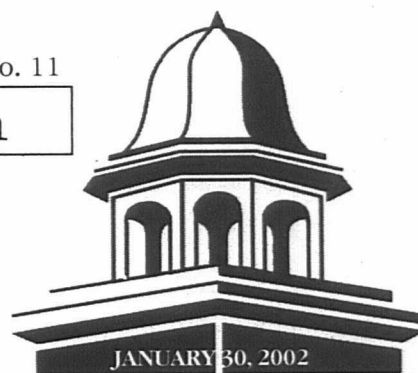


STAR

The Houghton

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE



JANUARY 30, 2002

Damaska brings Dakota delight to CLEW

South Dakota pastor John Damaska attracts listeners with "golden nuggets."

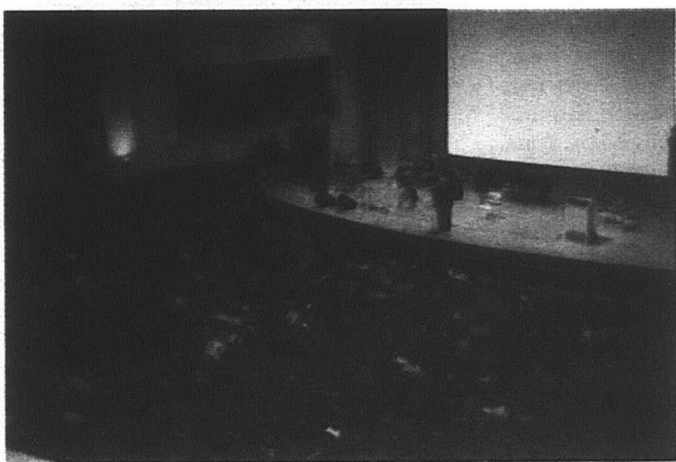
by **Bethany Schwartz**
Staff writer

This spring semester kicked off with an emphasis on Christian life, or Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW). John Damaska, the speaker from South Dakota, spoke during the morning chapels and in evening services Sunday through Thursday nights.

Damaska's messages mainly came from his experiences and sermons that he had heard prior to coming to Houghton, indicating that he would be sharing "golden nuggets." He did not have an overall theme but intended to share only these "golden nuggets" that he had acquired through his years.

Through the use of Biblical texts and the explanation of Jewish customs, Damaska brought the Scripture alive in several different ways. He demonstrated how Jesus had answered questions during His day to read from the Bible in the

synagogue; explained the significance of Jesus becoming a "smicha rabbi" and how we should learn from Him; discussed the importance of purity and laying



Evening CLEW services with Rev. Damaska.

photo by Brian Quinones

down everything as Jesus told the disciples on the Hill of Galilee; and explained the story of David and Goliath in the way that the Jews would have understood it during that time.

Damaska deliberately raised and dropped some issues in order to bring his listeners to the Bible for answers. Some students left the

CLEW services uncertain about some of the issues that he had raised, such as the relation of the number 666 in the story of David and Goliath if that number found original meaning in the New Testament. Damaska addressed this particular issue after the question had been voiced to him, but said on the last evening service, "I've left many of you hanging and I've done it on purpose. I just want you to have the nuggets...I want to get you into the Book."

Damaska's love for Jesus and for the community was evident. Throughout the week he continued to emphasize not only his love for the community of Houghton College, but also the love of Jesus for each person. "I'm here to tell you that my

Continued on page 8

Career Services dept. implements E-recruiting

by **Melanie Marciano**
Staff writer

There is now an easy, fast and effective way to post your resume and be noticed by employers. It's called e-recruiting.com (<http://houghton.erecruiting.com>). Students will now have a chance to break out of the isolation of Houghton and gain access to jobs anywhere.

Employers or alumni can contact Houghton students through e-recruiting with job offers, advice, or other helpful career advancing information any time of day with the click of a mouse. Student information will be protected through passwords if privacy is a concern. The employer in search of Houghton grads will have to inquire with the college for a password in order to search through e-recruiting resumes.

Students can also participate in a Global Job Exchange online where anyone can search for your qualifications or skills from anywhere in the world. Only seniors can log on to post a resume.

Director of Career Services Tim Nichols offers these resume tips:

- * Your resume must be error-free
- * It should be clear and concise. Use enough white space so as not to overwhelm your reader.
- * Unless you are going into graphic design, advertising or art, it should look traditional.
- * Be designed to be read easily and quickly.
- * Focus on whatever will ideally position you for the job, eliminate distractions.
- * Reflect self-confidence and professionalism
- * Describe yourself in the best possible light but be truthful and avoid exaggeration
- * Be reverse chronological: List your most recent and important experiences first
- * Show rather than tell an employer how good you are and why they will be better off hiring you.

Student housing costs are on the rise

by **Noel Habashy**
Staff writer

Like so much else in the world, the cost of student housing at Houghton College is on the rise. As in previous years, the costs for living in the student residences and townhouses will be increasing. While the exact numbers are still awaiting approval by the board of Trustees, increases are expected to be about five to six percent.

For the 2001-2002 school year, costs for a double occupancy room in one of the four residences on the Houghton campus cost \$1,380 per person per semester. The cost for a double room in one of the college townhouses was \$1,550. Projected costs for the 2002-2003 year are to

be \$1,450 for a double in one of the dorms and \$1,650 for a double in a townhouse. The biggest expected increase comes to the single occupancy rooms. The costs of the single rooms will continue to increase until the price eventually equals near to twice that of a double room.

The increase of costs is said to have nothing to do with the building of the new garden apartments. Jeff Spear, VP of Finance for the college, stated, "These increases relate to the cost of operating dorms and townhouses. They are not related to new construction costs." These changes in costs are apparently comparable to increases at other similar colleges.

Another change in student housing

is the decreased number of "Community Living Options." CLO's are apartments owned by community members available for Houghton students. The number of available CLO's are being decreased because of new housing becoming available for students next fall. "I don't anticipate that the number of CLO's granted will be reduced drastically," reassured Denise Bakerink the Dean of Student Life, "We will probably move from about 115 which were granted last year to perhaps 75 this year." Regardless, students at Houghton College will notice some minor changes (specifically costs) in the upcoming school year, no matter how seamless the modifications are made.

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Brett Sherwood
takes over as general
manager of WJSL

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Ortlip gallery
displays WTC art
from Elmira College
artists

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Rosa Gerber

THE WORLD OUT THERE

Hamas vowed to retaliate to Hamdan's death.

Enron troubles continue

In its collapse, the large energy company Enron Corporation had filed for the biggest bankruptcy case in U.S. history. Officials are investigating accusations of Enron abusing funds and shredding important documents. Their accounting firm, Anderson LLP, has suffered ruin as it is also under close investigation. Enron security guards were posted on certain floors in the building to prevent further shredding of financial materials, while Enron stocks were suspended from trading. Like Enron stock investors, thousands of Enron employees lost millions of dollars, as well as life savings funds and jobs, in the mishandling of Enron monies. Many leading executives of Enron Corporation resigned from their jobs, and former vice chairman J. Clifford Baxter committed suicide in light of the collapse of Enron.

Hockey father sentenced

A Massachusetts jury found Thomas Junta guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the beating death of Michael Costin. The two men had argued over rough play during hockey drills in which both men's sons participated, and the spat erupted into a violent physical fight after hockey practice. The jury had

rejected the charge of manslaughter, which could lead to a prison sentence of 20 years. Instead, the judge sentenced Junta to six to 10 years in prison.



Frodo Lives!



by Joshua Ziefle
Columnist

In recent weeks, I've come to realize a very frightening fact. While it has nothing to do with monsters or aliens coming from outer space to invade the earth, I find it nonetheless disturbing. You see, my vision is getting worse. I've had glasses for a number of years (and in the process had them scratched, crunched, sat on, and accidentally dropped them into a river), but my eyesight has never been so bad that I couldn't see without them...until now. Aside from the fact that I think glasses are a tool of the evil optometry industry that make your vision worse over time, one thing seems increasingly self-evident: I'm getting older.

While my rapidly increasing age neither provokes fears of imminent mortality nor the beginnings of what might be deemed a very early mid-life crisis, it does serve to remind me of the change normative to human existence. Not that I should be surprised at this point, for I've seen enough over my meager 21 years to know how often the circumstances of life can fluctuate. In the past few months, thoughts of graduation and the life beyond college have only served to reinforce this solemn fact. At times it is rather sad. Don't get me wrong-for while thoughts of change can periodically be very somber or upsetting, they need not always be. As a matter of fact, I'm very excited to be able to graduate in a few months and step out into the world at large. It is simply one of those modern-day rites of passage

Rams, Patriots to compete in Super Bowl XXXVI

The New England Patriots defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC Championship game with a score of 24-17. Patriots quarterback Troy Brown left with a knee injury early in the game, bringing in former starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe.

The Philadelphia Eagles fell to the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis, 29-14. Marshall Faulk of the Rams had a postseason career-high 159 rushing yards and two touchdowns. St. Louis and New England will meet in New Orleans for Super Bowl XXXVI on Sunday, February 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

More violence erupts in Mid-East

In Gaza and the West Bank, Israeli fighter planes attacked Palestinian security offices, as well as some offices of Yasser Arafat, on Friday soon after a suicide bomber set off an explosion in a crowded pedestrian mall in Tel Aviv. No group had claimed responsibility for the blast which killed the bomber and wounded 24 people.

After the bombing, the Palestinian Authority condemned the attack, as well as the Israeli killing of Palestinian activists, Hamas. The day before the bombing, activist Bakr Hamdan was killed in an Israeli missile attack, which the Palestinian news declared an assassination. Israeli officials claimed Hamdan was a terrorist responsible for attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers, and the U.S. State Department had labeled the Hamas a terrorist organization.

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John Damaska: the man behind the pulpit Liberal arts internships

by Jen Neroni
Staff writer

Houghton College was very blessed this past CLEW week by our speaker, Rev. John Damaska. John and his wife Polly truly love Jesus Christ and His word. Through John's teaching, it was very evident that the word of God is alive in him.

John is originally from Rochester, MN, and attended Miltonville College in South Dakota. There he met his wife, Polly. After they were married, they headed off to Nazarene Seminary in Kansas City. They have pastored churches in Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, and are now back in South Dakota.

John and Polly, who is a school teacher, have two grown children. Heidi is an early childhood special education teacher in Wyoming; Peter, an Asbury Seminary graduate and his wife Sarah live in Asbury, Kentucky, and are hoping to soon pastor a Wesleyan church.

Currently, John, a Wesleyan pastor, leads three main-line congregations near Aberdeen, South Dakota. Every Sunday John preaches at a USA Presbyterian church, a United Methodist church, and a United Church of Christ. John and Polly both say that these congregations are very hungry to hear the word of God. John said a

number of times of his congregations: "They're like dry sponges; throw out some water, and they just soak it up!"

John feels that one of the greatest things in the body of Christ right now is the hunger for God that he sees.



photo by Brian Quinones
Rev. John Damaska. Damaska spoke at recent CLEW services

People are tired of superficial religion. They really want answers in life." Polly agreed and also felt that one of the greatest things she sees is the intercultural mindset and the willingness for people to go out and spread the gospel.

The Damaskas never dreamed that they would end up at Houghton for CLEW. They were very blessed by being here with us. Being used to much more subdued congregations, they were surprised

and impressed by the student responsiveness to the worship and the words John brought. They both commented numerous times on how blessed they were by watching the students worship and by experiencing the love of and for Christ that students of this college have.

John and Polly's greatest passion is to love Jesus and be in love with His word. They are hungry for the word to be alive and want other people to come to love it as they do. John gave a bit of advice for those who are aspiring to head into the ministry, saying, "Just love people. The world is starving for people to accept them. Love them where they're at. Love them with all of your heart. Also enjoy God. Be free to be led by him. Stay in the word and pray. He can be trusted. That's a beautiful thing."

If you'd like to be in prayer for the Damaskas, please pray that they would know what God wants done in their churches and how to lead their congregations. Pray that they'll be able to communicate scripture and that people would be receptive to it and find the Lord personally - especially the older folk of their community. Also, please pray for the prayer ministry that they are hoping to raise up.

WJSL management changes hands

by Don Brensinger
Staff writer

Expect to be hearing a lot from the WJSL radio station in the near future. Having replaced the legendary Colin Ryan as the general manager of Houghton's own radio station, Brett Sherwood is looking to maintain the energy and charisma that Ryan implemented during his tenure. "These are exciting times for WJSL," says Sherwood. "This is really becoming the station that we wanted, and we find it very important that we represent Houghton College to the fullest of our ability."

In just his sophomore year, Sherwood is now at the helm of WJSL, ready for the vast responsibilities that come with the territory. He is joined by fellow sophomore Aaron Boynton, the sports director. The core of the station has become a lot younger and will be able to serve Houghton for the next couple years. While he admits that his life lately has been consumed by all the work at WJSL, he sees the position as more than a job because it is what he loves to do, and he is enjoying every minute of it. "There is a lot of energy around the station right now, which is a result of the many freshmen DJ's as well as a lot of returning DJ's. People like Alicia McBride, Andrew Shrock, and Tom Kewley have really contributed to the positive atmosphere around here."

So what changes are going to be taking place in the WJSL studio in the upcoming months? A WJSL logo will be placed on one of the recently repainted navy blue walls of the station, under which will be signatures of current and future staff members. The staff will also be continuing in the ongoing quest to



photo by Brian Quinones
Sophomore Brett Sherwood is the new general manager of WJSL

obtain a frequency, which will enable outside listeners to tune in. This has been a goal for the past two years, but there has been a lot of difficulty in acquiring a frequency. Sherwood remains optimistic by saying, "Our main goal is to get the frequency, but until then, we just need to run the station as best as we can and keep the hope alive."

People may not realize it, but WJSL has greatly increased the amount of secular music that they play on the air. While this has been a

bit of a risky move, Sherwood has been happy with the positive response by listeners. "We want to play the music that people enjoy the most," he exclaims, "but at the same time, we want to be sending out positive messages as well."

"The biggest challenge so far has been drawing the line between B

Poppa B (his radio alias), Brett the student, and Brett the general manager. I'm not the same person

in the office that I am when I'm walking down the sidewalk or in a classroom. I'm just trying to keep my sanity by distinguishing these different roles and by playing them where they are appropriate."

And he does a very good job of that. Brett is one of the most down-to-earth guys that you'll meet on campus, and he jokes around while working at WJSL, but a sense of professionalism is very evident to anyone who walks into the studio. He is focused on getting out into the

Liberal arts graduates leave college prepared for a variety of occupations, but you may be curious to know how they find job connections to that perfect career. Over the years Houghton internships, in education for example, have been very successful; but as of yet there has not been internships in most of the liberal arts options. It has been harder for English, history, communication or other liberal arts majors to know where to go for employment after college.

Dean Ron Oakerson formulated a solution: internships specific to liberal arts majors. Jonathan Bradshaw and Tim Nichols are now heading up the operation intended to allow students to gain experience in the working world. Starting this summer from the West Seneca campus, paid internships will be open to sophomores and juniors for the Buffalo area.

It will be a great opportunity to familiarize Western NY with liberal arts students while at the same time giving Houghton students a chance to test out their field of interest and build their resume. The internships will offer competitive wages, taking the place of summer jobs, and be worth one hour of academic credit. So you can learn and make money at the same time!

Internships provide an advantage since future employers find experienced applicants more appealing than those who have never gotten their feet wet in their desired profession. Eventually the program will expand to offer internships around the country and be open to many more students but as of now there are approximately 20 positions available.

Take advantage of this new way to further your education and career, go to the careers office and fill out an application as soon as possible.

community and spreading the name of WJSL to as many people as possible. "We are the voice of Houghton College and we want to involve ourselves in this campus as much as we can through special events and giveaways. Our goal in the next four months is to make people absolutely sick of us."

WJSL is hosting a party on January 30th to celebrate their new web page and will be collaborating with the Star for a number of March Madness activities. They will also be hosting a Super Bowl party on February 2nd, which will feature CD and T-shirt giveaways and prizes. Any final predictions? Sherwood smiles and replies, "Rams over the Steelers, 24-14."

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS...

students speak out

Tanzania : Becky Neubert

Hakuna Matata... What a wonderful phrase! It is probably the only phrase you know in Swahili, and that's all the Swahili most of the 26 students who went to Tanzania knew until a few months ago. While it does not classify our semester abroad, given the attacks on the United States, illnesses in the group, mock elephant charges, and erupting volcanoes, "hakuna matata" does reflect the attitude that the Lord longed for us to have throughout one of the most challenging Tanzania semesters Houghton has had. Throughout our tough times as well as our countless amazing experiences, God faithfully showed that He created all things and cares for even the smallest of living things. We knew that we were under His watchful eye, as He showed us the vastness of His creativity through varieties of people, wildlife, and even rocks. We were challenged at the beginning of the semester by biology professor Dr. Karen Cianci to allow God out of the box we have each limited Him to and allow Him to demonstrate His enormity. Watching the stars every night was for me an incredible reminder of how small we are and yet how intricately we are designed and well taken care of.

Twenty-six students from six Christian institutions across the United States came together in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on the 7th of September. We recuperated from the long trip by spending some time on the white-sand beaches of the Indian

Ocean. As part of a comparative lesson between salt- and fresh-water fish, we went snorkeling. Honestly, though, we did need the adjustment time and then it was off to the real classroom near Iringa. Our home was called Masumbo, right on the Little Ruaha River, and was close enough that we could walk to villages, but far enough away that we



could be Americans sometimes, too. There we had a multi-purpose covered pavilion where we held classes, ate meals, did homework, and hung out. On campus the pace was fast through valuable lecture time, but work and play generously coincided.

The majority of the semester was spent on our "campus" of sorts, but a significant bit was also spent on the road. A three week trip took us north through game parks, Maasai country, cave paintings, and to the

Mountain of God. The culmination of our lessons in wildlife biology materialized on game drives as we saw elephants protecting their babies, giraffes in solitude, hyenas scavenging, and hippos sunning themselves. Anthropology became real as we watched a rarely seen ceremony ushering in a new generation of warriors. History came alive as we looked at cave paintings from people now gone through on a southward migration.

As part of our immersion experience we went out in pairs into a homestay situation, living with a Nyakyusa family for eight days. Although it was a little scary at first, there is no better way to "get into" a culture than to live in a home with people from that culture for 24 hours a day. For me this homestay resulted in improved Swahili, excellent anthropology data, and most importantly, priceless relationships with my host family. The semester ended as it began, on the beach, though this time preparing for re-entry into the Western world.

I loved my Tanzania experience and will treasure memories from it for the rest of my life. It was not the easiest semester abroad but was and continues to be extremely rewarding. I have brought back a much greater image of our Creator, a heart full of love for people that I met, and values that I hope to incorporate into my life that I would never have had if it were not for Houghton in Tanzania.

London : Shelley Dooley

September 11th dawned the morning before my flight was supposed to leave from Atlanta to take me to London for the semester. I, like most Americans, sat plastered in front of my television; thoughts of packing were put aside and I wondered if, in fact, I would actually get to go on my trip. Six days later after waiting in long security lines and sitting on a plane for nine hours, I finally stepped onto soggy English soil. My first hours in London were spent standing on the underground with my luggage, wandering around several wrong streets, and sitting on a bench trying to figure out how on earth I was supposed to get to the Foreign Missions Club, our place of residence for the semester.

A week later, once everyone had arrived, our classes finally began. Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons our classes were held at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity in Central London. Our professors, Betty Baker for Dramatic Lines-a history of theater class-and Nigel Haliday for an Introduction to the Visual Arts both enriched their lectures with trips to art museums and the theater. Wednesday Dr. Oakerson, our faculty member for the semester taught a Political Science course. Thursdays we all woke up early and traveled to Northwood in northwest London to the London Bible College where we took a class in Luke-Acts with Conrad Gempf and The History of Christianity in Britain with Meic Pearse.

Our weekends were filled with wanderings around London or trips abroad. Several of us attended a Bible study at All Souls Church in Central London where we were able to interact with students from around the world. Overall the trip was fantastic and to sum up my experience in one word, I would have to say it was quite engaging.

professors there once asked me, "Why are you so down today? Why do you just wait for tomorrow? Life's too short to just let days pass by." And though I'm back to my busy American world, I refuse to let those life-changing lessons slip away. The taxi driver and my professor were right: What's the point of life, if you're not going to live it? Learning that lesson, made being in Spain the best four months of my life.

Spain : Justin Hibbard

A wise Spanish taxi driver in Boston once told me, "People in America live to work, while people in Spain work to live." That phrase stuck in my mind last semester as I watched an entire country shut down their shops every afternoon and settle down for lunch with their families, followed by a siesta.

After two rigorous years at Houghton, this past semester at the Center for Cross Cultural Studies in Sevilla, Spain was everything I needed. Finally, instead of piling on tedious readings, the teachers told us, "You're not here to read books but to enjoy the culture." Though there was still a reasonable amount of work, class only took up four days of the week, which gave us extended weekends to travel and disfrutar la vida- enjoy the life. But although I was only in school a few hours a day, the classroom extended outside the Center into the rich cultural city of Sevilla. Along with the everyday conversations in the streets, my

housemother, a 61 year-old widow, didn't speak any English, forcing me to not only learn the language fluently but to understand the many meanings behind it.

Spain, especially Sevilla, provided me many opportunities to grow as an individual through the resources before me. Many times I would go to the cathedral down the street to have my personal devotions and prayer. And although I've always been hesitant towards Catholicism, in both its traditions and elaborate churches, I learned that I was completely wrong and began to embrace it in a country 99%



Catholic. There is something powerful about kneeling before a crucifix in the world's third largest cathedral. It's humbling to know that I was praying in the same building where saints, nobles, and commoners have been worshipping God for the past 800 years. The painted ceilings mended with the sky accented God's magnificence and holiness, while the image of the crucifix at the sacred altar was a constant reminder of God's faithfulness, forgiveness, and eternal power - the basis of my very belief. And as I participated in mass, I realized that just as festivals mark important events in a culture, so do church traditions reflect our understanding of God.

Many people ask me what's the one thing I enjoyed the most about Spain, and though it's a question so difficult to answer, it would have to be that I learned to live. One of my

Oregon: Sarah Lawlor

"Her eyes were turned inside herself to try to understand - the serenity of a clear blue mountain lake."

Any John Denver fans out there? Ever since I discovered him in junior high, I have been dreaming of the day when I would sit on a hillside and gaze out on one of those "clear, blue mountain lakes" he sings about. My wish was finally granted, not once, but five times as I was hiking out at the Oregon Extension. All nine of us would set out on the



trail by mid-morning and stop around three p.m. at a new campsite; each one was near a lake. "Bang," I would slide the pack down my back and hear it thud on the earth below. A new site! Rest! No more hiking for the day! I loved the hike, but not for the pain it caused my body. Not for the grunting and panting up a never-ending pass, trying to keep up with my fellow hikers. Not for the blisters, not for the Ramen-tuna casserole each night. Not for the sweat and grime on my body and clothes...well, actually, that was kind of nice. I loved the hike for the air, the trees, the quiet. I loved the simplicity of waking, eating, packing up and walking. After three weeks of rigorous reading and discussing, it was nice to just walk, all day long. But I also mentioned to my fellow traveler, Jaspas, one day, "Now I know why I don't hike more often."

It seems to bring up all the door and grime in myself. I feel just awful on the trail, emotionally. I don't want to talk to anyone: I'm mad at the mountain; I'm mad at Phil (our leader); I'm mad at my body and my life. All just because it's tough - hiking these mountains. I feel miserable!" Jaspas commented wisely, as she was prone to do, "Maybe that's just why you should

hike more often. To get it out."

I tell you this story because I am one who keeps

things bottled up inside. The hike is just one of many aspects of the Oregon Extension. OE consists of reading, writing, discussing, being outdoors, building fires indoors, crying, comforting, eating pancakes with your professors. The experience differs for everyone who attends it. The professors are there to guide you and to let you guide yourself for maybe the first time. A lot of what I learned was how to open up - get it out - sometimes even explode. It was a time that gave me space to explore things in me and my past that I have tried to keep hidden. A time where the lessons learned in and out of the books were equally important and often complementary. If you think this experience sounds like it is for you, give it a shot. You might never know which dreams of your own that can be answered.

Russia: Maria Behrns

Last semester, I participated in the Council for Christian College's Russian Studies Program with 14 other students from Christian colleges and universities. We studied under Dr. Harley Wagler, a stimulating thinker and inspiring mentor. Following are some of my journal entries from the time that I spent in Russia.



6 September 2001

We're 2 hours into our 16-hour overnight train ride from St. Petersburg to Nizhni Novgorod, and I'm not sure that I'm prepared for whatever is ahead at the University. Harley was pretty realistic about what we should expect during these next 12 weeks. He told us that we will be FRUSTRATED (and this word doesn't even exist in Russian!) with toilets, food, weather, each other; with the patriarchal tone of this society, with its unpredictability and complex language. I am overwhelmed by how much there is to learn and feel completely inadequate for the journey ahead.

20 September 2001

This language is so unfathomable; it makes Spanish seem like pig Latin!

3 October 2001

My mind keeps returning to the beautiful young faces that I left at the orphanage several hours ago... Their stories are similar: mom was a drug addict, dad was abusive, so the child ran away and the police found and delivered him or her to the orphanage. Why can't I take these children with me? Why do they have to be in positions that would even make "taking them home" desirable? Why is my life so blessed, and why do these children have to constantly suffer?

26 October 2001

The first week with my Russian family has been amazing-they are so kind and hospitable. Even if I've returned home late from the university, someone always sits down with me while I eat my dinner. They have truly made me part of their family, even 3-year old Vladik, who loves to play. I (attempted to) read to him from one of his Russian children's books, but he kept correcting my pronunciation: "Masha, net!" ("Maria, no!") he would say. Who needs 12 hours of weekly Russian language classes when you have a 3-year old tutor?

1 December 2001

How wonderful to have my entire Russian family with me at the University's farewell party tonight. I didn't know it until yesterday, but it's the first time (out of 6 previous American students) that the entire family has attended. My mother has been saying for a few weeks now, "How can our American daughter leave us?" My 16-year old sister, Yana, looks so sad whenever reference is made to my December 3rd departure. And today, little Vladik promised me that he'd dance with me if I didn't leave for America... how tempting.

14 December 2001

As we left Russia this morning, I was consumed with the sad realization that I may never again see this country whose soul I have come to love. Russia, with its crazy transportation systems, unorganized lines, countless kiosks, cold weather, fur hats, and gold teeth. Russia is the country in which I have experienced a taste of genuine hospitality, where I have fallen in love with a Russian family and endearing orphans, where my appreciation for culture-including own, with its freedoms and efficiencies-has deepened. I have witnessed another of God's expressions, the Russian Orthodox faith. In August, 15-1/2 weeks in Russia seemed like an enormous stretch of time, but how quickly it has passed. And what a concentrated journey it has been.

Thailand: Timothy Inge



Ah, the adventures of an eight-month cross-cultural experience! Where to begin?

I could tell you about the strenuous two and a half months of language study in central Thailand. I could speak for hours of the joys of teaching pre-school level English with only pre-school level Thai at my disposal. I could expound the wonders of moving tons of solid

wood furniture into a four-story building in a hot and elevatorless land.

But were I to do that, I would end up expressing only the tedium, and would be unable to explain to you the good times and great folks that came in the midst of it all and made it all worthwhile.

Anyway, you can do all that stuff in America if you have the notion. What you want to hear about is the real meat of the experience: the stuff you can't do in America and that most Americans have never done. I could tell you countless stories from my experiences throughout Thailand, such as hunting rats and eating them with a side of dried chicken-blood soup in a rural northern village. Or about close encounters with tropical snakes and crazy men with machetes. For a price, you may also hear some of my slip-ups, like giving Bibles to twenty of my Buddhist English students after shamelessly swearing at them on a loud microphone (once again, the joys of learning a foreign language).

The stories are not all about suffering and misery. I could also tell about Sonkhran, the Thai holiday in which the entire nation delves in a water fight of incredible magnitude for a solid week. I could write page after page concerning the hours that I spent in the beautiful and largely unknown cave systems of Mae Hong Son and Chiang Dao, or sea kayaking in the tropical waters around Phi Phi Island. I would love to share with you about the one man who converted from Buddhism as a result of our ministry, convincing my friend and me that our efforts were not completely fruitless.

The fact is, a little newspaper ditty is not enough to summarize the grand event. So if you want to know about my trip to Thailand, you should find me and slap me, and say, "Hey you, I want to know about Thailand." I will tell you about Thailand, and I will suggest that you go there yourself, because it is definitely a place worth going to.

VOX voice

expressions of a community of faith

Window to Washington

Susanna Rosenbaum writes her thoughts from Washington, DC

January 22, 2002.

It is a surprisingly balmy January night in the nation's capital-ideal for a stroll by the city's historic sites. Passing the Supreme Court building, we are politely accosted by a handful of clowns bearing pro-life signs, undoubtedly the remnant of a larger picketing force from earlier in the day. Their message is simple: Children bring joy-stop killing them. "You pretty ladies wait for a man who'll put a ring on your finger," exhorts a middle aged man in a green curly wig, as he decries the tragedy of abortion. As the clowns shuffle off down the street, a weary but jovial band of policemen begin to slowly dismantle the barricade of metal railing that has effectively barred tourists and demonstrators from approaching the Supreme Court all day.

As we continue our evening walk by the Capitol, we see pro-life signs strewn on the ground and pass trashcans stuffed full with them. It is as if a front has quietly blown through the city, leaving in its wake only these few conspicuous

reminders that men, women, and children gathered from around the country to protest abortion on this 29th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe vs. Wade.

In the months after 9-11, the abortion debate that once raged hotly has taken a back burner, while homeland security issues and the trial of John Walker Lindh are now the subjects of the national dialogue. While our nation continually recalls the smoking ruins of the World Trade Center, a demonstration against the almost thirty-year long holocaust of America's unborn seems hardly newsworthy.

But regardless of the amount of coverage they received from media or lawmakers in Washington, the thousands of people that marched from the Washington Monument to the Supreme Court Building on the clear afternoon of January 22nd will not forget the blight on the American conscious. They will keep marching and praying for the day when their nation grieves for the millions they have slaughtered for 'convenience' with the same soul-rending tears that freely flowed in the wake of 9-11.

the resurrected

TOP TEN...



worst
Houghton
pick-up lines

by Greg On

10 That Bible looks heavy, mind if I help?

9 Can I take you to dinner sometime? I'll scan twice

8 I've always loved you. Now put down that purple folder and come on!

7 Hey! You made eye contact! You're required to go on a date with me!

6 Those five layers of Gortex look good on you

5 Of course I wrecked your snowman. I want to be the only man in your life.

4 Want to go to church with me? Wear a white dress

3 I'm a Music major, but I'd rather major in you

2 Is the heater on full blast, or is it just you?

1 Is that a loaf of bread under your parka or are you just happy to see me?

Response to 'Harry Potter' letter

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the recent letter (Dec. 19) to the editor concerning last semester's review of the Harry Potter movie. In the course of the letter, the writer (who has not, I assume, based on the content of the letter, either read any of the four novels or viewed the film) made several extreme statements regarding the spiritual impact of the literature/film. I would appreciate the opportunity to respond to these statements in a public forum, such as the vox/voice section of the Star. While I have not read the novels, I have watched (and enjoyed) the feature film.

First, the author errs by confusing the story with the message: the story of the film is primarily one of the self-discovery and personal growth that accompanies puberty. The supernatural element is not essential to the plot, although it certainly contains part of the appeal. One could easily imagine the story set in a Christian private school, with technology providing some of the needed plot twists. In fact, that is exactly how magic is presented in Harry Potter - a form of technology. It is reliable, morally neutral, and subject to certain laws: Hogwarts School is the fantasy equivalent of a trade school. It is, in fact, much less mystical than the magic presented in The Lord of the Rings, a work that many Harry Potter-detractors consider acceptable, because the

writer, J.R.R. Tolkien was a Christian.

Second, the author seems to disallow the notion that a piece of work can be something other than an extreme shade of white and be well-written and well-produced. He dismisses the novels as "junk" and expresses amazement over how they can be considered "good literature." This is an entirely different issue and one that I am not equipped to deal with, as I have not read the books. I, for one, certainly hope that the author is not a Literature major.

Which brings me to my last point - the tone of the article. While the author presented a couple of good points, the piece was nearly unreadable due to the judgmental, preachy feel of the word choice and the constant capitalization of certain words/terms. Personally, I finished reading the editorial with the sensation of having been shouted at and found lines like "Shame on those who are in the church and support this filth spawned from Lucifer himself!" to be over-wrought at best, shockingly aggressive at worst, and showing a marked lack of tact on the part of the author. Discussion about the role Christianity in the arts is a valid topic for public discussion: the editorial printed on Dec. 19 lacked any semblance of the decorum needed to carry out that discussion.

Glen Benedict

A gift that keeps giving

by Kathie Brenneman
Guest writer

In early December a list of 64 needy children who wouldn't have Christmas presents without help was faxed to me from Allegany County CAP office. The list included an I.D. number, an age, and a first name, plus a desired gift for each child. Most requests were for clothes; a few expressed hopes such as, "Noah likes trucks" or "Glen wants a Grinch video" or "Sarah wishes for a doll."

Thanks to the generosity of all of you - students, staff and faculty - we were able to raise over \$600 and

to grant all 64 children with the requested clothes and/or toys.

Clutching long lists, Bruce and I had fun purchasing at least 70 gifts at WalMart. Noticing our several shopping carts full, one woman shopper commented, "You must have a lot of grandchildren!" Our SUV looked like Santa's sleigh packed with so many gifts that went to Social Services in Belmont.

Sandy Taylor, Dianne Janes, Hanna Cho, and Erik Ireland generously took time to wrap all the presents, adding bows, tags and a small card saying, "Jesus loves you."

continued on page 8

QUIP OF THE WEEK

"Maraschino cherries are an insult to God's cherries."

-Dr. Irmgard Howard-

send your quotes to star@houghton.edu or CPO box 378

arthouse

A look at the intersection of faith and art

The Lord of the Rings: One film to rule them all

by Greg On
Staff writer

J. R. R. Tolkien's classic tale has finally been done justice on the big screen. Directed by Peter Jackson, it wonderfully encompasses the wonder and sheer grandeur that is The Lord of the Rings.

Set in Middle Earth, The Fellowship of the Ring, part one of the three-part series tells the story of a Hobbit, Frodo Baggins (played by Elijah Wood), and how he discovers, with the help of the wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen), that the ring he inherited from his uncle Bilbo is actually the One Ring of Power of legend. He decides to go to Rivendell, home of the Elves, to seek advice on what to do with The Ring. Frodo is aided on his journey by his three Hobbit friends Sam, Merry, and Pippin (Sean Astin, Dominic Monaghan, and Billy Boyd, respectively), the mysterious Ranger named Strider (Viggo Mortensen), and the beautiful elf Arwen (Liv

Tyler). Opposing him on his journey is the Dark Master Sauron, crafter of The Ring, who needs only it to

(Orlando Bloom), and Boromir the human (Sean Bean). Together they must journey to Mt. Doom, the heart

of enemy territory, where the Ring was forged.

In short, this was a brilliant adaptation of Tolkien's classic work. From the sweeping landscape



conquer the world, his terrifying Nazgul, which are nine dark riders who hunt Frodo relentlessly, Saruman (Christopher Lee), head of the wizards' order, who is subverted by Sauron's power, and countless hordes of orcs. Upon reaching Rivendell, Frodo learns that he must destroy the Ring. New companions join him: Gimli the dwarf (John Rhys-Davies), Legolas the elf

of New Zealand, where it was filmed, to the vast armies of orcs and men, one gains an immediate appreciation for the enormity of Tolkien's world. Everything is beautifully done visual-wise. The orcs were done with real actors, not just computer graphic images (CGI), which give the film a more "real" feeling. Very little CGI was actually employed, but when it was, it was beautifully done.

The acting was very believable, with everyone fitting into his or her role perfectly. I only had one problem with the casting. Hugo Weaving, more popularly known as Agent Smith from the Matrix, played Elrond. He just does not look like an elf. I found myself actually being creeped out. He did do a more than adequate portrayal of Elrond, but I just could not get over how creepy he looked.

Some hard-core Tolkien fans will be disappointed to find out that a large portion of the storyline, namely The Old Forest and Tom Bombadil, was completely cut from the movie, due to time constraints. The movie does run long at 178 minutes, and this would definitely have pushed it over three hours. Other than that, though, no major plot changes were made.

In short, this was a movie that exceeded high expectations. It is worth seeing multiple times. It is rated PG-13 for some very intense battle scenes.

Comedy of Errors auditions close

by Jonathon Winters
Staff writer

Tonight is the final night of tryouts for *A Comedy of Errors* to be presented this spring by the Houghton College Shakespeare Players. Tryouts were also held on Monday and Tuesday nights.

The purpose of the Houghton College Shakespeare Players, as stated in their constitution, is "to present Shakespeare's plays in a way that is both applicable and entertaining to modern audiences while remaining loyal to the original presentations." This is the Shakespeare Players' second production of the year. Last semester's wildly popular *Merchant of Venice* filled the Recital Hall to capacity on consecutive nights, utterly obliterating all previous attendance records set by the Shakespeare Players.

For the second time this year, a rookie director will be at the helm — Sophomore Jonathan Wise. Wise seeks to duplicate the success of past directors, while contributing to the Players' traditions of excellence and creativity. Said Wise of tonight's tryouts, "*A Comedy of Errors* will be a fast-paced, professional, and fun comedy, but it can only be as good as the actors that are in it. I encourage everyone to come and try out, even if you haven't acted before, and make this a great production." *Comedy of Errors* is famous for being one of Shakespeare's most raucous situational comedies. It also has the shortest number of lines of any of the Bard's plays.

Anyone who may be interested in an acting role or a behind-the-scenes position should come to room 123 of the Academic Building tonight.

Ortlip gallery welcomes guests

by Regina Rinaldo
Staff writer

The Ortlip Gallery ended last semester with the intriguing works of Houghton's own art faculty. To kick off this spring, the Elmira College art faculty's most recent works will be on exhibit.

The five faculty members—Marc Dennis, Douglas Holtgrewe, Leslie Kramer, James Cook, Jan Kather—took me on another art adventure through their individual styles.

Beginning with Marc Dennis, I was reminded of the all too familiar thoughts that surrounded September 11th. Dennis uses ink and paper to create cartoon-like images; capturing the "unreal" or "move-like" sentiment the terrorist attacks left with many people.

I moved to Douglas Holtgrewe's porcelain sculptures, which invoked thoughts of giants sitting down for lunch. He has created larger than normal cups and bowls, portrayed as being filled with green tea and soup with a matzah ball.

I left Holtgrewe smiling and wandered along to the printmaking of Leslie Kramer. These monotype pieces provoked thoughts of hieroglyphics, symbols, and pictographs. The "Ancient Scroll" series gave me the impression that I was truly viewing historic papers

from ages past.

James Cook has a less delicate quality to his work. The strangeness of bent metals, rusty colors, and a skeleton of a bird's head are some of the various tools Cook utilized to explore some deep-rooted questions.



photo by Brian Quinones

Such subjects as the distinction between intellect and consciousness, immanence, and the "tenability of spirit," are all demonstrated within his pieces.

Jan Kather, my last stop on this art adventure, brought me back to nature. Her dynamic photographs were vibrant and colorfully textured. Through these computer manipulated inkjet prints, her goal throughout series was to "discover the secret message the natural world offers."

These five artists' work will be on exhibit now through February 16th, and a reception and gallery talk is planned for Saturday, February 16th at 6:30pm. Don't let this art adventure pass you by. (The Ortlip Gallery is open Monday through Saturday 9am-6pm).

Houghton Women!

What's the most romantic thing your boyfriend/
fiancee/has ever done for you?

Tell us in 200 words or less by Saturday, February 9th and
we'll print the best articles in the February 13th issue of the
STAR.

Winners will receive a gift certificate for two at a nice
restaurant in the area.

More info at <http://campus.houghton.edu/orgs/star/contest.htm>

Highlander SPORTS

January 23 - 30



Recent Sports Scores:

Men's Basketball

Houghton 64
Malone College 90

Houghton 68
Walsh U 79

Women's Basketball

Houghton 72
Malone College 96

Houghton 85
Walsh U 91

Records

Men's basketball 5-14
Women's basketball 9-9

Lady Highlanders drop to Walsh in 2OT

Staff reports

A 10-3 run in the second overtime capped an exciting American Midwest Conference game and propelled Walsh University to a 91-85 double-overtime win over the Highlanders.

The teams exchanged leads early in the second extra session, but Malone took the lead for good with 3:08 remaining after Angela Layne, who finished with 25 points for the Highlanders, fouled out. Two other starters, Sarah Tooley and Bethany Eib, fouled out soon after and the Cavaliers iced the game with six free throws down the stretch.

The Highlanders, who led for all of regulation, jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the first minute of play, thanks to two threes by Alicia Mucher and a layup by Natalie Nelson. Walsh

closed to within one (10-9), but the Highlanders answered with a 17-4 run, capped by a Michelle Kiger three pointer, to take a commanding 27-13 lead. Walsh cut the Houghton lead to four (41-37) at the half. Mucher led the Highlanders with 20 points in the first half, including a 3-of-5 showing from long range. Angela Layne added 16 first-half points.

The Highlanders were able to extend the lead to as many as 11 points (56-45) with 14:13 remaining in regulation, but Walsh trimmed the margin to one (60-59) with 8:16 left to play. After Houghton pushed the lead back to seven, Walsh scored seven-straight points to tie the game at 66 with 4:38 remaining. The Highlanders were able to regain a six-point edge (72-66) with 2:50 left, but the Cavaliers closed regulation on a 6-0 run to force overtime. A 17-foot jumper by Bethany Eib rimmed out at the buzzer.

Layne hit a jumper and added two free throws to stake the Highlanders to a four-point lead early in the first overtime, but a Walsh jumper and three pointer gave the hosts their first lead of the afternoon (77-76) with 2:50 left. After the teams exchanged 1-for-2 showings at the line, Walsh clinged to a one-point advantage (78-77) with under a minute remaining. Eib was fouled with 12 seconds left and converted 1-of-2 to force the second overtime.

Mucher finished with 28 points, 12 rebounds, four assists, and three steals. She connected on 4-of-8 three pointers. Layne added 25 points and eight rebounds. Natalie Nelson chipped in with 11 points, seven rebounds, and two blocks. Michelle Kiger added nine points and four rebounds.

The Highlanders shot just 11-of-35 in the second half and overtimes. The teams were even in rebounding at 51 apiece.

Allegany Christmas gifts, cont'd

During Christmas break, I received a lovely thank you card and letter signed by many of those parents whose children benefited from your kindness.

Living in Allegany County where there is hunger and poverty, we have only to open our eyes to the opportunity to show Jesus' love.

Our spring project for this

semester is raising money to give Easter baskets to needy children in our county. Already one person has offered to donate a stuffed animal for each child. We are hoping to put a New Testament in each basket, along with traditional goodies. If you are interested in helping with this project, please stop at the Info Center and sign up.

CLEW services cont'd

Best Friend loves you deeply," he informed the group on Thursday evening. "All week long I've been telling you about my good friend." He clearly loved the Houghton community, sharing joyfully with those who attended the evening services his delight at playing Nintendo with the residents of Shenawana Hall and sharing meals with students. "Can I box you all up and take you home?" he asked, adding that he was indeed serious.

The majority of Damaska's

messages were carefully constructed to be applicable to students, but he was obviously aiming them toward community members as well. Although some had trouble determining the overall point of his messages, many were touched by the "golden nuggets" that he brought to share. The attendance at this semester's CLEW was higher than many sessions in the previous years.

Highlanders fall to NAIA's 14th-ranked team

Staff reports

The visiting Highlanders hit a season-high 12 three pointers in giving the NAIA's 14th-ranked team a run, but it wasn't enough as they fell to Walsh, 79-68.

Adam Zoeller led the Highlanders with 21 points and hit on 5-of-11 three pointers, including three in the first half. Houghton led 3-0 and 3-2, but never led again. The Highlanders trailed by two (32-30) at the break, despite hitting on just 38 percent of their shots and Walsh connecting on 50 percent.

Walsh opened the second stanza with a 10-0 run to take a 12-point lead. The Highlanders responded with seven-straight points over the

next minute and a half, but the Cavaliers soon pulled back ahead by 10. The lead would hover between seven and 13 points the rest of the way.

The Highlanders got good play from the guards with Zoeller, Seth Raper, and Seth Edwards combining for 50 points, 10 assists and just two turnovers. The trio also connected on 12-of-24 three-point attempts. Raper scored 15 points and had seven assists. Edwards scored 14, and Justin Pauley added 10 for the Highlanders. Joel Hamilton pulled down a team-high six rebounds.

Houghton shot just 38 percent for the game; Walsh shot 51 percent.

Highlander SportsWeek

Men's Basketball

Saturday, February 2
4:00 p.m. - Away
Urbana University

Women's Basketball

Saturday, February 2
2:00 p.m. - Away
Urbana University

Women's JV Basketball

Wednesday, January 30
6:00 p.m. - Home
Elmira University

Men's JV Basketball

Wednesday, January 30
8:00 p.m. - Home
Elmira University

Thursday, January 31
8:00 p.m. - Away
St. John Fisher