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Off-Campus Semester Moves To Kenya

SYDNEY JAMESON

Houghton College has a long history of global connection and perhaps one of the most beloved study abroad programs in its history has been the Houghton in Tanzania semester. Kyla Nies '20, who participated in the program last year, considers it life-changing saying, "It's going to be the adventure of a lifetime no matter what."

This year, however, the program will change locations from the Masumbe campus in Tanzania to Malewa in Kenya. Assistant Program Director Linda Knapp cited affordability as well as experiential reasons for the shift, noting, "There's a lot more vendors to pick from in Kenya... so if you're looking for hotels or vehicle rentals there are cheaper options in Kenya. Another reason is that Eli [Knapp, the director] wanted to have new challenges and explore new places." Kenya will certainly offer many new experiences for the program including one major logistical advantage.

According to Knapp, the spring semester in Tanzania falls right in the middle of the rainy season. Nies recalls one of her favorite memories from



View of Kilimanjaro from Amboseli National Park, Kenya

COURTESY OF UNSPASHED.COM

the program: "We were out in the bush and it had rained torrentially for hours. We were soaked and covered in mud and the bus was stuck but everyone was in good spirits and we all worked together to push the bus out of the mud." However, despite the good moments, the rain presented constant challenges to living and travel. In Kenya, the spring semester falls during the dry season. "It's logistically easier to run a program when we're not battling

the elements," Knapp states. There are so many opportunities that are made available by this location switch. "Malewa is our home base and it's really beautiful, it's at the base of the Rift Valley. What's nice about it is that you're out of all the traffic and noise of Nairobi, but you're about twenty minutes from a really quaint town," Knapp states, "It's just stunning. There's nothing like the Rift Valley." Kenya's cultural and ecological treasures are

packed more closely together than in Tanzania, allowing students to more easily experience greater diversity in landscapes and culture. "The students are going to get to hike in the rainforests of Mount Kenya...and be, a week later, out in the Serengeti Ecosystem of the Maasai Mara," Knapp says. At the coast, students will be able to visit the A Rocha Environmental Learning Center and experience a world-class organization providing envi-

ronmental education to Kenyans as it works to forward the cause of conservation and environmental stewardship.

Another benefit of relocating to Kenya is that many Kenyans speak English. Students will have more opportunities to build relationships with native Kenyan people because there will be less of a language barrier. Knapp notes, "One thing we're excited about is that the people that own our property help run a Christian environmental learning center and camp for Kenyans, including kids from public schools and local orphans." Students in the East Africa program will have the opportunity to go into this center at least once a week during the semester and interact with these children, giving back to the community.

As far as student response to the change, reactions have been mixed. "It's bittersweet," says Kyle Burrichter, a current sophomore participating in the program this coming spring. "Of course I wanted to experience all the stories I've heard from my friends of their time in Tanzania, but I also know the Knapps would only change the location for the betterment of the program." Past Tanzania

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HOUGHTON HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE

MATTHEW UTTARO

An American Red Cross Blood Drive will take place here on campus on Wednesday, December 5th in Gillette Hall. The event is sponsored by the Student Government Association and donation times are made by appointment.

The Foundation for America's Blood Centers says that 35,000 pints of blood are needed every day. This includes those being treated for cancer, people undergoing orthopedic surgeries, organ and marrow transplants, and much more. The Foundation further states that every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood. Blood can only be stored for a limited time before it is used. This means donations not only need to be plentiful but also regular.

The World Health Organization says that donations save lives and improve health and that giving blood is the "most precious gift that anyone can give to another person: the gift of life." Many people who receive blood donations say that

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Basketball Welcomes New Teammates



Newcomers to the Men's Basketball team

COURTESY OF HOUGHTON ATHLETICS

CALEB PHILIPS

Houghton's Women's and Men's Basketball teams have begun their seasons and both teams are looking to improve on the previous seasons' finish. The men's basketball team had a much different season, in which the team struggled to recover from losing four of five starters a season ago. The team finished 4-21 overall, and

1-15 in conference play. The women's basketball team had a historic season last year, as they made the Empire 8 Tournament for the first time in team history. They finished 13-13 overall, and 9-7 in conference, which earned them the fourth seed in the conference tournament. Each team now turns their attention to the 2018-2019 season, as they will try to find success this

year once again.

The men's basketball team is coming out of a tough season, in which they won only one game after a 3-1 start. They struggled to recuperate from the loss of four starters from the 2016-2017 season and will have to adjust to the new season, without three starters from the 2017-2018 season.

Fortunately, the team finds two more-than-capable starters

returning to carry the scoring load. Dylan Lambert returns as Houghton's and the Empire 8's leading scorer from a season ago, averaging 21.3 points per game. Lambert was named to First Team All-Empire 8 Conference and First Team NCCAA All-Midwest Region. Jordan Holmes returns as well for Houghton; he averaged 8.1 points per game last season. Holmes will be relied on to score much more this season, as one of the two returning starters.

The team will bring back some role players from last season such as Isander Ramos-Net and Scottie Berghaus. Both played in 21 games last season and will move into the starting lineup this year. Senior Akil Grampus, who saw action in ten games last year, will play key minutes at the center position this year. Along with the returners, eight new players will fill the roster and will look to give depth to this young team. Freshmen Darren Clark, John Burns, Dylan Burton, Isaac Kopp, and Quinn Mastin make

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International // Tanzania



PAIGE COLLINS

Tanzania, a nation filled with diversity of culture, people groups, and wildlife, is where I was lucky enough to spend my Spring semester of 2018. In Tanzania I saw the most incredible sights, met the most remarkable people, and learned some of the most valuable lessons of my life so far. Although I only spent a semester there, Tanzania is dear to my heart, as are the current issues taking place there.

I cannot pretend to be an expert on Tanzania, or on the political, environmental or cultural conflicts taking place there, and I will not act as though I have the knowledge or emotional connections that native Tanzanians do, having only spent three months in this exceptional country. However, I will do my best to explain the current issues regarding poaching in the na-

tional parks for the sake of awareness.

Tanzania’s national parks are some of the country’s greatest treasures. Together, the national parks boast 42,000 square kilometers, with Ruaha National Park, Serengeti National Park, and the Ngorongoro crater, all housing some of the most spectacular creatures in the animal kingdom.

Unfortunately, Tanzanians who live around the national parks don’t always co-exist with the animals living within. Poaching has become a common practice among Tanzanians living by the national parks. From 2009 to 2014 the Tanzanian elephant population declined by 60 percent, lion numbers have halved in the last 20 years, and there are approximately only 6000 cheetahs remaining. Of course, poaching cannot be blamed entirely for these numbers, larger factors such as climate change and habitat loss have serious effects. That being said, poaching does still play a dangerous roll in this animal population decline, but before we jump the judge the Tanzania’s, let’s take a look just as to why they are poaching in the first place and why they aren’t as concerned about conservation of these animals as we are.

Assuming that the Tanzanians living around the national parks are either farm-

ers or small business owners, as many are, the money made from selling poached meat per year is more than that of livestock sales, agricultural sales and small business

sales combined. This makes poaching not only tempting, but financially necessary. When you need to send your children to school, want to expand your farm to make

a profit, or plan to start a business, you need that extra income from poaching - and are willing to sacrifice a lion, an elephant and giraffe or two to achieve it.

The truth remains that people will not engage in long term conservation until their short term needs are met. Therefore, the question is not how the punish the improvised poachers, but how to help them so that they don’t need to poach. This means that instead of throwing poaching Tanzanians in prison (which is what authorities usually do when finding a poacher), or fining the already impoverished, we instead need to find a way to fight structural violence in Tanzania. This care for and awareness of the poor in Tanzania is the first step in protecting the national parks and the endangered animals living within. Unfortunately, this is easier said than done.

The situation in Tanzania is complex, and will take time to solve, however, caring for and better understanding the poor is a good place to start. ★

Paige Collins is a Senior at Houghton College, majoring in Intercultural Studies and Writing.



COURTESY OF PAIGE COLLINS

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they’re incredibly thankful to the people that took time out of their lives to give something to save theirs.

“Donating blood is perhaps the easiest way to save lives,” said Emily Luna, freshman nursing major at Roberts Wesleyan College. As someone who has been on the receiving end of a blood transfusion, Luna thinks it’s absolutely vital that everyone who can donate should.

Luna was diagnosed at nine years old with Aplastic Anemia, a rare bone marrow disorder where the body is unable to make blood cells due to empty marrow. Since then she has needed a number of transfusions in order to stay alive. Today, the disease affects her less than it did then, but she still needs to be cautious with a lowered immune system.

One of the most common reasons cited for not donating blood is fear. According to the Red Cross website a

general fear of needles and fainting drives many people away from donating. “I cannot tell you how many times I’ve gotten IVs, blood draws, anything of the sort,” Luna explained. “If you have siblings, you’ve probably gotten pinched harder than a needle will feel.”

To schedule an appointment for the blood drive here on campus, students can check their houghton.edu email for ‘Blood Drive Donation Sign-Ups’ from the Student Government Association. That email includes links to sign-up for slots based on the type of donation.

When students arrive to donate, they will go through a registration process. Then they will sign in and go over a few things, read some information about donations, and then they will be asked for their complete address. They will answer a few questions about their health history, and then proceed to donate.

To learn more about do-

nating blood consult the Red Cross website. ★

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students have also expressed a hint of sadness, but Nies reflects “I’m not quite sure about the reasons for the move but no matter where the program is, the journey is still the destination.”

Despite the changes, Knapp emphasizes that “there will still be a strong focus on community, where its family-style meals with the students and faculty together...Another thing we’re carrying over is experiential learning. That’s the hallmark of our program.” The new location may bring new opportunities and new challenges, but Knapp says “The heart of it’s really the same.” Nies echoes this, stating “as important as location is, it’s really about the people. The people on the trip with you. The people you meet. The person you become.”

BASKETBALL from page 1

up the freshman class and they all look to make an impact in their Houghton careers. Rodney Shephard, Kyle Donk, and Elliot Spicer round out the newcomers as they begin their

first season in Purple and Gold.

Senior Captain Dylan Lambert is optimistic about the season and about the eight new players that come to Houghton this season. “[Right now], we are working out all the wrinkles in non-conference play, with all these new players,” says Lambert, “Once we have the chemistry down, we can get some wins in conference and hopefully make a run [this season].”

Currently, the men’s basketball team stands at 0-4. The next games will be at Hilbert on December 3rd and then on December 8th at home.

The women’s basketball team has some lofty goals after last season’s success in making the conference playoffs. “We not only want to make playoffs this year, but we want to make a mark in playoffs,” says Coach Alicia Mucher, “Our goal is to win the Empire 8 Championship.” This seems to be a very reachable goal, as the team only lost two players from last year’s roster, bringing back an experienced and well-rounded group.

Returning to the team for the 2018-2019 season are eleven players, including four of last season’s starters. Cori Beck returns with Brittany Lenart to start at the guard positions for Houghton. Beck led the Empire 8 in assists per game last season and Lenart was named to

the Second Team All-Empire 8 Conference. Leslie Moose, Emily Swanson, Madison Detwiler, and Amber Edwards all return to play the forward positions as some of the best rebounders and shot blockers in the conference. Each have started games at the forward positions and will figure into the starting five this year. Hannah Cybart also returns and will move to the starting lineup after a strong freshman season.

Also returning is Alyssa Pascoe, Caitlyn Cybart, Janessa Davis, and Kara Cusker, who all bring good experience and skill to the team. The women’s team also welcomes six newcomers: Brooke Lewandowski, Brienne Stike, Alex Steele, Emie Taylor, and Hannah Haskell. The group brings great depth and talent to an already excellent team.

Junior point guard Cori Beck knows this team has more experience than other teams with their senior leadership and large returning class, “Only losing two players from last year gives us an advantage [this year] because many of us have already played together and know each other’s tendencies,” says Beck, “I am super excited to see where our team goes this year!”

The women’s record currently stands at 3-1. They play at Geneva on December 4th and on December 8th they will play SUNY Delhi at home. ★

Courtesy of Houghton College



AMERICAN RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5TH
GILLETTE HALL



STAR Rerun

Do We Know what Christmas Is ?

W.A.S.

This rerun column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history This particular article is from Volume 37 Issue 16 of the STAR published on December 14th, 1944.

Christmas time is a sentimental time with a feeling of good will that ranges from superficial hilarity to a sincere realization

of the meaning of the occasion. There is not much point in our discussing the spirit of Christmas, because Tiny Tim did a much better job than we could do.

There is one thing, however, that we would like to say. and that is that Christmas is bigger than most of us stop to realize. Christmas is bigger than Tiny Tim realized, because Tiny Tim was not old enough to realize it. Maybe we are not old enough fully to realize it.

We say that the boys in France are dying in order that men might live free. We talk about Freedom - and when we analyze them we admit that they are all selfish. Two

thousand years ago Christ died that men might live free - and this is selfish freedom. Freedom from sin, yes, and freedom from many other things connected with it. Down across the centuries comes the realization at this Christmas time that Christ died to make men free - from hatred.

When the man who dies for the freedom of his countrymen dies with hatred in his heart, he does not die free. He dies a slave to prejudices, to misconceptions. to a lack of the perceptions which free men have. When "free" Americans call for the murder of Hitler. and for the annihilation of Tokyo, they cease to be free, for

they are slaves of their own pettiness and their own hatred. And hatred breeds hatred Until the whole world hates and the whole world is not free.

On the first Christmas day, a Child was born, and when He grew up He told men to love their neighbors. The neighbors responded by killing Him. He told men to love each other. and men who still call themselves by His name, continue to hate each other.

So men continue to celebrate Christmas in their sentimental way. and give gifts to the people who will give gifts to them, and continue to hate each other. And men talk about the spirit of Christ-

mas and call for the execution of other men in other countries, who might, conceivably, have wanted very badly to be free, back in their history somewhere.

Yes, Tiny Tim was right. He said, "God bless us every one", because he didn't know any better. He didn't know that he was supposed to hate some people. And men who know a lot more than Tiny Tim did, say that Tiny Tim had the real spirit of Christmas. Tiny Tim knew more about the One who died to make men free than a lot of people who know a lot more than Tiny Tim. ★

Personal Health

A Silent and Growing Crisis on Campus

TOBY FORWARD

According to the Department of Education, educational attainment rates have been on the rise from 2000 to 2017. Educational attainment rates among 25-29 year olds have increased at each attainment level. The percentage of those who had received at least a high school diploma increased from 88 to 92 percent. The percentage with a bachelor's or higher degree increased from 29 to 36 percent. The world around us has put a greater emphasis on higher education. This increased emphasis on higher education has created a series of problems for students across America.

This educational shift is just one of a series of problems that Gregg Henriques, Ph.D., author of A New Unified Theory of Psychology, believes are causing a growing mental health crisis on campuses all over America.

He states that a combination of a rapid evolution of technology and information overload, economic and financial pressures, an ineffective health care system, and society's problematic attitudes toward mental illness, are creating a seemingly unnoticed crisis. Topping the list of mental disorders on the rise is Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

Here are the facts about depression in our society. The national institute of mental health (NIMH) found that in 2016, 10.9% of individuals from the ages of 18-25 had experienced a major depressive episode. They also found that 37% of these individuals went without treatment. Looking more specifically at college students, the American College Health Association (ACHA) found that in the spring of 2018 87.4% of college students felt overwhelmed by all they had to do. They found that 41.9% felt so depressed

that it was difficult to function. 63.4% recorded that they had overwhelming anxiety. Lastly, they also found that 12.1% had seriously considered suicide in the last 12 months. All of these statistics were found to be higher in females. The statistics in themselves are depressing.

All of this begs the questions, what is depression? The NIMH states that "depression is a common but serious mood disorder. It causes severe symptoms that affect how you feel, think, and handle daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, or working." There are many signs and symptoms of depression. A few of these are persistent sad or anxious moods, feelings of hopelessness or pessimism, irritability, feelings of worthlessness, loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies, decreased energy or fatigue, difficulty in cognitive function, difficulty sleeping (either too much or too little), and changes in appetite. Just

because someone experiences some of these symptoms does not mean they are depressed. Many of these symptoms are common in those who are not depressed. If someone is depressed they must have many of these for an extended period of time, they should also talk to the trained counselors at the counseling center.

There is hope about the growing mental health crisis on college campuses. Over the last couple decades this seemingly silent crisis has received some national attention. In 2004 Congress passed the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act which created three programs to address the mental and behavioral health needs of young people. These being the Campus Suicide Prevention, State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention, and the Technical Assistance Center.

While mental health may be on the rise across U.S. college campuses. We have no reason to

fear. There are a few things us students can do to help prevent this crisis. The first is to educate ourselves on the topic of mental health. Proper education about the risk factors, causes, and treatments of mental health disorders can greatly lower one's own risk for these disorders. Secondly, is to develop techniques to handle the difficulties and stress of college. This can involve better time management or regular visits to the counseling center. We should try and be active. Exercise is an excellent way to improve one's mood. Lastly we should try to avoid isolation. Depression thrives on isolation. If there is one thing that should be taken away from this article it is that we can beat depression together. Spend time with other people, particularly around those you trust, this can be friends or family. It is important that we all work together towards stopping the growing mental health crisis. ★

Write for the International Perspectives Column

Are you an international student?

Are you interested in reporting on current events in your home country?

If so, the STAR wants to hear your insights!

Email editor@houghtonstar.com

Students Return From Vienna



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIJAH TANGENBERG
St. Stephen's Square, in the center of the city.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIJAH TANGENBERG
The gardens outside the Belvedere Palace, under a light snowfall.

KAYLA SIMMONS

Shortly after midnight two Houghton vans rolled up to the Campus Center, full of students bleary with jet lag. The twenty students and one professor spent their Thanksgiving break- and a few extra days before- exploring Vienna as part of Dr. Meilaender's course "Vienna 1900: Political and Cultural Crisis and Creativity,". Not all the students enrolled in the class went on the trip and not all the students on the trip were enrolled in the class. The course itself covers Viennese history around the turn of the century and students were able to see various bits of art, history, and culture studied in class, as well as much more.

Students arrived in Vien-

na mid morning on Saturday, November 17th, and were immediately whisked away by Dr. Meilaender for a introductory tour of the city in an attempt to ward off the worst of the jet lag and adjust to a six hour time difference. Students poked their heads into various cathedrals, and saw famous Viennese landmarks such as the Hofburg Palace and the State Opera house. Supper was a quick affair and most students were asleep by eight that evening, although other nights often involved staying up to explore the city. For the duration of the trip students stayed at a nice hostel within walking distance of a convenient street car station.

Sunday morning involved Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral, a Gothic structure located at the center of the inner city. The service was completely

in German and featured a beautiful choir and orchestra. The afternoon included of a trip to the Hofburg Palace and a chance to see the Imperial apartment where Emperor Franz Josef and Empress Sisi, two figures studied during the course, spent their days.

The rest of the trip continued in a similar fashion. Museum visits were a daily occurrence, and occasionally a twice daily occurrence. The trip included visits to the Belvedere Palace and Museum, the Vienna Museum, the Freud Museum, the Museum of Applied Arts, and the Albertina Museum. Students took opportunities presented during free afternoons to break into smaller groups and visit cafes, do some shopping at Christmas markets, attend an opera or a ballet, or visit even more museums such as the Imperial War Museum, the Art History Museum, and the Austrian National Library.

tal of Slovakia, for a day trip. They climbed up Michael's Gate, visited the St. Martin's Cathedral, and explored the Bratislava Castle. Another group of students visited Salzburg, an Austrian city famous for being the birthplace of Mozart and the setting for The Sound of Music.

On Thursday, the group celebrated American Thanksgiving at a Viennese restaurant. Even though the meal

featured more traditional Austrian dishes instead of turkey and pumpkin pie, it was a lovely opportunity to sit down as a whole and experience a bit of home. Overall, the opportunity to explore a foreign city was truly an excellent way for students to spend the break and to take their learning from the classroom to the streets of Vienna.

★



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIJAH TANGENBERG
Michael's Gate in Bratislava, Slovakia, where students climbed up to the observation deck.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIJAH TANGENBERG
Christmas markets could be found around the city, where many students did some shopping.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN MILLER
A final group picture taken the morning before leaving for the airport.

Dr. Pettway’s Gives Faculty Lecture

KYLA NIES

On November 15, Dr. Anna Pettway presented her faculty lecture entitled “#existingwhileblack: The Psychological Burden of Anti-Black Racism”. This was the third presentation in this year’s faculty lecture series. The lectures occur each semester and offer professors an opportunity to present on their recent research and current academic interests. Dr. Pettway’s lecture centered on the psychological and physiological effects of long term exposure to microaggressions and racism experienced by many people of color in the United States. She prefaced her talk by acknowledging that as a white woman, she can not speak for the experiences of people of color but instead could open with

the multiple stories of black men and women who have experienced racial violence and discrimination. These stories, such as that of an African American college student who was confronted by the police after falling asleep in the lounge of her dorm, laid the groundwork for Dr. Pettway’s argument by establishing clear examples of the prejudice so many American people of color experience. Dr. Pettway then began to highlight the various dynamics at work in these racially tense situations. This included things such as ontological expansiveness, which is the tendency of white and privileged groups “to act and think as if all spaces—whether geographical, psychical, linguistic, economic, spiritual, bodily, or otherwise—are or should be available for them to move in and out of as they wish”, sometimes to the detriment

of “unwanted” groups. Junior Hannah Sievers remarked “that part of Dr. Pettway’s presentation really helped me understand the privilege I experience as a white woman and gave me a better idea of the ways I can more effectively listen, reconcile, and love the people around me”. Next, Dr. Pettway began her synthesis and discussion of recent data relating to the psychological and physiological effects of racism. This included multiple credible studies that connect long term stress to anxiety, depression, chronic pain and illness, depressed immune systems and fatal illnesses. People of color tend to experience higher levels of stress due to their experiences of racism and microaggression, and the fear of mistreatment on account of their race. Consequently, people of color tend to exhibit higher rates of stress induced

illness and fatalities. Additionally, Dr. Pettway referenced recent epigenetic work that points to the power of race related stress in actually altering a person’s genes. This means that the psychological and physiological effects of racism are not just symptoms of experienced discrimination but potentially inherited. Overall, the lecture revealed a need to address racism, not only for aetherial ethical reasons but for the very wellbeing and livelihood of its victims. The lecture was both well attended and well received. Senior Shephan Hestick comments “It was such a transformational experience. Dr. Pettway presented authoritatively, describing the nuances inherent to the race conversation”. After the lecture there was a question and answer session, in which Dr. Pettway responded to questions and

comments. Upon leaving, many students felt as though Dr. Pettway’s lecture was foundational for a larger conversation about race “I think this was a good start to the much needed racial reconciliation” remakes Junior Alexander Wood. Such conversations will continue at events hosted by the Mosaic center, in classes taught by Dr. Pettway such as this spring’s online course “The Psychology of Race and Racism” and in the conversations about race that students engage in as a result of Dr. Pettway’s important lecture. The next faculty lecture will be presented by Dr. Jonathan Case on December 6th from 4:25-5:30 in room 323 of the Library. ★

Gospel Choir Under New Leadership

JOHANNA FLOREZ

Just before homecoming weekend, Jetro Silva arrived at gospel choir rehearsal with his pant legs soaked midway up his calves from helping rescue Houghton’s harpsichord from the floodwaters filling the chapel basement. Wearily, he sat at the piano and began working with the choir on their songs for the Collage concert. Armenio Suzano, the dean and director of the Greatbatch School of Music, heard the choir’s singing as he walked through the CFA. He stood in the back of the recital hall, and Silva had the choir sing him their better-known songs— “I

Shall Wear A Crown,” a contemplation of life in heaven, and then the joyous “Jesus Is Real.” Suzano said to the choir, “Sometimes you just have days when nothing goes right,” and shared how exhausted he was from his own work rescuing instruments from the flooding. Then he thanked the choir for lifting his spirits with their music, and told them, “I need you to keep doing what you’re doing.” In an instant, Silva and the choir had launched into another song: “I need you,” they sang. “You need me. You are a part of God’s body.” The moment was unplanned, but fitting. In reflecting on Silva’s leadership of Houghton’s gospel choir,

students comment on how “organic” his approach is. “His style is very spontaneous and spur of the moment-like,” says Shannon Moore, a senior who joined the choir as a sophomore. “Dr. Silva’s personality and choir approach have been very radical in that he is openly passionate and takes many large leaps in pushing the group’s potential.” Silva is finishing his first semester working at Houghton. Directing the gospel choir “was not originally the plan,” Silva says. He was hired to be a professor of music industry and director of technical arts. But Suzano expressed to him the importance of continuing the gospel choir and his hope to see a member of fac-

ulty involved with it. Silva grew up listening to gospel music, and he directed a gospel choir for the first time while he was a student at the Berklee College of Music. In the ensuing years he led gospel choirs at various churches. While he did not intend to continue in the same role at Houghton, his experience fulfills the school’s need for a new director. Silva’s predecessor, Malcolm Jerome Bell, led the gospel choir as a graduate student before his graduation last year. Members who worked with him recall his emphasis on worship rather than just performance. “Jerome taught me how to let go of my performance anxiety and to simply worship God because others will be lead to worship through my example,” says Michael McLure, who sang with the choir during the fall 2017 semester. According to Moore, Bell had the choir sing mostly contemporary gospel music. Silva, on the other hand, focuses more on “the long history of gospel songs and varieties,” Moore says. Without losing sight of gospel music’s purpose of declaring the “good news” and its message of hope, Silva does more teaching. This is to be expected, she says, as he is a professor whose long-term goals include turning the club into a class students receive credit for participating in. Having worked with both directors, Moore says that the choir is not exactly the same since Silva took over. While she observed an “incredibly high” rate of students returning semester after semester to sing with Bell as choir director, only “approximately 6 [former members] have made

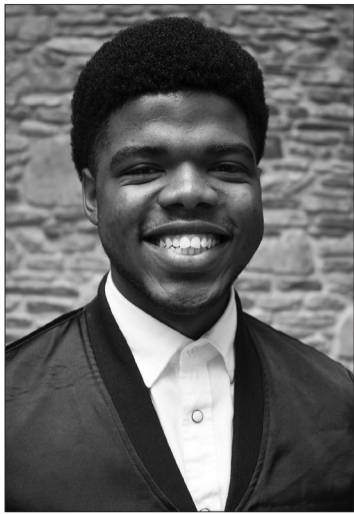
the transfer into Dr. Silva’s leadership.” The two directors also have different personalities and teaching styles. Bell’s “creativity stood more on the contemplative side of things,” and was more “methodical” in teaching and planning. Silva is more organic and spontaneous in pursuing ideas and learning new songs. Anna Wray, another returning choir member, says that “Dr. Silva brings a lot of energy to the gospel choir.” Moore calls Silva’s personality “refreshing,” while admitting that newcomers might be taken aback by his openness. What both directors share is an emphasis on making the gospel choir a worship ministry. Abigail Wilkerson, a former member who worked with Bell, observes, “I think Dr. Silva has kept this focused atmosphere and continues to encourage a heart of worship among the members of the choir.” Silva himself describes gospel choir rehearsal as “a devotional time” and a service. His hope is that audiences hearing the gospel choir sing will experience contagious, authentic happiness and the presence of God. Looking forward to the choir’s December 5th concert, his plan is to take “a selection of songs and make it into a moment of praise... with the hope that everyone who comes will feel blessed to be there.” Considering the varieties of styles and moods that can be encompassed within the gospel genre, Moore advises to “come with hearts and minds ready to worship in whatever aspect you find yourself in.”★



PHOTO CURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

Some of the members of the Gospel Choir rehersing for the concert on December 5th.

Community, Covenant, and Consent



MICHAEL SIEVERS

SHAPHAN HESTICK

In my time as a Houghton college student, one of the most accurate litmus tests for student success and thriving has been the value they give to the Community Covenant. The Community Covenant makes or breaks the college experience for students who do not understand the cost. Lots of students approach Houghton College, admiring the façade of intentional purity, safety and loving community. However, after spending time at Houghton, students learn to recognize the real structures supporting these outward manifestations: intense disciplinary practices based on Christian values that

seem to supersede state laws. Yes, I’m talking about the Resident Life, the RAs, and the dry campus policies. I agree that these are all helpful: the Community Covenant is great for assuring rural evangelical students the safeties and comforts of home; it guarantees an environment very similar to the one that many Christian-born-and-raised Highlanders have known their entire lives. What I hope that you, dear reader, understand from this article is that despite the best intentions said document crafters, the Community Covenant is actually doing a great disservice to the students

assaulted and disillusioned by the Covenant and Houghton culture. Now you might be thinking, “But Shaphan, isn’t that too harsh? The Covenant was set up to serve exactly the types of students that you’re describing.” Know that I absolutely agree with you! Unfortunately, here I must acknowledge that famous saying: the road to hell is paved with good intentions. The fact we hope to serve students through the Covenant doesn’t mean its infliction upon their lives will not induce trauma. Rather, by impressing the sincerity of our goodwill

“...The fact we hope to serve students through the Covenant doesn’t mean its infliction upon their lives will not induce trauma...”

on our campus who do not understand or give value to the Covenant. Here’s why: students from outside the American evangelical culture have no way of fully consenting to the Community Covenant, and therefore end up being deeply

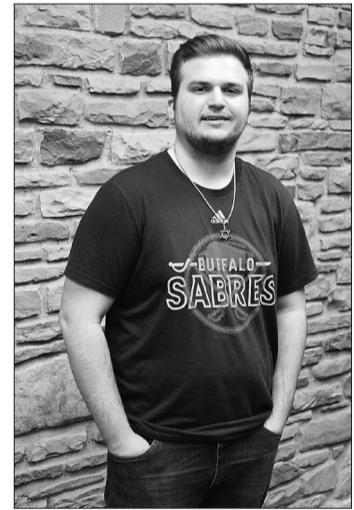
upon non-Christian, non-evangelical students while simultaneously punishing them for nonconformity to our values and standards, might we create some cognitive dissonance? Regardless of our intentions, the Community

Covenant does chafe students that enter into said covenant unsure of what it means, and I think part of the reason for this is the incompleteness of their ability to fully consent to community standards. Understand me clearly. While traditional understandings of consent emphasize the necessity of agreement, contemporary perspectives have begun to unpack what it means to fully agree. Today, definitions of consent emphasizes the fact that for someone to fully agree, they must, to a high degree, be informed about the contract that they’re agreeing to. Consent is about more than just agreement, it is about empathetic acceptance and endorsement. In the context of the Community Covenant, can a prospective student from outside the American evangelical community truly agree to a promise so far outside of her lived experience? Even those of us who have dwelled within Christian community all our lives still struggle to affirm every biblical ideal; can we not exercise compassion for those who come to Houghton, trying to blindly engage with the Christian faith? Even in a scenario where such a student weakly agrees to the Covenant, how do we go

about inculcating an affection for the culture we hope that the Covenant should create? Truly, I’m not sure how connected the Houghton community is to the paradox of drug, alcohol, and sex use and abuse that exist in the same spaces as their precious document, but I fear that we are missing some salient point. Our focus on crafting and enforcing a covenantal culture has been so uncompromising that we punish students for not reaching our standards; they are given so little quarter to identify with and affirm the Covenant for themselves. If this were not enough, the outsider is likely to experience not only administrative repercussions for Covenant violations. Furthermore, she is also likely to find herself being tacitly judged by her peers for being unable to achieve the desired level of—not actual purity—conformity. Be aware, community, that the same devices we anticipate engendering student success and thriving can also have the opposite impact.★

Shaphan is a Junior majoring in Political Science, International Development and Biology

Why We Should All Be A Little More Like Daredevil



TIM PASCHALIS

ZACHARY PARIS

For those of you who do not know me, I have a serious passion for comics. As a child, my three favorite characters were Batman, Spider-Man, and Daredevil. As I have gotten older, Daredevil has gripped me in a different way. I am going to ignore Ben Affleck’s Daredevil movie and talk about the comics and Netflix’s Daredevil. At first, what attracted me to Daredevil was how he was a lawyer by day and a vigilante by night. It amazed me that he was an expert in hand to hand combat and was blind. I also thought that his billy club was a really cool weapon of choice. However, since watching his show on

Netflix, something else showed me why he is such a great hero and why Matt Murdock, his alter ego, is a great character as well. The first amazing thing about Matt Murdock is that although he is blind, but his other senses are so heightened he can “see.” By combining his four senses, he can create an image and know what is around him. He can read words in a book just by feeling them. He has an incredible radar sense. He can hear things from incredible distances, but this is not what makes him a great hero. Matt Murdock is a lawyer in Hell’s Kitchen and a genius. He can tell if someone is lying by hearing their heartbeat, which comes in handy with his court cases. He could make a lot of money from a lot of people with skills like this, but Matt only helps people that desperately need it. He will not accept payment if his client cannot afford it. Matt is a selfless human being. He seeks justice and does what it is right, no matter what it costs. I think

“...Listening is clearly not as big as taking down the Kingpin...but it is not always the big things that help or inspire others...”

that his most important quality is that he cares. Matt Murdock/ Daredevil does nothing to get attention, money, or fame. When he does something as Daredevil or as a lawyer, it is to better Hell’s Kitchen and those around him. He will go to the ends of the earth to help someone he does not even know. Now the question is, how can we be like this? Daredevil got his powers through tragedy. He was blinded at a young age by radioactive chemicals. He pushed a man out of the way from the truck carrying the chemicals. Matt’s act saved this man’s life. His father, “Battling Jack” Murdock was a boxer. Jack refused to

throw a fight and because of this, he was murdered by gangsters. His murder was never solved. Anyone who sees Matt would automatically assume that he is a man with a disability. Matt does have a disability and he has truly made the most of it. On top of this, he was orphaned at a young age. If a blind man can fight crime and balance a career on top of his incredibly rough upbringing, I am sure that we can do a lot more with our lives and do more for others if we put a little more effort into our lives. God took something away from Matt as a child, but in return gave him much more: a gift. How can we use the gifts that God gave us to help those around us, or just be there for someone that needs nothing more than a shoulder to cry on? When Matt was given this gift he had two choices, use it for himself, or share it with others. He chose the second option. With the gifts that God has given

you, how do you use them? A gift is not always as radical as being a superhero. Sometimes it can be as simple as being yourself, or just being a friend. In my life, the people that have affected me the most are those who have a genuine investment in my well-being, or just care about me. In return, I try my best to be there for others and to build others up. A compliment can go a long way, or even just listening. Listening is clearly not as big as taking down the Kingpin, Daredevils main enemy, but it is not always the big things that help, and inspire others. Daredevil inspires others by looking out for them. He tries his best to make Hell’s Kitchen a great place to live. How can you inspire others around you? In conclusion, what can you do today to help someone next to you, or be there for someone when they are crying out for help? If we took just a page out of Matt Murdock/ Daredevil’s book, we could do so much to help those around us and make a difference in Houghton, or even the world.★

Zachary is a Junior majoring in Communications

“...He seeks justice and does what is right...I think his most important quality is that he cares...”

Respecting What Sexual Brokenness Is - And Isn't



TIM PASCHALIS

MELISSA HODDE

On a dark, crummy Monday afternoon, I googled the words “sexual brokenness”. Ask, and the internet shall provide: pages and pages of blogs, conference websites, online programs and news outlets - all Christian. In addition, every single visible name and face on the first three pages of this search were men, giving advice sometimes accompanied with testimonies. That’s part of why I appreciate the initiative of women on this campus to lead ministries dealing with these topics - for women as part of The Well last year, and for everyone at Shameless. (Last year, men could join Dr. Burrichter for The Fire.) When you read this, Shameless will have taken place yesterday, or perhaps a week ago. I applaud the courage and grace of everyone participating, and I hope people walk away feeling heard and closer to healing. I only have one request, for everyone drawn to teach God’s truth: can we consider re-evaluating the specific term “sexual brokenness”?

You may be wondering why. Isn’t sexual brokenness a useful, polite-yet-serious catch-all for various types of sexual behavior that cause Christians guilt and

shame? Actually, not really. While the Christian websites you’ll find in a quick search list all sorts of behaviors and situations as sexual brokenness, it’s not meant to be the word that represents all of those experiences. Brokenness is a very, very significant word that is meant to describe a very deep and unique kind of hurt. It’s not one that I can speak about myself. But I’m going to try to break down which meanings have slipped into the broader Christian culture’s understanding of sexual brokenness, and why I think we need to leave those behind.

If you read through the first two pages on Google, about half of them seem to get it right. There’s a degree of respect and specificity to their use of the phrase that could allow someone to read their page and say, “Ah, that’s not me. I’ve messed up, but I’m not permanently wounded.” or to see themselves and feel respected. Part of this is because they describe what it’s actually like and don’t use it as a label for anyone experiencing this or that categorical situation. The

“...different things can leave different people feeling broken. However, I firmly believe that it disrespects everyone involved to call any and every church-condemned situation sexual brokenness.”

(Gotta love small communities, right?) I’m going to leave alone the issue of marital infidelity because most Houghton students aren’t married, and I don’t have any basis to talk about it either - but I don’t believe the other two belong under sexual brokenness unless a person’s experience with them leads to that place. This is most likely true of all the things that list-makers like to put on the list for this phrase - different things can leave different people feeling broken. However, I firmly believe that it disrespects everyone involved to call any and every church-condemned situation sexual brokenness.

In order to talk about pornography at all, I have to

consent, it’s basically impossible to know whether the people in the footage are under threat from their employers, even if they’re a public personality in the industry. In addition, the demand for porn as a whole strengthens the prostitution industry by creating a slippery slope of firmer threats and higher wages for many willingly employed in porn. (Dr. Monique Derr’s doctoral thesis “Intersections Of The Sex Trafficking And Pornography Industries: Victims Working Within Pornography” offers some good information on this.) There are many reasons that people become entrapped in habitually viewing pornography, and the average age for exposure to porn is thirteen. That’s horrifying - and there are many ways to break yourself if you get caught in the gears of this industry. Still, I support The Well and Shameless’ decision to separate the two when inviting people in, because brokenness is not a universal experience with porn. You can get out before you get broken. Neither experience makes you a stronger or more valuable person than the other, and I’m quite certain God is incredibly proud of all his children who have gotten out.

What about being LGBT? There are many, many broken people who also identify in these categories, whether they feel broken in sexual or other ways. However, I don’t believe that it’s inherent to the experience

of being LGBT. The reasons that so many people in this group are suffering from sexual wounds mostly converge at one point: isolation. People who are LGBT, especially Christian and LGBT, are so often exiles from their communities and families. Being alone is incredibly dangerous, whether that’s alone on the streets as a teen (which happens more often than you think) or simply feeling very alone in the midst of a crowd of relatives at a family gathering. A support system can advise you against getting close to toxic people or take away the need to be dependent on them, and it can help you heal when you stumble. Loving relationships with family members, friends, and mentors are the foundation that show people what is Christlike, healthy and wonderful in any kind of relationship, and those who have to live without that for years or their whole life can easily be tempted to settle for less. I know so many wonderful, kind, and wise people who are LGBT. Often they find each other, to make up for the isolation. And some of them, yes, are broken, but it’s not their romantic feelings or their perception of their gender that’s broken - it’s their long-suffering, tired hearts.

I hope that what I’ve said is God-honoring and leads to some clarity for those who aren’t familiar with sexual brokenness, and affirmation for those who intimately are. If you are in the latter category, I have so much love for you and respect for your endurance in the race. You can achieve anything through Christ, and I believe He has an incredible future planned for you. Thank you all for reading this. ★

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“While the Christian websites you’ll find in a quick search list all sorts of behaviors and situations as sexual brokenness, it’s not meant to be the word that represents all of those experiences.”

other pages went the easy route, and made lists. Christians really love lists. On these lists the top offenders were usually addiction to pornography, being any variety of LGBT, and marital infidelity. It makes sense to me that these are the ones that get talked about most on these pages, because they’re relatable for many and frankly, make good slow-burn church drama if the issue becomes public.

acknowledge that it is objectively harmful - the research is conflicted on whether it always damages the viewer in a psychological way, but it inevitably hurts others. Pornography is an industry which is tragically and firmly tied to sex trafficking and many other kinds of non-consensual, criminal mistreatment of vulnerable people. Even if you exclusively watch porn from legal sites advocating

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The Houghton STAR

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Artist of the Week

Amanda Carl

// senior studio art major

“I really enjoy a wide variety of artistic practices-ceramics, oil painting, watercolor, papermaking, printmaking, typography, bookmaking, weaving, photography, drawing... the list goes on. I am currently experimenting with mixing these different medias together and learning more processes like spinning and dying yarn. I always enjoy incorporating new techniques like these into my own art practice and seeing where it takes me.

I am majoring in studio art and minoring in psychology. In the future, I plan to work in the art therapy field.”

Second Impression, oil on canvas



From the Path, watercolor, handmade paper, branch, and thread



Uninterrupted Field, watercolor



Geometric Vase, terra cotta



Untitled, relief print



Vase of Sunflowers, oil on canvas