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Christian Life Emphasis Week Canceled

LUKE HUIZENGA
Regular Contributor

The pastoral staff at Houghton Wesleyan Church decided last semester that Houghton College would not host a speaker for Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW) in 2019. While this comes as a surprise to many people on campus, the choice was up to Houghton Wesleyan, which pays for CLEW speakers to come visit the college.

"When they were talking about budgeting," explains Austen Kewin, "they said we're not going to have an official CLEW speaker." Kewin, an Admission Counselor for the college, is also on the pastoral staff at Houghton Wesleyan. The primary reason for the cancellation, says Kewin, is simply a lack of attendance. Unfortunately, people's workloads can often get in the way: "Students used to say, 'Yeah, let's go to CLEW.' [However], students are [incredibly] busy. They're constantly running around from thing to thing." With fewer people coming to CLEW chapels, Houghton Wesleyan Church has questioned whether it's worth still sponsoring speakers to come



COURTESY OF HELENA ODEN

Houghton Wesleyan Church has paid for past CLEW speakers.

to the college. Simply put, says Kewin, "This isn't what students are responding to."

One of the most difficult things about seeing the lack of attendance, Kewin points out, is trying to find reasons outside of simple busyness. "Is it a question of the specific content or is it the way you're advertising?" he says. "There's all these dif-

ferent variables, so it's really hard to tell how to get students engaged."

Dr. Michael Jordan, Dean of the Chapel, has several ideas as to why CLEW turnout has lessened. "[CLEW] grew out of a very specific revival tradition," Jordan explains. "Fewer and fewer students have any connection with [this]." While

this chapel style may appeal to older faculty and community members, it simply isn't something that many college students can relate to. Since CLEW is primarily aimed at the student body, if the students aren't feeling connected to it, something clearly needs to change.

One simpler reason Jordan

cites is that the people who would go to CLEW chapels are often already involved in similar activities. "I think that students that want to go deep have lots of opportunities," he says. With several on and off-campus Bible studies, Mercy Seat, Koinonia, and other groups and events, it's understandable that many students don't feel the need or have the desire to attend. "There may be students and community members who miss [CLEW]," Jordan says, "but in terms of what it's designed to do, we have lots of things to point to."

With all this in mind, what's next for CLEW? Is it gone for good? Will it make a comeback next year? From the looks of things, CLEW's future is mostly up to the student body. Kewin says, "I don't think the church is opposed to bringing someone in again... if students show that this really was important [to them]." Dean Jordan also would love to bring CLEW back next year, but he wants to remind the people who miss it that "We're thinking about the concerns that would come from losing this and we think [the college can] address it."★

Local High Schools Visit KPAC College Fair

CATHERINE DE OLIVEIRA

The Allegany County Counselor's Association hosted an annual college fair at the Kerr-Pegula Field House for local high school students on the morning of Tuesday August 24th. The Allegany County Counselor's Association is made up of school counselors from all of the high schools in Allegany County.

In 2014, the Allegany County Counselor's College Fair was the first event hosted at the KPAC facility for the broader community. Since then, the event has reoccurred every year. All of the high schools in Allegany County bussed their students into Houghton to get the opportunity to hear from different colleges. Two high schools from Livingston County (the county northeast of Allegany) sent students to the fair as well.

This year, 50 college rep-

Sustainability Center, Eco Reps Host Church in the Woods



COURTESY OF EMILY HORNIBROOK

Attendees of Church in the Woods gathered at Letchworth State Park.

EMILY HORNIBROOK

Eco Reps and the Center for Sustainability hosted a church service last Sunday in the stunning woods of Letch-

worth State Park. Students piled into Houghton vans and carpooled with friends to meet at a pavilion alongside waterfalls and among the trees, all with the intention of

gathering in order to worship the Creator while surrounded by His creation. With over 70 students in attendance, this was the largest group of students to

Purple & Gold Week Animates Campus

JOSIAH WIEDENHEFT

Purple & Gold Week, the long-standing tradition at Houghton, has made its return to campus. This week-long event, with activities to engage in and points to win, is a favorite of many students on campus.

The history of Purple and Gold stretches far back into Houghton's past. Before intercollegiate sports existed at Houghton, the school was divided into teams of purple and gold, with sports seasons centering around this competition. "People who were at Houghton near that time live and bleed their color," says AC Taylor, current Director of Student Engagement. "It is their identity, what they were." That tradition moved into the background once intercollegiate sports were introduced, but Purple & Gold Week was resurrected in

Sports: Deuschle wins Male Runner of the Week for second week running; Unverdorben records thousandth career assist

CALEB PHILIPS
Sports Writer

Field Hockey
September 21th: Loss at Hartwick, 0-1 (OT)
September 24th: Loss vs. Brockport 1-4
Houghton’s Field Hockey team suffered two close losses this weekend, losing their Empire 8 Conference opener to Hartwick in a penalty shootout. In non-conference play against Brockport, Houghton played a close game once again, trailing by a single goal through 3 quarters of play. Brockport, however, was able to pull away with three fourth quarter goals to seal the victory. Caitlin Jennings (‘21) scored the lone goal for the Highlanders in the week. “Our first conference game, where we went into double overtime and ultimately lost in shootout, taught us a lot about the potential of our team, especially with God being with us,” Jennings said, “Allowing God to play through us on the field makes us all feel very confident and excited about how conference play will go for the rest of the season.”

Cross Country
The Houghton Cross Country team traveled to Roberts Wesleyan University on September 21, to compete against both Division II and Division III teams. The women’s team finished 7th out of 21 teams and the men’s team finished 8th out of 21 teams. Shelby Langlois (’20) led the women by finishing in 19th place out of 211 finishers. Tyler Deuschle (’20) placed the highest of any Highlander coming in 15th place out of 252 finishers with a time of 26:44. This secured him the Empire 8 Male Runner of the week for the second week in a row. Deuschle said, “Being an E8 athlete of the week is an honor in itself, so getting it twice in back to back weeks is something I am proud of! Getting these awards is a great way to manifest what our whole team is working towards. I got the award, but everyone is working really hard and racing really well.”

Men’s Soccer
September 21th: Tie at Utica, 0-0
September 24th: Loss vs. Pitt-Bradford, 1-2 (OT)
Houghton’s Men’s Soccer team played two close games this past week, tying Utica in their Empire 8 opener and losing to Pitt-Bradford in overtime. Goalie Caleb Loew (’21) turned away five shots in net, to keep the score knotted at zero. In their next game, Ben DiCrasto (’20) scored the Highlanders’ only goal, bringing his season total of goals to five, a team high.

Women’s Soccer
September 21th: Loss vs. Utica, 0-3
September 24th: Win at Clarks Summit, 7-1
After opening conference play with a loss to Utica, the Women’s soccer team had a big win over Clarks Summit, scoring seven goals. Moriah Steffen (’23) and Sierra Neddo (’22) scored two goals each. Kealy Deforest (’21), Mikayla Gaffney (’21) and Mikayla Simons (’23) each

recorded a single goal.
Men’s Tennis
The Men’s Tennis team did not play this week. They have finished their season with a final matchup on September 30th. They will be back in action on March 17th.

Women’s Tennis
September 21th: Loss at The Sage Colleges, 3-6
September 24th: Loss vs. Brockport, 4-5
September 25th: Loss vs. St. John Fisher, 2-7
Houghton’s Women’s Tennis team suffered three tough losses this past week. Despite these losses, several women had good showings. The doubles tandem of Catie Moore (’21) and Elise Swanson (’23) won every match, and Erin Haley (’22) was able to win her singles matches against both Brockport and The Sage Colleges.

Volleyball
September 21th: Win vs. Suny Cobleskill at Keuka, 3-1 (25-19, 25-19, 22-25, 25-14)

September 21th: Win at Keuka, 3-1 (25-19, 25-22, 18-25, 25-16)
September 27th: Win at Elmira, 3-1 (19-25, 27-25, 25-23, 25-20)
The Houghton Volleyball team continued their stellar season during the past week, winning all three of their matches. During the weekend, Houghton’s Haley Unverdorben (’22), recorded 1,000-career assists, becoming just the eighth Highlander to do so in the past 20 years. Unverdorben said, “Reaching the milestone of 1000 assists has been amazing! I couldn’t have made that accomplishment without my teammates, coaches and supporters. I am beyond grateful for all of them.” The Highlanders opened conference play on the 27th against Elmira and came away with a win, moving their record to 10-2 overall, winning in four sets. ★

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representatives were present from different schools. The list included some private colleges in New York and Pennsylvania and schools from the State University of New York System (SUNY). To name a few, Roberts Wesleyan, St. Bonaventure University, Elmira College, Mansfield University, University at Albany, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Buffalo, and University of Pittsburgh at Bradford all had tables and representatives eager to recruit future students.
Betsy Rutledge-Aikens (’07), the Associate Director of Admission Events, organized the college fair. “We choose this day intentionally,” she said. “The night before [our] fair is another college fair at Hornell High school in Steuben County. The night of our fair is another college fair in Haverling High School in Bath. Kind of like a little swing, we try to schedule our fair to get more colleges reps to come.” The idea is that if representatives can participate in three Western NY college fairs instead of just one, they are more likely to come. Rutledge-Aikens explained that it is an equally beneficial opportunity for Allegany County students who cannot visit every school listed. The schools can come to them and they can ask questions and speak to the representatives, one on one.
According to Rutledge-Aikens, college representatives that visited generally reported a positive experi-

ence at the fair with plenty of good contacts and conversations (which is how admissions departments measure fair success). Houghton hopes to host the fair again next September. “We like having it here because they come to our campus. That is the benefit, they get to see a little about Houghton’s campus,” Rutledge-Aikens said. “Additionally, we offer for any interested schools to stay and take a tour of campus and have lunch at the dining hall.”
Andover High School took Houghton up on their offer— tour guides of Houghton College, John and Joy, led the Andover high school students around campus and to lunch in the Houghton dining hall.
Rutledge-Aikens describes the importance of providing “a good opportunity to see a little more about Houghton’s campus. A lot of times Allegany County students think they know Houghton, but it is always exciting when they are willing to come have a tour or meet with an admissions counselor. I think they learn a bit about Houghton that maybe they didn’t know before.” ★
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ever gather for a Church in the Woods service, which have been held periodically over the last few years.
This was, for the most part, a student led service. Worship was led by Josh Ellis (’21) and Natalie Kyvik (’20). The prayer, a liturgical poem, scripture reading, and benediction were also led by students Jesse Rucquoi (’21), Mary Chichester (’20), Samara Rouse (’21), and Emily Hornibrook (’21). Dr. Laura Alexeichik, the director of EPIC Adventures and

professor in the Recreation department, preached a sermon to the gathered students. Through a reading of Psalm 19 and storytelling, she reminded those in attendance of the majesty of creation, and how God’s character is revealed in every area of creation.
Mary Chichester, a student intern with the Center for Sustainability, said that “[Dr. Alexeichik’s] point about humans being part of God’s creation was very moving and humbling”. Bella Mancini, who attended the service, said, “Church in the Woods was an awesome experience. I was able to be present with my Creator while enjoying His creation. Being able to fellowship and explore the park was a great start to the Sabbath.”
After exploring the trails and waterfalls for some time after the service, attendees returned to campus where they were invited to head up to the trails in the Houghton woods for the ropes course open house, hosted by EPIC Adventures. A large number of students and professors gathered to try the new obstacles, enjoy each other’s company, roast some hotdogs and make s’mores around the fire. Abbi Wilkerson (’21), who participated in the open house, said “The ropes course was a blast! The people helping out were so encouraging and fun to be around. The course challenged my muscles, my teamwork skills, and my self-confidence all in a way that was healthy and exciting.”
The staff of EPIC Adventures and the Center for Sustainability were both very pleased with the turnout of these events that they partnered for. Looking to the future, they are planning more events together as they have very similar goals

and visions for Houghton and the world beyond. Brian Webb, director of the Center for Sustainability, stated that “getting students outside to appreciate God’s creation is an important goal of both the Center for Sustainability and EPIC Adventures. We’re glad to partner with EPIC to help facilitate opportunities for students to play, fellowship, and worship in the beautiful setting around us.” ★
Emily Hornibrook is a Center for Sustainability intern.
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2007 as a spring event leading up to SPOT. In 2015 the event was moved to the fall semester. “They [thought] it would fit really well with homecoming,” says Taylor. “It had so much of an alumni connection, to the stories of the past.” From that year onwards, Purple & Gold Week has culminated in another popular event: Homecoming weekend and, of course, Homecoming SPOT, hosted this year by Abby Aguirre (’21) and Jared Hobson (’20).
Though Purple and Gold originates in athletic competition, its organizers are trying to push it to be focused more on school spirit in general. “Purple

and Gold Week is for everyone, not just athletically minded people,” says Taylor. “Our hope is to provide opportunities for anybody to feel comfortable.” Part of this is the inclusion of events that aren’t athletically involved, such as the return of the lip-sync battle from two years ago; a nerf event co-hosted with FILA (Foam in the Liberal Arts); and a Purple and Gold/Houghton-themed art competition with team points at stake for the winning entry.
Purple & Gold Week is a time for Houghton students to come together, both in teamwork and competition. “It’s definitely a way of getting people to work together outside of their initial dorm dynamic,” says Jakob Knudsen (’21), a member of the CAB team this year, “and also form some friendly antagonisms across campus.”
Now a mainstay of Houghton culture, Purple and Gold Week remains an exciting time for those who get involved. As AC Taylor remarks, “There’s always something going on... something going on for anybody.” ★

Enjoy writing or talking to people?

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editor@houghtonstar.com

Humans of Houghton

Susan Lipscomb



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ALLY STEVICK

Susan Lipscomb is a professor, Chair for the Houghton College Department of English and Writing, mother of three, active church member, and avid gardener. Needless to say, her days are ripe with valuable work. “My day starts at five or six,” she says, “so that I can have a little bit of quiet time to read and grade papers and be ready. And then I get my kids off to school. And then I come into the office and again it’s looking over lecture notes, making sure that I’ve got things to hand back to students, being ready for class. And then, because I’m a department chair, some of my day is thinking about department business. So, what are the course offerings for next semester, who are we hiring to teach classes in the future, do we need to order more supplies, [...] all those kinds of questions. [...] I go home in the evening and I usually have a couple of hours of making supper, hanging out with my kids, helping them with homework. But then by the end of the evening it’s turning back to getting the reading done for the next day to make sure I’m ready for class.” Professor Lipscomb says she’s found she has to reread the assigned texts for class in order to remember them in detail, so she’s always reading the material along with her students for each of the classes she’s teaching. When she has free time she likes to read, garden, cook, knit, spend time with her family, and watch BBC shows, especially literary adaptations. “But only if I’ve already read the book first,” she adds.

Professor Lipscomb’s specialties are Victorian Literature and Environmental Literature. I ask her why she chose these two particular areas, and she tells me, “I love reading big, long novels. My favorite class in college was The English Novel, and I always have loved those long novels.” Professor Lipscomb’s office, where we meet, is a testament to this. Her bookshelf is full of books, many of them close to two inches wide, even in paperback edition. “I really like the Victorian period because I feel like there’s a lot of connections to today,” she tells me. “So when I was in gradu-

ate school in the 1990s, that was when the internet was exploding and it felt very similar to looking at what was going in the Victorian society with the publishing industry.” She explains that there was an explosion of mass media for the Victorians. With cheap books, lots of people were reading, and there was a boom in information and advertising. “When I was in grad school,” she says, “it felt like there were all these parallels to what was going on. The Victorians were experiencing this revolution in print and advertising, and also lots of questions about social issues— about women’s rights.” Though the social questions of the 1990s were different, Professor Lipscomb says she feels like the experience of the internet age was similar in the relationship between questions about society and mass media.

Professor Lipscomb wrote her dissertation specifically on ecological issues in the Victorian period. “I was really interested in a culture that was very different from the United States, where there wasn’t a sense of the wilderness,” she tells me. “There was no nature that was untouched in England, all nature had been farmed and used very heavily throughout history. So it was interesting to think about [...] nature that had been used and had been humanly constructed, because I feel like that’s the nature that we have now. There is no untouched nature, I don’t think.” Whether or not there ever was untouched nature, Professor Lipscomb says that thinking about wilderness isn’t helpful anymore. “We have to think about how humans are going to think about nature,” she says, “and so I felt like, looking at how the Victorians think about that question was more interesting to me than thinking about Thoreau or Muir or some of those wilderness writers in the American tradition.” Professor Lipscomb assures me that it’s not that she doesn’t like those writers, she just thinks that the Victorians have a lot to offer in environmental literature.

Professor Lipscomb is invested in environmental issues, but says she is skeptical of the way that many people talk about car-

Local Attractions

Wiscoy Falls

JOHANNA FLOREZ

Wiscoy Falls is a scenic hike less than a fifteen minute drive from campus. It’s easily accessible from Route 19 and the perfect size for a short, low-stress afternoon outing in nature.

The falls are not part of an official park— they are privately-owned property open to the public. There is a parking area off the road just past a bridge over Wiscoy Creek. The view from the bridge reveals a series of small waterfalls— different online reviews count between two and five “main waterfalls,” with many smaller tiers along the way.

Small footpaths along either side of the creek will take you all the way to the dam at the top of the falls. The paths are often narrow and not always well-cleared— expect to climb over, under, or around some fallen tree branches. The natural terrain, however, proves to be a terrific spot for wildflower lovers (I collected at least eight different types of flowers on my first visit).

Hikers who don’t mind getting their feet wet have another option: climbing up through the creek itself. Most of the flat areas of the creek are shallow enough to wade through without getting your knees wet. Do be warned that much of the rockbed

is covered with slippery moss or mud— this route is not the quick way up. On warm days, though, the moving water is beautifully refreshing to stand in. At each of the drops, you may either be able to climb up stair-like rocks or go back to the footpath to navigate on dry ground. Alternatively, you can capitalize on the opportunity to sit in a crevice with the waterfall flowing over your shoulders.

Wiscoy is a swimsuit-optional experience. Those who want a picnic near the water will be able to find space to lay down a blanket on dry ground and enjoy the sound of the falls without even getting their shoes damp. Those who want to swim can find a few circular swimming holes in the upper half of the falls. The surrounding rockbed is under only about a foot and a half of water before a sudden drop-off plenty deep enough for cannonballs. Do not step into the swimming hole unexpectedly! It’s an adventure not worth having by surprise.

Despite the hazards, Wiscoy can be an incredibly peaceful retreat, and is close enough to campus that a spontaneous half-hour spent there won’t feel like a waste of gas. It’s well worth a visit in the last few warm days of the fall, or anytime for amazing pictures. ★



COURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

ing for nature. She describes for me two main categories of nature rhetoric, “It tends to be either really scary, like ‘we’re doing everything wrong, and the world is going to end and there’s nothing we can do,’ or it’s like ‘oh, you have to love it, it’s so wonderful, you have to have these amazing experiences in nature.’ And I think both of those can be somewhat limiting in terms of getting people to just enjoy caring for the practical things that they need to do to care for nature.” I ask Professor Lipscomb for an alternative to this kind of guilt creating language. “It’s about caring for particular places that you have a relationship with,” she tells me. “And it’s about knowledge, about understanding and knowing some

things, like knowing the names of plants and knowing species, [...] having very particular knowledge of a place that you care about and that you have an emotional investment in over time. I think that’s what people should be doing, is plugging in to very local environments and learning a lot about them and doing practical things to care for those spaces. And then, big things like lobbying against coal fired power plants, sure, we should all be doing that too. But I think unless you have a space that you care about and have positive interactions with, you won’t— that’s what’s going to nourish you to have the energy to lobby against coal fired power plants.” ★

The Traveling Faculty of Houghton

BURTON BREWSTER
Regular Contributor

Among the faculty of Houghton College are a number of professors who teach in nontraditional ways. Sometimes this means commuting large distances each week, or finding creative ways of teaching lessons to students.



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Professor Mark Budnik

Professor Mark Budnik, the Electrical Engineering Program Director and Irwin Chair of Engineering on campus, also works as a professor for Valparaiso University located in north-west Indiana (about an hour's drive away from Chicago). It is an eight hour trip from Valparaiso to Houghton which spans 531 miles, and goes by many of the most populous cities in the Midwest. When asked about what made the trip worthwhile Prof. Budnik responded, "I love working with the students. I love working with my colleagues in the faculty and administration. Houghton College is really thinking innovatively to [...] provide the best education [for students] to help them fulfill their vocation.

[My wife and I] believe God led us this opportunity, and we wanted to make time for it."

Another professor who has been traveling great distances (though not Prof. Budnik's 531 miles) for the last 14 years is Professor Daniel Minchen who teaches Business and Communication. Prof. Minchen travels

involved in Broadcasting across New York state, until he was hired by an international company called Xerox Corporation. At Xerox he worked for 27 years, taking up various small time teaching jobs, until he eventually joined Houghton. "I have felt called to share some of this knowledge," Minchen says, "with students who are eager to learn. Students who come to Houghton expecting to be trained and taught in a Godly way." As he explains, communication and business knowledge is incredibly practical for relationships and knowing how to deal with business practices. His biggest reason for teaching though (as he puts it) is, "I was directed by the Lord to do it [and] I did it the best I could."

Not all professors that live off campus drive such long distances. A case example can be found in Professor Shane Fraser ('11) who lives 10 hours away from Houghton near the University of North Carolina Charlotte, where he teaches. Fraser runs Houghton's Social Media Marketing class via Zoom (a video conferencing software) where students can interact directly



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Professor Shane Fraser



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Professor Daniel Minchen

with their professors through the webcams on their laptops. "It's a lot for Houghton to make sure that this works," Fraser explained, "UNCC would never do anything like this, so it's cool that little Houghton compared to other colleges is being innovative." The class is typically structured to be held on Mondays and Wednesdays; Mondays are when Fraser is able to facetime with the class and teach, and Wednesdays are

when the class works on assignments among themselves.

Fraser has had a long experience with Houghton. His mother had graduated from there, and he grew up locally in Alfred. "I always knew I wanted to do business and go to a Christian college so it was a win-win." When he graduated in 2011, he started his own social media marketing business and took up a teaching job at UNCC. Eventually, Houghton reached out to Fraser and offered him a position to teach the Social Media Marketing class. "That's rewarding for me to give back to the next set of marketers that will be going out and using these skills that I am helping them learn. I'm really excited for the future [at Houghton]." ★

Science Honors Reflects on Program

ISAAC CASSULIS

Students of the 2018-19 Science Honors cohort were tasked with designing and building a rover capable of autonomous data collection and were expected to have functioning rovers by May-term. The goal of the class was to utilize these rovers to collect biodiversity data in two areas of the Sonoran Desert; Catalina State Park, located just north of Tucson, Arizona, and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, found on the US-Mexico border in southwestern Arizona.

During the fall semester, students learned fundamental skills on how to collect and measure biodiversity data. Additionally, students learned how to write scientific papers and present research findings in the writing and communication portion of the class, led by Dr. Douglas Gaerte (Communication) and Professor Lori

Huth (Writing). Before the end of the semester, students were grouped into three teams of four to five members with a specific research focus for the remainder of the course. Hannah Heint ('22), a member of the cohort, commented, "Through Science Honors I was able to learn a lot about team building and working as a team."

While the goal of the class was to design and construct a rover, they were not built during the fall semester. Given the complexities of the project, some students would have preferred to begin working on their rovers much earlier than they were permitted, as this would have allowed them to hit the ground running in the spring. "The class INTS 150-155 [Science Honors], allowed me to build wonderful, long-lasting friendships. Although working on the rover was, in the words of [my fellow team member] Noah Klein 'very much enjoyable,' I wish the heavy workload of the project had begun earlier

in the fall semester," Malachi Yeager ('22) observed. Groups spent significant amounts of time learning to program their rovers.

Once the spring semester began, the teams had to buckle down and prepare for a deluge of late nights and stressful deadlines. If you were to walk by the Science Honors classroom or the Paine Center for Science at any time, you could be reasonably certain to find at least a couple of honors students hard at work, testing their rovers and ensuring they could meet class benchmarks. These tests did not always run smoothly, and Claudia Basabakwinshi ('22) declared her favorite moment in the class as, "the time an anonymous person was run over by an out-of-control rover."

As the spring semester came to a close, students felt increasing pressure to make sure the rovers were functional. While no rover worked perfectly, and in some cases could not perform simple maneuvers, two

of the three teams' rovers were shipped to Arizona regardless.

While in the Sonoran Desert, the teams focused on recording data amidst a plethora of new problems. Reflecting on his team's struggles with data collection, Gavin Luckey ('22) commented, "We did get a lot of data; however, our rover did not perform as desired." Heint similarly added, "Even though our rover didn't work for most of our research, it was fun."

Aside from research, the class took several hiking trips, including one that chemistry professor John Rowley termed an "athletic endeavor." Due to time constraints, after finishing the ascent, the group was forced to run down the mountain.

The class also camped at the Grand Canyon National Park overnight before flying back to campus. According to Zoey Kasper ('22), "It was literally breathtaking. I've always heard it was so beautiful and I literally stopped breathing for a quick second when I saw it." Noah

Klein ('22) echoed Kasper's sentiments, agreeing that his favorite part of the trip was seeing the Grand Canyon. The class was able to watch the sun set over the canyon, taking pictures and enjoying the views before setting up camp. In the morning, well before the sun rose, a group of professors and students hiked down the canyon, while others watched the sun rise from the rim.

After the class had returned to campus, the rovers were disassembled and each team's research findings were presented before faculty. While opinions on the two semesters of Science Honors were decidedly mixed, students enjoyed the Mayterm trip and many agreed it was their favorite time in the class. Science Honors offers first-year students the opportunity to explore the scientific field, and exposes students to multiple scientific disciplines and fields. ★

Mayterm Students Adventure Across the Globe

HALEY TREVINO
Regular Contributor

Houghton College prides itself in providing opportunities for students to broaden their horizons with Off Campus Studies. This past Mayterm, Houghton students set off on adventures to six different locations: Iceland, New York City, Buffalo, Arizona, Alaska, and Sierra Leone. Here are some of their experiences.

In Melissa Hodde’s (‘20) recollection of Iceland Ornithology, she highlights the thrill of spotting a wagtail or common eider, the awe of mighty glaciers fringing the mountains, and the seas of dark sand smothering the landscapes. She chose Dr. Knapp’s Ornithology class in the otherworldly location of Iceland for two reasons: the allure of the beautiful country, and her admiration of Dr. Knapp’s charisma and engaging teaching style.

Kara Cusker (‘21) went on the Art and Business in NYC Mayterm to fulfill credits toward her Business Management major. As they explored New York through scavenger hunts, she was able to get a feel for the many “personalities” of the great city and the sense of scale that she wouldn’t be able to on a shorter trip. Students interviewed everyone from CEOs to warehouse workers from the Federal Reserve to the Wall Street Journal. “I was not expecting how both of my majors [Chemistry and Business] could be highly integrated in the business field” she remarked, going on to say she was able to find



COURTESY OF LAURA ALEXEICHIK

Students on the Recreation and Tourism Mayterm in Arizona

possible internship opportunities that she otherwise wouldn’t have considered.

Natalie Sceccitano (‘21) was at first apprehensive about going to Buffalo for “Teaching in Urban America.” As a member of a rural community, she was nervous about the transition to inner-city life. However, as she saw first-hand the challenges young students face, she found this was a place she could serve. “No matter how different someone appears, you can always find a way to connect to them,” Sceccitano reflected. She found joy in forging personal relationships with the students and watching them make breakthroughs.

Dr. Alexeichik led this May’s group in Recreation and Tourism in Arizona. The experience was largely outdoors, with hikes to a hidden oasis as well as a trip to the breathtaking chasm of the Grand Canyon. “Whether a student is an aspiring tourism professional or world traveler, understanding the geographic, cultural, and economic complexities of the world is important,” Dr. Alexeichik says. “I wanted students to be amazed by the grandeur and beauty of our world and see the hand of God within creation... But I also wanted to expose students to the impacts of tourism and how people (tourists) interact with our natural resources and the

ways that we protect, misuse, or abuse these areas.”

Kyle Brown (‘20) was already an outdoorsman before embarking on “Ecology of Alaska,” the land of the midnight sun. Though an avid hiker and fisherman, the cold nights spent in a tent, the lack of darkness at night, and the sheer size of the land around him proved shocking. The highlight of his time spent researching in the wilderness was the fjords tour the class took by boat. Orcas and whales and seals came incredibly close. From the shore he was able to see mountain goats and bears as well as massive, calving glaciers. Brown advises others considering a Mayterm, “Be willing

to go other places and experience different landscapes... seeing them can change the way you see the environment and live your life.”

Professor Oakerson, the leading professor for Development Research in Sierra Leone calls their research a “continuation but also a re-engagement... with a somewhat different focus.” This affiliation between Houghton College and Sierra Leone has existed for more than a century. Students work alongside villagers, leaders, and chiefs to help amass research for a baseline study. Students interviewed locals and gathered data to calculate the material, environmental, natural, and social assets of the villagers. As the study progressed, they were able to help locals document their situation, present this information to potential donors, and come to a consensus on development priorities within their communities. The cooperation and brotherly commitment fostered alongside the people of Sierra Leone encouraged several students to go back or find their calling in Africa.

Houghton College students revealed their community focus in their life-changing experiences during Mayterm. Whether it was being struck by God’s detailed creativity in the Icelandic ecosystem, or challenged by the culture shock of a diverse and fast paced city, students returned changed, challenged, and encouraged with a broadened concept of the world and their place in it. ★

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Taken by Johanna Florez (‘21) at a farmer’s market on the way to Letchworth on Sunday. It’s a colorful kale.

Send your favorite picture from this week to editor@houghtonstar.com for a chance to be featured next week!



Joy and Sorrow: Are They Opposites?



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

ANJA OBERG

I remember when I first encountered the idea that love and hate are not opposites; rather, love and indifference are opposites. I can’t remember the exact explanation, but it was something along the lines of the idea that love and hate are both passionate and intense emotions, while indifference is not. Love and hate are both active, while indifference is passive. This means that indifference is a closer opposite of love, as love and hate are more similar in intensity than love and indifference.

This idea of opposites

was presented to me a few years ago, but I was reminded of it recently as I considered a new idea: how could someone experience both joy and sorrow so strongly in the same space? How is it possible to feel deep sorrow, and yet peace and joy, in the same moment? For example, in the process of healing, how can a person experience both grief and peace, sorrow and joy?

While listening to a podcast, I was introduced to an excerpt from *The Prophet* by Khalil Gibran, an early 20th century Lebanese-American poet. The excerpt is called “On Joy and Sorrow,” and it reads as follows: “The deeper that

giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight. Some of you say, ‘Joy is greater than sorrow,’ and others say, ‘Nay, sorrow is the greater.’ But I say unto you, they are inseparable.” These words helped me better understand something I was learning: the greater sorrow I experience, the more room I have to experience deep joy. For when I know how difficult life can be, I realize more fully how incredible the beautiful parts of life are. In addition, maybe joy and sorrow can coexist because the same things and people can

“...because even in an extended season of grief or sorrow in someone’s life, there is still the possibility for joy.”

sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain ... When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is

cause both emotions. This idea of sorrow and joy walking hand-in-hand was again reinforced when I watched a Ted Talk on Vulnerability for one of my classes. (It

often seems that the ideas I’m supposed to learn appear again and again in my everyday life.) The speaker, Brené Brown, explained that we often try to numb the negative feelings we experience. In attempting to do so, however, we also have to numb the positive feelings. It isn’t possible to be selective in what we numb, meaning that in order to experience the good things, we also have to experience the bad. In order to experience joy, we have to know sorrow.

If sorrow is not the opposite of joy, then what is? Romans 12:12 (NIV) reads, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” This verse reveals a close tie between joy and hope; perhaps the opposite of joy is hopelessness. I find that I often have joy because of the hope I have in Jesus. Joy is deeper than happiness, and it remains steadfast regardless of circumstance. It grows from a place of knowing the grace of Jesus and the salvation we have in him. Without this hope, joy cannot grow.

What then is the opposite of sorrow, if not joy? Matthew 5:4 (ESV) reads, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Maybe the opposite of sorrow is comfort. To

have comfort is to have freedom from pain. When we find comfort in other people or in Jesus, our sorrow subsides.

Sorrow and joy walk together and ultimately are inseparable. This could be perceived negatively, that there is little hope for joy, as sorrow will often be nearby. Or, it can provide us with hope, because even in an extended season of grief or sorrow in someone’s life, there is still the possibility for joy. Even though they appear to be clearly defined opposites at first glance, joy and sorrow can be found in the same place, and are both present in a lifetime. I hope that when you experience sorrow, trust that you are free to have joy; when you find joy, may it be sweeter as you remember the sorrow you have known. ★

Anja is a junior majoring in inclusive childhood education.

The Bachelor or Bust



COURTESY OF GUTHRIE COLLINS

VIVIAN RIVERS

I find the premise of ABC’s *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* repulsive. One person romantically cycling through thirty different individuals for the benefit of network ratings, advertising dollars, and stalkerish amusement of millions of viewers strikes me as incredibly shallow, even crass. Whether or not the relationships are real, I can’t understand why many of the people around me pay such close attention to who received a rose and who did not.

Many of the people I love and respect at Houghton eagerly consume the series in social gatherings. The buzz of the

someone acting crazy or someone acting annoying on the show dominates cafeteria conversations. I honestly don’t get it. What am I missing here?

So I asked some of these people that I love: Why? The overarching answer I got was that it’s entertainment. They admitted to its many flaws. One of them said, “It’s definitely trashy reality TV, but it’s a way I can turn off my brain for a few hours.” Another friend explained that she truly does despise the show, but she tolerates it because it brings people together. I argued that just because it brings people together doesn’t make it morally acceptable. We could point to a number of examples in history and in present times to prove that.

My primary problem with *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette* is what it promotes. I recently saw a meme that read, “The same girls who are watching *The Bachelor*

are the same girls tweeting about loyalty on Twitter.” The meme had a point. Why are we gathering over a show whose subject line is disloyalty? Why do we find it “relaxing”? It might be so ridiculous that it makes us laugh, but these are human beings we’re gawking and giggling at. Again, even if they’re not real relationships, these are real people.

From a Christian stance, I object most to the emotional turmoil imposed on the contestants.

“...these are human beings we’re gawking and giggling at. Again, even if they’re not real relationships, these are real people.”

“...*The Bachelor* takes “sex sells” in a very intentional way that is correlated directly with where our broken world stands.”

For example, the overnight dates with three different men or women. Need I say more? So much of the media that we consume is plotted around sex. However, it seems like *The Bachelor* takes “sex sells” in a very intentional way that is correlated directly with where our broken world stands regarding sexual immorality.

I think of my younger siblings growing up in this era of promiscuity. I recognize the message *The Bachelor* is sending to men and women my brother and sisters are becoming. That one’s worth equates to the number of romantic interests they’ve attracted. That it’s desirable to collect and interact with those interests emotionally and physically with a no-strings-attached mindset. That you have to be “with” someone to be truly happy.

The reality is that this show isn’t the problem. It merely reflects our society and world’s pervasive brokenness. We are far from Eden, but that doesn’t mean we have to actively encourage this behavior or lifestyle by watching it, talking about it, and supporting it as entertainment worthy of God’s redeemed daughters and sons. There are many more worthwhile activities we can engage in to become more informed citizens, deeper followers of Jesus, and more empathetic people. Read a good book. Listen to an insightful podcast. Pay attention to the political dialogue unfolding in advance of the 2020 Election. Volunteer with a meaningful program on or off campus. Rise above what our culture too eagerly accepts. We can cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in our hearts and minds by the ways we choose to invest our time and attention. And become truly better bachelors and bachelorettes in the process, but more importantly, become better people. ★

Vivian is a junior majoring in international development.

Houghton’s Lack of Accessibility



COURTESY OF TIM PASCHALIS

KRISTEN SAVASTANO

Over the past three years, I have seen many renovations done to Houghton academic curriculums and the campus itself. One change I still haven’t seen in great length, however, is accessibility. Accessibility includes things such as elevators and ramps that allow people who use mobility devices, i.e. wheelchairs, walkers, leg braces, etc. or those who have limited mobility to access facilities. There are many reasons why people may need accessible locations, even if that need is temporary. Accessibility can help people with disabilities, injuries, respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, immune system disorders, and more. We are either

accessible or we are not. If we are to truly serve others as we are meant to, there cannot be an in-between. Everyone deserves to have what they need and I believe the best way to do that here would be to make our campus accessible.

My best friend from back home has recently started to become more vocal about her struggles with her disability. Her disability is something I never paid much attention to growing up, I didn’t even notice it. I remember one conversation we had in particular where she mentioned she had a disability and I fought against her. She was my best

“We are either accessible or we are not. If we are to truly serve others as we are meant to, there cannot be an in-between.”

friend, how the lack of accessibility in places we would visit together made it more difficult for her to get around. I never noticed her fright when getting off of the Long Island Railroad train, even as she held onto my arm and wished only to make her way over the gap so she could continue on her way to the Broadway show we were going to. I quickly became

she is taking at her college, she wouldn’t have chosen to attend here because of the inaccessibility has caused my frustration with this issue to skyrocket. This issue is most prevalent when it comes to our dormitories.

I’ve lived in Gillette since my first year and at first I didn’t notice this issue. Where I lived was just that, where I lived. Then, my roommate got injured. I started to notice how hard it was for her to get around on her crutches, to struggle to get up the stairs and down the hall just to reach the run-down elevator, which can only be accessed with a key. I started to notice other people struggle with the same issues and still notice this on campus today. The most jarring of all these experiences was the time I saw a girl with an injury have to leave her wheelchair in Gillette’s main lounge and have friends help her to reach her destination. Every time I passed by that wheelchair it made me upset and angry that even though we’ve made so many changes to this cam-

pus, we still haven’t made the changes that have the potential to help everyone.

1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” Those of us without disabilities do not always appreciate the gift we have been given until we are injured, but we must learn that others don’t have that “until.” Their disabilities are part of their daily lives. Think of all the people we can help if we do so: the injured teammate, the friend with a medical condition, the family member who carries a tank of oxygen. We are called to be the arm that is held, the shoulder to lean on, the ones to carry backpacks and books, and the ones to advocate for our facilities to be redesigned with accessibility at the heart of them, and then to follow through on building the facilities. We are called for so much more than we believe. ★

Kristen is a senior majoring in writing.

“Those of us without disabilities do not always appreciate the gift we have been given until we become injured, but we must learn to see that others don’t have that ‘until.’”

friend, she could do anything I could; but that was a lie. Not acknowledging her disability caused me to not pay attention to her struggles: her leg braces and their hefty cost, the struggle for balance, the inability to drive without hand-controls and the struggle to even obtain them (she still doesn’t have

aware of and educated about her situation and continue to learn every time she speaks out about it. This is what sparked my frustration in the state of Houghton’s campus. In 2019, accessibility on a college campus should be necessary. The realization that, even if Houghton had the exact programs



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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Artist of the Week

Erin Smith

// Senior Art Major



“I make art to see the smiles on others’ faces when they see something they see as truly beautiful. God had given us an insanely gorgeous natural world as well as the resources to create our own personal beauty within it, and I feel it is essential for me to do my part in making this world as colorful as possible. I hope to find myself in a career where I can make art for others on a daily basis, and use my own love for the tiniest details of His creation to help others see the beauty of our world as well as the magnificent beauty that exists inside of themselves.”

