

Forty Students To Graduate In December



ANTHONY BURDO

At the close of the fall semester, twenty-two students will graduate with a Bachelor of Science, fifteen with a Bachelor of Arts, and one each with an Associate of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and Master of Arts.

SARAH VANDE BRAKE

Forty students will graduate at the close of this semester.

A reception will be held on Wednesday, December 7 to honor these mid-year graduates and recognize their hard work during their time at Houghton.

The reception will take place in the South End Dining Hall, and will last from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with desserts provided. President

Shirley Mullen, Provost Jack Connell, and a representative from Alumni Relations will each give brief remarks to the graduates, according to Eva Hillman from the Office of Academic Affairs.

The December graduates are made up of a multitude of degrees. Twenty-two students will graduate with a Bachelor of Science, fifteen with a Bachelor of Arts, and one each with an Associate of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and Master of Arts. These students are from a variety of majors, the most common major being Communication, closely followed by Psychology and Business Administration, according to the Registrar webpage.

Tyler Ashley is a December graduate and a double major in Communication and Business Administration. He said, "I am very thankful for the opportunity to learn and grow at a place like Houghton." He reflected on what made Houghton a special place to him, and stated the people he met during college and the relationships he formed are invaluable. After graduation,

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Wesleyan Church Adjusts Alcohol Guidelines

MICAH CRONIN

Though the Wesleyan Church adjusted its alcohol guidelines, Houghton College's policy regarding alcohol consumption will remain the same, according to Vice President of Student Life Rob Pool.

The Wesleyan Church, Houghton College's sponsoring denomination, decided to reevaluate its longstanding membership policy at its general conference in June. According to the denomination's website, the church discontinued its two-tier system of membership in favor of one single

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Highlander Basketball Season Off To Strong Start

QUINN HULL

The Highlanders women's basketball team came out strong in their first game against Alfred State. Led by captains Elle Reed '17 and Hannah Manwaring '17, the Highlanders beat the Pioneers 76-56. "We focused on details, especially on defense, which is great to see in the first game of the season," said Reed.

Defense seemed to be a point of emphasis for the Highlanders who tallied 11 steals, and controlled the glass with 43 total rebounds. "Defense has always been top priority, as coach always says 'defense feeds our offense.' We have to be able to get stops in order to get the ball back to score and run our offense," said Manwaring. Manwaring contributed 12 rebounds of her own to the winning effort.

After defeating Alfred State, the Highlanders then traveled to Buffalo State to take on the Bengals. It was a tightly contested game which featured seven lead changes, but unfortunately the Highlanders were beaten by a score of 64-59. "We need to limit our turnovers, especially ones that are unforced," said Manwaring. "If we can cut the number of turnovers in half, we should put ourselves in a much better position to win."

One of the most encouraging aspects the Highlanders took away from the defeat was the emergence of freshman guard, Cori Beck. In her first collegiate start, Beck put up 12 points, two assists, and six steals in her 36 minutes of play. Beck took a total of seven shots, all from three-point range, and managed to hit four of them. "I just felt

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New Covenant Edits Approved



LILY BRUNNER

After rejecting the Student Life Council's revisions to the Community Covenant, the Student Government Association passed revisions of its own last Monday.

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

The SGA, (Student Government Association) held a second meeting to discuss the possibility of altering the language of the Community

Covenant. The meeting took place on November 21, and discussed the language in regards to LGBTQ+ individuals who attend, or hope to attend, Houghton. According to Student Body

President Joanna Friesen '17, the issue is not a new one. She recounted concerns that were first vocal during the past spring semester with

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National // Jill Stein Files For Election Recount



MICAH CRONIN

Jill Stein, candidate for the Green Party’s failed bid for the White House, has filed for a recount in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. According to the Associated Press (AP), Stein raised \$7 million toward the effort, twice what she garnered for her cam-

paign. The AP reported that Stein alleged possible tampering with electronic voting machines in the three states. This claim which was backed by J Alex Halderman, a computer science professor at the University of Michigan, according to BBC. The White House refuted any possibility of tampering with the election results. A senior official in the Obama administration stated to Politico, “We stand behind our election results, which accurately reflect the will of the American people.” The Clinton campaign also acknowledged a lack of evidence to support Stein’s allegations. Marc Elias, general counsel of Hillary Clinton’s campaign, said he found no “actionable evidence of hacking or outside attempts to alter the voting technology,” Politico reported. Nonetheless, observers from the Clinton campaign will be present at

recounts in Michigan, according to BBC. President-elect Donald Trump countered the recount filings with allegations of his own via Twitter. “In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions who voted illegally,” he tweeted on Monday. Also on Monday, Trump clarified in another tweet that he was referring to “serious voter fraud” in Virginia, California, and New Hampshire. NBC News reported that no evidence has been found to support Trump’s claim. California Secretary of State, Alex Padilla, responded with a tweet of his own, saying, “It appears that Mr. Trump is troubled by the fact that a growing majority of Americans did not vote for him. His unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud in California and elsewhere are absurd. His reckless tweets are inappropriate and unbecom-

coming of a President-elect,” NBC News reported. Clinton won the popular vote by about 2 million votes, according to NBC News. Also on Monday, Stein filed a suit against the Wisconsin Elections Committee. The Committee refused to require each county to conduct a recount; if Stein’s loses her suit, she will have to petition each of Wisconsin’s 80+ counties to recount votes. A Pennsylvania recount will require Stein to provide evidence of probable vote manipulation, which the Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortes says there is “absolutely no evidence” of, according to the Philadelphia Media Network. The AP reported that while it is highly unlikely a recount will change the election outcome, the drive for funds will continue to push Stein onto the national stage. After the recount matter is settled, any leftover

funds will be funneled into the Green Party for “election integrity efforts and to promote voting system reform,” Stein said. Stein also wrote on her website, “These recounts are part of an election integrity movement to attempt to shine a light on just how untrustworthy the US election system is.” Trump denounced the recount efforts as a “scam,” and accused the Green Party of attempting to “fill up their coffers,” according to BBC. BBC also reported that Trump accused Clinton of reneging on her concession to Trump late on November 8. ★

Micah is a senior theology major.

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a petition. While the petition itself did not come to fruition, Friesen attributed the current decisions the SGA is making to the concerns it presented. “Due to the concern/awareness that the petition raised,” she claimed. “Student Life took up the process again this fall, preparing revised language within the Student Life Council.” When describing the process of forming the SGA’s proposed new language, Friesen explained, “I spent the last three weeks consulting with different groups of students on campus,

and asking advice of advisers and professors. I drafted language, and then held two edit committee sessions. The entire executive cabinet, and a representative from each class was present between one or the other session.” The result was language that, as Friesen described “tried to reflect the suggestion from a number of students that ‘no pre-marital or extra-marital sex’ be the common community standard.” The excerpt of the proposed language discussed at the meeting stated “We [Houghton College] affirm, endorse, and teach traditional marriage as between one woman and one man. Practicing Christian hospitality we remain an open and welcome community of friend-

ship and shared Christian learning to LGBTQ+ community members. We value and welcome all individuals, and the perspective and gifts they bring to Houghton College, while committing to live within Scriptural and Wesleyan ethics together. We expect that all community members refrain from pre-marital sex and adultery. We also expect community members to use discretion and respect of others in the community when displaying affections, especially such displays deemed inappropriate for public or commons spaces.” Colleen Shannon ‘17, who attended the meetings for the discussion, identified what she believed was the greatest challenge of the

controversy. She stated, “I’d say the major concern was this balance that we’re trying to hold between acknowledging the Wesleyan affiliation, respecting those with traditional or conservative views, and also acknowledging and accepting those who are pegged on the more progressive side, those who identify as LGBTQ students.” She continued, “Whatever decision we make, we’re hoping will land in the midst of all three of those but there’s the potential that it may weigh more towards one side of the triangle.” When the SGA presented the proposed language at the meeting on Monday, discussion led to some changes to the proposed draft. However, Friesen noted “The edits

made on Monday were not foundational.” Among the suggestions given was a proposal by Aaron Eisenhart ‘17 to use the phrase “sexual orientation and gender identity” rather than the LGBTQ+ acronym. President of Houghton’s unofficial LGBTQ+ student group Phil Maenza ‘17 said he believed this suggestion was more “timeless”, so that Houghton “won’t have to go through this process again in ten years.” Friesen said she hoped the approved proposed draft will be presented to the Student Life Council this week, or by the end of September. Presentation to the council would be the next step in having the language integrated into the Community Covenant.★

Want to write? Email us at editor@houghtonstar.com

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membership body. Characteristic of the former system was alcohol use: “community membership”, the lower tier, did not prohibit alcohol use. “Covenant membership”, the level a Wesleyan must reach to serve in various leadership functions in the Wesleyan Church, prohibited drinking. “Attendees can have a sense of belonging around the core scriptural beliefs of The Wesleyan Church without the church putting an expectation

of spiritual maturity upon them prior to belonging”, the denomination said in a statement issued in August. Those who wish to serve in ministerial positions, direct Sunday school programs, serve on church boards, and similar leadership positions are still required to abstain from alcohol. Houghton College, along with Kingswood University, Southern Wesleyan University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, and Indiana Wesleyan University are considered ministries of the Wesleyan Church, according to Pool. While changes in the denomination’s policy would not “directly change” policies at these schools, “they

would inform them” Pool said. The Community Covenant, signed by faculty, staff, and students still stands in regard to Houghton’s alcohol free policy. “I have not heard of any faculty, staff, or students proposing a change to the campus alcohol policy,” he said. Assistant resident director Ian DeHass ‘17 said “In res life, we take our cues from the denomination, but I think we all value a space where alcohol isn’t an issue that we have to consider. We know people from other schools that allow alcohol, and most of their time is spent in conduct hearings, and for us that’s not really where we want to spend our

time. We want to spend our time thinking about diversity and thinking about how we can best help our students grow. And I think that reason alone is good enough reason for why we wouldn’t want to add alcohol into the picture at Houghton.” Pastor of Houghton Wesleyan Church, Wes Oden, said the change “really doesn’t have anything specifically to do with alcohol, but with membership requirements. As I understand it, they have moved [alcohol] from membership requirements to a different section of the Discipline. Instead of [abstinence] being a requirement [for membership] it becomes a matter of taking

responsibility over what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ.” Joseph Jennings, Superintendent of the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church, said “I don’t expect any changes to be made in the policies of any of our Wesleyan colleges” regarding alcohol. He said he expects Houghton College’s alcohol policy to stay as is “for at least the next ten years.” Though the Church’s new guidelines are expected to go into effect this month, Pool said any change in Houghton College’s alcohol policy would need to be initiated by a petition to amend the Community Covenant. ★

BASKETBALL from page 1

like I fit into the team as soon as I got here...I was a little nervous before the game but that's usual for me," she said. "[I] felt a little pressure before the game because I was scared to mess up, but when I started playing I just zoned into what I needed to do, and didn't worry about anything else."

According to Reed, this is not the end for them. She said, "We know that we work harder in practice than any team we play, which gives us confidence no matter what the outcome of the games are." The Highlanders will look to bounce back against

Pitt-Brad at home on Tuesday, November 29.

Additionally, Coach Corky McMullen made his coaching debut for the Houghton College Men's Basketball team, at home against Alfred State; winning by a score of 85-74, and then going on to beat Wells College by a score of 85-75. McMullen has earned nothing but praise from his captains. Captain Jonathan Stowe '17 said "Coach's motivation" was key to the men's 2-0 start. Stowe continued, "We started both games bad for the first 10 minutes, but Coach reminded us to play defense and to relax and let us run our offense smoothly".

Fellow captain Phil Pellegriano '17 agreed, "He is a positive vibe to have around all the time." He stated, "He not only impacts our lives on the basketball court but also in the classroom and in life in general...he brings a lot of experience and I am enjoying learning from him every day at practice."

Unfortunately, Hilbert College proved too much,



Highlander women's basketball, led by Elle Reed '17 (above) and Hannah Manwaring '17 credited their season opening win against Alfred State to a strong defensive effort.

COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

and the Highlanders, fell to the Hawks 84-69. "Rebounding and turnovers are the keys to success for us. If we can control the glass and not turn the ball over, we will be suc-

cessful," guard Jordan Scott '17 said.. The Highlanders accumulated 18 turnovers in the loss.

The women will play at home on Saturday, December

3 to play the State University of New York (SUNY) Canton at 2 p.m. The men will resume home play on Tuesday, December 6 against Grove City College at 7 p.m.★

Crossword of the Week

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Across

1. Ignorance, in a saying
6. Start of an elementary lesson
9. Par ____ (airmail label)
14. It may be bagged and eaten

15. Extinct flightless bird
16. Explorer de Leon
17. Electrical charge
19. Lift spirits
20. One with will power?
21. Jazzy Blake
23. Attired

24. In a servile manner
27. Implement for planting
29. One side of an issue
30. Wine cask
31. Consider
35. TNT part
39. Table scraps

41. Puts on the line
43. Steeply projecting rock mass
44. Assigned stations
46. Pavlova and Freud
48. Be less than 100 per-cent
49. NASDAQ debut
51. It's often rocked
53. Out of secluded spots
59. Out of the gale
60. One way to look
61. Literary collections
64. They secure ship ropes
66. German city on the Neckar
68. Egg-shaped
69. Green around the gills
70. Evangelist McPherson
71. Reporting to
72. Letters on some pumps?
73. Accomplish, Biblical style

9. Simian
10. Made of lava
11. Entirely
12. Based on eight
13. Indigent
18. Looked impolitely
22. Brief relative of "yada, yada, yada"
25. Less than some
26. Charged particle
27. Word on a sign
28. Continental cash
32. Saver's device
33. Martini option
34. Coop denizen
36. Corporation's ID
37. Something to hold on to
38. Look up and down
40. Short dagger
42. Room freshener
45. Masseur's milieu
47. Indian address
50. Wood sorrel
52. Slow, in music
53. High-muckety-muck
54. Martini option
55. Bridal path item
56. Early TV bovine
57. Designation
58. Minute plant structure
62. Mythical war god
63. Proofreader's save
65. Darn
67. Small boy

Down

1. Humdrum
2. Auto service job
3. Commotions or disruptions
4. Achieved a goal, perhaps
5. Moo ____ pork
6. Pepe Le Pew's quest
7. Frozen dessert
8. Pioneer's place

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Ashley plans to work at an internet marketing company based in Lancaster City, Pennsylvania.

Another December graduate, Rebekah Bunal, is graduating in December after

transferring to Houghton after beginning her degree at another institution. Bunal is graduating with a degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She said, "My time at Houghton was great, but short. All my education professors are what helped me get through it all."

Ian Smith, who is preparing to graduate with a degree in Inclusive Childhood Education (ICE), said he was motivated to graduate early because he completed all the classes necessary for his major. "From being an RA in Rothenbuhler hall to making a fool of myself in two separate SPOT skits, my

time at Houghton is one I will always remember fondly," he said. Smith said he hopes to work as a substitute teacher in the Rochester area after graduation.

For Smith, and many other graduates, graduation means beginning a new chapter of life. "I will miss being in the

Houghton community, but am very excited for what God has for me in the future," Smith said.

Friends and family of December graduates are invited to attend the dessert reception to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments. Attire will be business casual. ★

Houghton Student Wins Amateur Bagpiping Competition in Albany

BETHANY KUIKEN

Both the traditional welcome and send-off for Houghton students is a march around the quad, led by someone dressed in formal Scottish “Highlander” attire and playing the bagpipes. Starting in 2014, the leader has been an actual Houghton student, who has now won an award for his art. On October 8, Andrew Hutton ’18 was named the overall winner of the Nicol-Brown amateur invitational in Albany, New York. According to their official website, this invitational provides top amateur pipers with a prestigious competition, and sets a standard by which to judge their piping. The competition is considered one of the top two amateur competitions in North America, as well as one of the top overall competitions in the world.

Hutton began playing the bagpipes when he was ten years old. He started with the Paris Port Dover Pipe band near his hometown, and has expanded his experience since. “I began competing in solo and band competitions when I was twelve. A major highlight for me was going to the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland when I was twelve years old,” he said. “I also played in the Basel International Tattoo and Festival in Switzerland, as well as at funerals and memorials for special relatives and

friends.”

These opportunities have been the product of Hutton’s discipline and dedication to bagpiping, as well as the intentional support he has behind him. “Without my instructors, Ed Neigh and Bruce Gandy, and my parents, I would not have been able to reach the level that I am at now.”

The Hutton family has not only fully supported him along the way, but has also played a major role in how Hutton began the art of piping. “My great-great grandparents are originally from Scotland,” he said. “My cousin played the bagpipe and encouraged my older brother to take up the pipes. My older brother eventually inspired me to play.” Hutton’s grandmother, Ruth (Fancher) Hutton, graduated from Houghton in 1943, and his grandfather graduated in 1957. Hutton’s great-grandfather was one of the four Fanchers for whom the Houghton building was named.

Hutton’s bagpiping journey has not only brought him success, but also many lessons and friendships along the way. “I’ve learned that hard work and dedication eventually pays off,” he said. “I’ve made a lot of lasting friendships that have developed over the years as a result of piping. I love bagpiping because of the intricacy and meaning of the music.”

Houghton has utilized Hutton’s gift of bagpiping for school events, and will continue to utilize his gift in future events. “Houghton students, faculty, and staff have been very appreciative every time I have played for a school event and I am happy to do more,” he said.

Hutton has served Houghton College and also the families



COURTESY OF ANDREW HUTTON
Hutton (far left) was named the overall winner of the Nicol-Brown amateur invitational.

within the community with his gift. Kristin and Souly Sanasith are one of these families. “Andrew has invested in our family and has endearingly earned the nick-name ‘Bagpipes’ from each of our four children,” Mrs. Sanasith said. “We continue to be impressed by Andrew’s strong faith, diligent work ethic, and continued engagement with our family.”

She added that Hutton has even taken on the role of teacher in their household. He meets

with their son Carson weekly to teach him bagpiping. Mrs. Sanasith continued, “Souly and I love having students our children can look up to, and Andrew continues to bless each member of our family. We are so proud of his accomplishments and are thrilled to have him in our family’s life.”

Hutton’s gift of bagpiping is not just a hobby. He considers his role as a calling. He anticipates future opportunities where he will not only gain more recognition for his gift, but where

he may further his calling by helping others along the way. “I will definitely continue to play for weddings, funerals, and special events. I will continue to compete in solo competitions at the professional level in North America and Scotland. I also will continue to teach and pass not the legacy I have been given.”★

It’s All About the Climb: Campus Club Invites Students to Climb Rock Wall Weekly

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

Three nights a week, students have the opportunity to boulder and belay down the wall of the auxiliary gym, where of the campus rock wall is located. The wall is open each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights for free climb time, facilitated by students who are trained to run the wall. Anyone can show up and join, even if they do not have any prior experience with rock climbing.

Jackson Baker ’18 has

been working at the wall for two years, and has been running the Climbing Club for one year. “We have people that stay for all two hours and we have people that pop in for twenty minutes after going for a run,” he said. “I really love the atmosphere that the wall has. People are usually hesitant when they first come, but it’s a really laid-back vibe, good music and lots of just hanging out and talking.”

The purpose of the Climbing Club is to teach people to climb and encourage them to be active and challenged on the wall. They work to maintain a non-competitive atmo-

sphere that is easy to join in to from the moment one steps into the auxiliary gym for the first time. Wesley Payette ’17 has been involved with climbing ever since his freshman year. He said, “My favorite part of climbing is the obvious progress people make after only a few days of coming. It’s a great sport if you want a physical workout and a mental workout at the same time, since climbing a route is like solving a problem.”

On a typical night of climbing, there are between 10 and 30 students who show up. Throughout the night, students take turns trying out dif-

ferent routes and hanging out on the mats to socialize with other climbers. Carina Martin ’18, who has been a part of the Climbing Club for about a year and a half, talked about what a typical night of climbing looks like for her. She said, “I get to the wall, warm up a little bit on some routes that I know well, and then move on some more challenging projects.” She has enjoyed being a part of the club and has fun with the people she has climbed with. She added, “That casual, friendly atmosphere was what made me fall in love with the sport.”

Along with open nights of

climbing during the week, the club has occasional planned events. They show climbing films, and they are hoping to plan trips to other climbing locations, including the Red Barn climbing gym at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). They also want to spend more time at outdoor climbing locations in the area once the weather gets warmer.

The Climbing Club meets 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and 8 to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Nielsen Center.★

Like Son, Like Father

Three International Students' Fathers Give Talks on Houghton Campus

DANIELLE EATON

this. I didn't want it to be a big process."

Travis explained that his parents had already made plans to visit Houghton to attend his last Prism performance. Once he knew the dates, he told Dean of the Chapel, Michael Jordan, who put the plans into motion. While he is unsure what topic Livingston will speak about, Travis said, "I think he can bring a different view and a different insight on whatever he speaks about." When asked what he was most excited, he replied, "For my dad to see campus [for the first time] since they dropped me off four years ago, and so he can see my growth on campus, and what I do"

Travis is also excited at the prospect of snow, not for himself, but for his parents. He laughed and added, "My parents don't really like snow, so I'm hoping it snows."

John Khalaf '19 is an Egypt

native. His father, Atef Khalaf, was also invited to speak in an evening lecture on November 3. John explained that Atef, a general superintendent for the Wesleyan Church in Egypt, spoke "about what's happening, is it really completely dark, what positives [exist], the good things happening, and how can we pray for that." Much like Travis, after finding out his father would be visiting, John spoke with Jordan, and an opportunity for Atef to speak was presented.

Overall, he thought the lecture was a success and students were able to relate more to his dad because he is a student, himself. "If I know the person whose parent's coming, I can relate to his life, and his parent's life too. I can understand where he comes from. I can relate more to someone I might know," John said.

Sophomore Shehan Rodrigo's father also gave a chapel

talk, sharing his faith journey on November 4. Unlike Travis and John, however, Shehan played no part in his father's chapel attendance. Shehan shared, "I'm not 100% sure about how that happened. I wanted him to speak in chapel, but I couldn't give the dates." He continued, "I think Josh Mason, who's a theology student here, he heard that my dad was coming, because I told him, he spoke to Dean Jordan to try and fit him in, and then one day I got an email from Dean Jordan asking if my dad would like to speak."

Shehan echoed John, saying, "It's not just some speaker from another country, it's a speaker from another country whose son is in the school. People have known me here for about a year now, and they can relate what my dad is saying through me, I guess. Especially me and my dad, we have any similarities. It was funny.

People get to see more of me, but not through me."

Shehan's favorite part of his father being on campus, though, was being able to speak his language again. He chuckled, "There's so much humor that no one will get because no one speaks my language and nobody knows my culture here. There's so many things I keep to myself because I can't share with anyone. It was nice to have my dad here to actually share it with someone who understood."

Shehan described the ability to have his dad on campus as an "great way to show off my dad a bit." He said, "I'm glad it happened. It was one of those proud son kind of things."★



Photo
of the
Week

Alison Schwartz
'18

Rethinking Political Correctness



NATE MOORE

CONNER BARNES

It seems as though the idea of “political correctness” has become a necessary stipulation for everyone living in our society. It has developed boundaries for what we ought and ought not to say in order to remain socially sound and respectable. However, for quite some time, I have questioned whether or not we are exercising this in the right way. Are we pushing it too much? Does it eliminate our sense of expression? No, but we are not practicing it properly. Society’s ability to enforce political correctness has, over

the recent years, been quite remarkable. Despite this, I have come to the conclusion that the true meaning and purpose of this idea has been changed over the years, or at least, changed from the purpose that best benefits the society. While we have mastered restraint, the idea of political correctness in its current form has lost some of its practical application.

George H.W. Bush pointed towards the roots of political correctness saying, “The notion of political correctness has ignited controversy across the land...the movement arises from the laudable desire to sweep away the debris of racism and sexism and hatred.” Bush identifies the fact that putting in place social boundaries to block hatred is indeed important, and this is where political correctness is most valuable.

It is best used when it develops social pressure ensuring that people are not outright mean,

“...it has been stretched into the idea that we mustn’t voice any thoughts that may make others slightly uncomfortable or be perceived as offensive.”

“Respect is essential if we plan on reestablishing what political correctness really means in our society.”

harsh, or disrespectful to others. Despite this, it has been stretched into the idea that we mustn’t voice any thoughts that may make others slightly uncomfortable or be perceived as offensive. When stating our beliefs or opinions in a respectful way is restricted for this reason we are losing our voice and ability to learn from each other.

I am not suggesting that we forget the idea, but rather, rethink it. Without political correctness, slurs of hate could be tossed about with ease, lacking standard for personal conviction. However, Bush also suggests that political correctness, at times, “declares certain topics off-limits, certain

expression off-limits, even certain gestures off-limits.” This is the issue at hand. As things stand, merely claiming solidarity with a certain faith could be considered “politically incorrect” in the secular arena. Likewise, stating personal views on delicate issues might be scrutinized as being politically incorrect because of how one’s ideas may put people on edge, in disagreement. At times, even stating the truth or offering criticism could be interpreted in this way.

These are topics that people should be able to openly discuss and, yes, disagree about. Reasonable discourse enables us to learn more about each side of disagreements; but we need to be open to hearing them, regardless of discomfort. We also mustn’t restrict others from expressing their own opinions simply to shelter ourselves from possible offense. And, most importantly, we cannot knowingly avoid the truth of certain topics when the truth happens to be upsetting.

This might entail learning to accept criticism as a suggestion for improvement.

The central issue is disrespect and harshness; the same thing that political correctness has sought to prevent. This is why we must use our words wisely, taking others into consideration, while we openly state what we believe or think in a respectful way. It is impossible to make hateful speech respectful; when we disrespect others, we can make innocent speech hateful.

Respect is essential if we plan on reestablishing what political correctness really means in our society. We can say how we feel without being harsh when we align our words through respect of others. Allowing ourselves to show who we are and what we think, in a respectful way, can simply make us a more honest and help form real community. ★

Connor is a senior business major with a minor in communication.

Let’s Talk About Whiteness



NATE MOORE

MICHAEL CARPENTER

Race is on our minds. The Black Lives Matter movement has brought Afro-American interests to our cultural consciousness, especially ones relating to our police force and courts. Some people are not a fan of this movement’s ideas or practices, and have tried to instead bring “All Lives Matter” or “Blue Lives Matter” to the forefront. Meanwhile, the recent election highlighted an important political line in the sand; that is, between white people (who made up a huge majority of votes for the Republican Party) and people of color (a huge majority of whom voted with the Democratic Party). Of course, race is sometimes an uncomfortable

topic, and these things can be hard to talk about. However, in my experience, an important part of these discussions is left out far too often: whiteness.

It is widely accepted that racial categories, including that of “white,” are arbitrary distinctions that are sociocultural, not biological. Still, race is real. That is, since we all perceive people to be of different races (“black”, “white”, “Asian”, “Hispanic”, etc.) and treat them as such, it is an undeniably real part of each person’s experience of their life. More than that, we are all socialized by mass media, public education, and even each other to think and act like others of our race.

Many people of color I have spoken to about race can speak deeply and eloquently about their experience as a member of their race. For example, one black person I have known for years has many stories from her life that she uses to describe her own racially defined life. She shares them with humility, hoping to help people of other races to understand what it’s like to be a black woman in America. This is the case with almost all of the people of color I have close relationships with: they know what it means that their lives are

racialized.

In contrast, I know very few white people who can do the same. For some reason, something in common with nearly all of the white people in my life is that they think and talk very little about their own racial experiences. This is a problem.

There are many things that white people have in common. White people all tend to have a Euro-centric view of the world, Germanic-Latin first and last

“Inheriting whiteness from those who have gone before leaves white people with a great responsibility: leaving a better legacy than the ones who gave us the name.”

names, similar hair and beauty products. Personally, it’s rare for strangers to be afraid of me, or for law enforcers (police officers, judges, security guards, etc.) to be suspicious of me. In fact, I’m automatically trusted in almost every context. I suspect this is also true for the white people reading this. As members of an individualistic culture that originally came mostly from individualistic cultures, it is easiest for us to see how we are each different. In reality, however, sharing a racial category gives us many experiences in common, for better or worse.

These experiences, and many others, have socialized us into a white worldview, one which is full of contradictions. We have been taught that American history is mostly the positive history of white Americans discovering land, creating many things (including democracy, airplanes, and nuclear weapons), and upholding freedom. Meanwhile, we all but ignore the fact that white Americans have consistently enslaved, murdered, deported, and imprisoned Americans of other races. We as white people live mostly in segregated communities and attend mostly segregated churches, and still think we are objective in our analyses of racial issues. We worry about Muslim terrorists, without doing much about white supremacists. The list goes on. White people, myself included, cannot help but see things most easily from a white point of view. We need to recognize and discuss whiteness for this reason.

In suggesting that we talk more about whiteness, I definitely do not suggest that we move the focus of every conversation about race onto white people. In many cases, that sort of “but what about me/us/white people?” is distracting and unhelpful.

I am simply suggesting that whiteness is an important aspect of American culture that we must confront.

So what, realistically, should white people do? We can spend time reading and listening about the life experiences of people of color and comparing it to our own. We can talk with one another about ways that our whiteness leads us to believe partial truths (as all racialized people experience to varying degrees), and humbly ask people of color to speak truth in love.

Historically, whiteness has largely been used (and continually redefined) in America to separate “white” from “non-white” in very concrete ways (e.g. “master” from “slave”, “legal citizen” from “illegal immigrant”, “nice schools” from “bad part of town”). Inheriting whiteness from those who have gone before leaves white people with a great responsibility: leaving a better legacy than the ones who gave us the name. We can only do that if we know exactly what it means to be white. ★

Michael is a senior applied design and visual communication major.

Just What You Want to Hear



NATE MOORE

RACHEL BELLEROSE

Since the election, the media has attracted new levels of criticism. Blame for the “surprise” election results has fallen on faulty polls and biased reporting from a highly politicized media. However, while the problems which have been highlighted by the media’s failure to report without prejudice are valid, it is important to examine the role which consumers have played in the degradation of the media.

According to the Pew Research Center, forty-four percent of adult Americans rely solely on Facebook for their daily news. That means that almost half of Americans get all their news from memes, two-minute videos, and even websites like The Onion that are meant to be read satirically, but are often mistaken for fact. Our patience for solid reporting has dwindled as we become more and more willing to accept BuzzFeed listicles as fact or videos of the Clintons playing with balloons as a character reference. However, the blame for this issue cannot completely fall on the media. We must accept at least partial responsibility for this shift. The media reports on what people want to hear: it falls to the public to determine what kind of quality we look for in the news.

“We are almost never confronted with the humanity of those we disagree with, nor with the legitimacy of their opinions.”

“Each side bought into strawman arguments about the other simply because their newsfeeds told them they were true.”

Additionally, exposure to a variety of issues is becoming increasingly rare, as news stories are now catered to the individual. Our Facebook newsfeeds, for example, are filled with news items the website’s algorithms have determined we are interested in. Furthermore, what’s “trending” on Facebook is filtered by a team of “news curators” who, according to a recent article published in Gizmodo, were routinely encouraged to suppress certain news items and promote others. In a given situation, our biases are easily confirmed because we are presented with

information that either soothes our egos or gives us a sense of righteous indignation, depending on the situation. We are rarely confronted with issues we disagree with, and if we are, we can hide safely behind our computer screens as we lob insults and “facts” at our opponents in an attempt to educate or embarrass them. We are almost never confronted with the humanity of those we disagree with, nor with the legitimacy of their opinions.

In this sense, we have all missed the mark terribly. Both the media and its consumers have allowed sensationalism, pettiness, and backbiting to become the norm in our daily news, and we have forgotten how to disagree civilly. Under such circumstances, it’s no wonder we have witnessed such a disgraceful campaign season. Each side bought into strawman arguments about the other simply because their

newsfeeds told them they were true. There was little-to-no fact checking involved before hasty judgements were made. Trump’s supporters are not all homophobic racists, just as not all Clinton supporters are abortion-touting socialists.

My hope, moving forward, is to see both the media and our society as a whole moving toward real curiosity and openness. To do this, we must actually interact with each other; not simply through social media, but through sincere conversations that help us understand our similarities along with our differences. We can listen to each other’s fears, thoughts, and hopes whether or not we come to the same conclusions. We have been a polarized nation for too long, and the effects are taking an obvious toll. It is imperative that we listen to each other, deeply and without prejudice, in order for us to live peacefully with one another.★

Rachel is a senior writing major.



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Artist of the Week

Thomas Rhett

//senior studio art major with a concentration in furniture design and digital photography



NATE MOORE



“ I prefer the materials speak to the concept as opposed to the concept dictating the materials. I use found objects and moments in time as they present themselves to me I do not set out to create, rather, I wait for creative tendencies. ”

Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Original Design in Modular Furniture 1, *mahogany*

Original Design in Modular Furniture 2, *mahogany*

Quarry, *digital photography*

A Walk in the Park, *digital photography*

Pollywogg Holler, *digital photography*

