. While I think this is true, I would argue that, at the heart of the matter, it was Christians who were willing to compromise on the fundamental convictions in order to use “evangelization” as a means to power and domination. Because it was advantageous, fundamental convictions were abused. This is the danger of a “free market economy of ideology.”

Because convictions make us who we are, we must never compromise on the fundamental convictions that are inseparable from our Christian identity. We have a table at which we are formed. No, it is not the second grade lunch table. At

the Eucharist table we partake of the embodiment of our fundamental convictions. May we always hold to these uncompromisingly. ♥

*Cory is a junior business and philosophy major*



ABIGAIL BRUXVOORT

First of all, how we answer this question depends on who we’re talking about and what convictions we’re referring to. For instance, if this is a question about policy makers, my answer would be: please compromise. Yet, if we’re thinking of “mere” voters, I’m not so worried about staunchly adhering to a position. Or, if you’re an activist for social change, we might even encourage you to forgo compromise in order to make your point.

In addition, we should think about what convictions are up for discussion. Are they convictions central to your outlook on the world, such that giving them up would be a breach in your integrity?

In this case, bartering and compromise is inadvisable. However, if the convictions in question are peripheral to your worldview, we’d think you were inappropriately stubborn if you refused to barter and compromise.

Now, caveats aside, I do have a general answer: Christians are not only capable of holding their convictions strongly and simultaneously compromising, but in addition, it is necessary that they do so. For better or for worse (for better, I suspect), we live in a culture that admits

of multiple values and beliefs. Given this, a refusal on the part of Christians to compromise and barter is a kind of arrogance; it suggests that Christian perspectives ought to be imposed everywhere and privileged above all others. I find this attitude morally objectionable, but we can also object to this way of thinking on practical grounds.

Imagine that Christians refused to compromise and barter. The result would be a political standstill involving two polarized groups. On one hand, we’d have a Christian group, insisting, “These are our convictions,

we will not budge. Join our side or leave entirely.” And how will the other group respond? One thing is certain: the conglomerate of non-Christians is not going to acquiesce and adopt Christian convictions. In this case, the remaining option is for the groups to split. Each side will form its own state. Does this solve our problem? Well, no. You may have noticed that there isn’t one set of “Christian convictions” universally shared by Christians. In fact, there’s serious disagreement within Christianity, which implies that our Christian state would have to break down into denominational states. This could, of course, keep going. We weren’t compromising before; why start now? Why not reduce to states of individuals?

I’m assuming that the above thought experiment points out the absurdity of a “never-compromise” position. But aren’t I being unfair? Perhaps compromise is a necessity in a pluralistic world, as I’ve argued above. The real question, then, is whether a general policy of compromise weakens our Christian convictions. Do we

### A refusal on the part of Christians to compromise and barter is a kind of arrogance.

trivialize our own convictions when we set them aside in order to compromise?

At this point I would defer to my earlier remarks about the nature of the conviction in question. In

some cases, yes, I think we rightly hesitate over compromise. Nevertheless, in many other cases, I don’t think that compromise weakens my own convictions on a given subject. Moreover, I suspect that the value of compromise is a deeply held conviction for many of us. We’re interested in promoting our own flourishing, and we’re interested in promoting the flourishing of those around us. Compromise is one of the chief ways in which we express

### Compromise is one of the chief ways in which we express our desire for general well-being in the world.

our desire for general well-being in the world. Thus, although we temporarily set aside some of our convictions when we compromise, the very act of compromise honors

our conviction that it’s a good thing for diverse groups of people to get along. ♥

*Abigail is a senior philosophy major*



# Disce aut Discede / Masculinity and Other Myths



LYDIA WILSON

Coming out of a chapel led by a female professor last year I was surprised to overhear a male student comment, “I just find her brand of feminism to be so damaging to masculinity.” During the service the word feminism was not used once, and yet the student found the speaker’s worldview contradictory. I can only assume because she was a woman and had expressed egalitarian ideas. It was clear in his manner of speech that he thought the label feminist was somehow derogatory and that masculinity was a quality of unquestionable value and importance.

I have no intentions of going into the complexities of the term

feminist and how it is perceived in Christian circles. Suffice it to say that despite the Wesleyan Church in particular’s progressive traditions and rich history of equal rights and female ordination, the Church as a whole has hit a fundamentalist wall of sorts, and no doubt the mentalities of many of you on campus lie somewhere in the realm of “Well I’m not a feminist, but...” Grapple with those paradoxes in your own time. At the moment, however, I would like to focus on the latter half of the student’s statement.

What is masculinity, what is femininity, and why do they seem to be so important to our student, and to the general Christian culture? Let’s say that by masculinity he meant all things stereotypically male—power, dominance, strength, football, chopping down trees in the forest—and their apparent priority in Christian life. Certainly the Church has worked to affirm traits such as bravery, leadership, and protective instincts. These qualities are vital for a healthy body of Christ, and it goes without saying that where there are leaders, there must be followers. However, it is backward and a mistake to label these qualities as hallmarks of masculinity and to associate them exclusively with males. They are hallmarks of authority, to be sure, but as they can be found in either sex equally, it is illogical to say that the goals of feminism or egalitarianism could in any way be “damaging to masculinity.” There is no such thing.

Language and instruction within the Church often rely heavily on traditional gender roles, but this is unnecessary. It is most noticeable in the way the Church talks about marriage. Marriage apparently will not work if men and women do not properly carry out their respective duties as dominant and submissive. It is true, marriage, and any kind of interpersonal relationship for that matter, will not work if the individuals involved do not find balance and fulfillment. Their personalities must complement each other. Christians value marriage because it is a mirror of God’s relationship with the Church, but demanding that in every case the male must be the driving force in the relationship, while the female acts as the support bar simply does not make sense. Spouses should support and encourage each other in accordance with their personal needs, not their type casted needs. Human beings are complex and possess unique personalities, and it is ludicrous to assert that they can be so cleanly divided into Type A and Type B based solely on one difference. If you find yourself in a panic, wondering if an onslaught of gender equality is going to ruin your chances at a happy, healthy marriage, I may have some advice for you: don’t marry someone you are not compatible with.

It is understandable that people seek to find affirmation from others for their actions and behaviors, and for some, this is easily done by embracing

the projected differences between men and women. Men who are naturally assertive and genuinely enjoy physical activity find satisfaction in the knowledge that others respect them for it. The same goes for women who are graceful, soft-spoken, and in their element while tending to the needs of others. These are admirable characteristics, to be sure. What does this mean, though, for the individuals who are not inclined to such pursuits? Are they doomed to be unappreciated simply because they work hard at and excel in areas not typically accorded to their sex? Rather than laud individuals for living up to their stereotypes, should we not be praising them for doing whatever it is they choose to do with integrity, passion, and skill, no matter their sex?

Affirmation should be sought on an interpersonal, day-to-day level, not from society as a whole. Freedom to be who you are is vitally important, especially within the Church, where we each have a distinct and essential role to play. And these roles should not be judged based on whether or not they perpetuate or breakdown stereotypes, because in a perfect world, no one would be able to tell the difference. After all, “There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, *male or female*. For you are all one in Christ Jesus!” (Gal. 3:28) ♥

*Lydia is a senior art and writing 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,

Marriage is on people’s minds these days. On the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, politicians of all stripes are weighing in about marriage’s importance, all struggling to find words of concern for the poor without alienating their financial backers. At Houghton, of course, engaging with this national dialogue means quoting Marco Rubio, the young Republican senator from Florida, that party’s great non-white hope. Mr. Rubio and his supporters have an ideological aversion to government programs, and so have found in the institution of marriage a way to both attack government expenditures for the poor and champion a non-governmental solution for poverty. If people just get married, their thinking runs, most social problems associated with

poverty would be ameliorated, if not solved. So who needs to fund a food stamp program? Who needs to extend unemployment benefits? Who needs a minimum wage? Poverty, to this way of thinking, is principally the result of poor individual choices, and these choices are principally the result of a general moral decline since the advent of the War on Poverty in 1964.

May I beg to differ? Without the ideological blinders of social conservative convictions, another approach presents itself. If we want the social benefits of marriage, then we ought to challenge the new economic circumstances that are causing its decline. These are, to name just three of many, globalization, technological changes, and the triumph of capital over labor. They are contributing to our growing income gap, unemployment among high school graduates, and giving rise to a group of young males who are not

worth marrying. Solve these solvable economic problems, all of which can be ameliorated with political action, and marriage and family stability will improve. Ignore them, and things will only get worse. Low marriage rates didn’t cause poverty; poverty caused low marriage rates. And our economic system, at the moment designed to hurt the working poor, contributes mightily to poverty.

Best,  
Cameron Airhart  
Professor of History

# SPEAK OUT

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO  
[editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)

You can comment on articles online at [www.houghtonstar.com](http://www.houghtonstar.com)



# Artist of the Week

Alex Hood //junior BFA

“Art is a process that constantly consumes my mind. My work encompasses the power of thought, word, and interaction: the necessity to read and understand, the desire to touch, the ability to consider the details.”



LUKE LAUER



## Titles and Media

From left to right, descending

Pages Only Hold What Thoughts Couldn't Say, thread on canvas

Landscapes Move Among Shadows, lithograph on Japanese rice paper

Figure Study, lithograph on canson

The Water Doesn't Hold to You, handmade book, mixed media

Marks Are More Than Words (self portrait), handmade book, mixed media



"If we wait until we're ready, we'll be waiting for the rest of our lives." *Lemony Snicket*

## Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19						20			21	22			
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37		38		39				
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50			51		52	
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	57	58	59				60				61	62	63
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. "Love Me Tender" performer  
6. "And She \_\_\_\_" by Talking Heads  
9. "For Whom the \_\_\_\_ Tolls"  
13. Wall coat

14. B&B, e.g.

15. \*He fell in love with a face "that launched a thousand ships"  
16. February "People," e.g.  
17. Parental involvement org.  
18. Trojan War story

19. \*He fell in love with Little Red-Haired Girl  
21. \_\_\_\_'s fee  
23. Old age, archaic  
24. Display displeasure  
25. \*Bride and groom say their "I \_\_\_\_"  
28. Choir voice  
30. Part of Yugoslavia  
35. Iris holder  
37. Paleozoic and Mesozoic  
39. The fourth prime number  
40. Rigid necklace  
41. Of the kidneys  
43. Baseball points  
44. Was attached  
46. Jittery  
47. It should be opened when starting a fire  
48. Winslow \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ Simpson  
50. Back talk  
52. "C'\_\_\_\_ la vie!"  
53. EU currency  
55. \*Just an \_\_\_\_-fashioned love song"  
57. \*Cyrano de Bergerac's love interest  
60. \*Popular Valentine's delivery  
64. Disturbances  
65. Get it wrong  
67. Spur on  
68. Strong adhesive  
69. By means of  
70. Fragrant resin  
71. "I, Claudius" role  
72. Bird-to-be  
73. \*What Snow White did before Prince Charming's kiss

DOWN

1. Larger-than-life  
2. Alfred "\_\_\_\_" LaRue  
3. Americans need one to enter Australia

4. Accustom  
5. Sister to Blanche DuBois  
6. Clean the blackboard, e.g.  
7. Symbol of industriousness  
8. Mix-up  
9. Like white-headed eagle  
10. Albany-Buffalo canal  
11. His pants are on fire?  
12. Hallucinogen  
15. Slang for communist sympathizers  
20. Lazybones  
22. Breed  
24. What's-his-name  
25. \*Even-Steven kind of date  
26. Convex molding  
27. Red Cross supply  
29. Arborist's concern  
31. Lord's worker  
32. Egg cell  
33. \*Aphrodite's Roman counterpart  
34. Early stage of sickness, e.g.  
36. High school breakout  
38. \*"The Twilight \_\_\_\_," romantic film series  
42. Popular disinfectant  
45. Like Danny Zuko's hair  
49. \*Your Love is Like the Morning \_\_\_\_"  
51. Skiers' turfs  
54. \*His character fell in love with Lois Lane  
56. Be situated within  
57. Tug-of-War equipment  
58. Emanation  
59. \*Kisses and hugs  
60. Hand grenade  
61. "All for one, one for all" sword  
62. Beef cut  
63. Rotisserie skewer  
64. \*Dudley Moore/Bo Derek romantic comedy  
66. 18-wheeler