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the houghton STAR

Houghton College's Student Newspaper Since 1909

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HOUGHTON NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE

BEN HARDY

When Dr. Sharra Hynes left the position of Vice President for Student Life this summer, she left a void that has now been filled by Dr. Rob Pool. The search for a new vice president began last summer. The search committee was led by Dr. Michael Lastoria. Over the summer, he put together a “very strong candidate pool with over 25 people applying for the position,” according to Greg Bish, Director of Student Programs. Dr. Pool quickly rose to the top of the candidates. He comes to Houghton from Hobart and William Smith Colleges where he served as Director of Student Activities for approximately five years.

On Tuesday, October 16, Dr. Pool came to campus for a next day and a half of meetings and interviews with different departments on campus including representatives from Housing, Athletics, Student Government, and Spiritual Life, among others. Feedback was positive concerning his candidacy. “When I asked him a question, he didn’t dodge anything. He gave very full explanations,” said Dennis Stack, Dean of Students and interim Vice President for Student Life.

Visiting faculty member, Inti Martinez, who served as a member of the search committee that hired former Vice President of Student Life Sharra Hynes, when he was a student here,



LUKE LAUER

Dr. Rob Pool has a Ph.D. in Higher Education and Leadership and an M.A. in Counseling and Higher Education Administration. He begins work at Houghton January 2, 2013.

thought that Pool was “a good candidate in every aspect, spiritually, academically, professionally...I’m really excited about him coming.”

At the meeting with students on the evening of October 16, Pool not only responded to questions, but asked his own questions of the students about what life is like at Houghton.

Perhaps the factor that makes Pool stand out the most on campus is that, although he is an evangelical Christian, he does not come to us from a back-

ground of Christian colleges.

Martinez said he thinks that this will be an asset for him. “He will bring in better ideas...from other colleges and improve different areas in which Student Life is lacking.”

Stack said he hopes that Pool will “look at what is good in Houghton...keep those good things...and also bring things from his own background

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Kiiti and student, Steve McCord, Research Mobile Money with Urban Women's Groups in Kenya

ANDRÉ NELSON

A commonly-seen Houghton phrase is “the world is our classroom.” While for many of students this can seem not to mean much, as it can be difficult to imagine a more withdrawn place than Houghton, for some students, it could not prove truer. During October break, junior Steve McCord and Professor Ndunge Kiiti, intercultural studies, travelled to Kenya for a research project spearheaded by Kiiti and funded by the University of California at Irvine.

The research began two years ago, when Dr. Kiiti, one of the founders of Vinya wa Aka—an urban-based women’s group in Nairobi meaning “Strength of Women”—began training 21 women’s groups in the rural parts of eastern Kenya on issues of investment, savings, money service and management. All of these women’s groups used a mobile money service called M-Pesa.

The last of the 21 groups Vinya wa Aka interacted with was a group of visually impaired women, and they asked Kiiti to come back to observe the impact mobile money services had on them as visually impaired. She proceeded to write a proposal for a grant from the University of California, Irvine. The grant was approved and her research began.

The research focuses on the “the usage of mobile money services as a tool for poverty reduction in eastern Kenya.” M-pesa—M stands for money, and Pesa is the Swahili word for money—is the name of the mobile money service for Safaricom, which is one of the leading mobile network in Kenya. It allows users with a national ID card or a passport to transfer, deposit, and withdraw money almost anywhere with the use of their cellular device and a 4-digit password.

What triggered this research focused on Safaricom was a simple enough question, said Kiiti. Her research question, “I

wonder how they use mobile money?” led her to numerous discoveries. What Kiiti found was that, though there is much potential for mobile money services as a way to micro-finance, there is also a serious lack of policies for the disadvantaged, particularly for the visually impaired.

According to Kiiti, one of the benefits of having come to Houghton was to have the opportunity to combine academia and development. This research is the perfect example of how she has combined theory and practice. Over the course of the last two years, three students have had the privilege of working alongside Kiiti, assisting her in her research as well as video documentation and data analysis. Recent graduate, Sarah Wangai, and senior Jaime Colman, assisted Kiiti over

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October Board of Trustees Meeting Addresses College Changes

EMMA HUGHES

Houghton College’s Board of Trustees met October 15-16, addressing several key projects and issues the college is currently working on, such as the Kerr-Pegula athletics project, approved faculty sabbaticals, the President’s five-year plan, and a diversity audit.

A significant topic for the Board was the approval of resources for the completion of the baseball and softball fields. Approval for the resources was granted, along with authorization for the college’s administration to go forward in looking into the cost of fieldhouses, facilities which will house showers, lockers and changing rooms, for the athletic fields. The administration’s examination of the fieldhouses will involve the buildings’ eventual size and cost, and approval for the fieldhouses will go before the Board during its next meeting, next spring.

While the Kerr-Pegula donation of \$12 million for Houghton’s athletics is a significant one, and while the official estimate for the fieldhouses completion has not yet been completed, it is understood that the entire project will exceed the original donation.

“It will go over the \$12 million. At the very beginning, we knew the project would be about \$17 million,” said President Shirley Mullen. “The question with the buildings is how to be cost effective and benefit the college. From the point of the donors, it was never a \$12 million project.”

Donors’ hope with giving a large initial donation, Mullen said, is to help inspire others to give to the same cause as well. And while the Kerr-Pegula athletics complex will still need further funding, Mullen does not see the need there affecting other donor needs elsewhere, notably, the Paine Science project. The longstanding renovations and construction on the Paine Science Building have now entered Phase II (approved by the Board at this meeting) of its original plan—continuing work on the building. One fear, Mullen mentioned, was that the need for donations for the Kerr-Pegula project would delay donations for the science project.

“But the point is to continue not only with the athletics,” Mullen said, “but with the science as well.”

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IN THE NEWS / Conflict in Syria Spreads Throughout Region



LUKE LAUER

STEPHEN HILL

Last week the United Nations envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, warned that if peace is not reached soon, then the crisis in Syria risks spilling over to the rest of the region. In the past month, there have been related conflicts in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon.

On Friday, October 19, a car bomb killed Lebanese Brigadier-General Wissam al-Hassan in central Beirut. The explosion killed eight other people and injured over seventy. Al-Hassan was a senior security official who expressed opposition to the regime of President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, which neighbours Lebanon.

The general's death incited a wave of protests against the Lebanese cabinet, which for the most part supports Assad's government. The main opposition party called for a resignation of Prime Minister Mikati and his cabinet. Mikati offered to resign, but President Michel Suleiman persuaded him to stay on for now.

Al-Hassan had been working to counter Syrian influence in Lebanon. In July Hassan was involved in exposing a bomb plot which led to the arrest of a high-ranking member of the Lebanese government. His investigations also led to the implication of Syria and Hezbollah in the assassination of Rafik al-Hariri, a previous prime minister of Lebanon. The UN investigation into that assassination noted that Al-Hassan's alibi was weak, and that he may have been complicit in the murder.

Beginning during Hassan's funeral on Sunday, gunfights were ongoing between Shi'ite and Sunni gunmen in Tripoli until Tuesday, while the Lebanese army tried to isolate and defuse the conflict. Al-Hassan was a Sunni Muslim, while al-Assad is a member of the Alawite sect of Shia Islam. The current violence seems to be linked to Lebanese supporters of various Syrian factions, although religious differences may also be a factor.

On Tuesday the army was able to arrange a cease-fire between the two factions, though some residents of Tripoli have reported

hearing sporadic gunfire. In total, ten people were killed and sixty-five were injured in the two days of fighting, with over one hundred suspects arrested since Sunday.

If the firefights flare up again, they risk tipping Lebanon out of its precarious balance between its constituent religious groups. It could then fall back into the violence and civil war which ravaged it from 1975-1990.

In Jordan, 11 men have been arrested on charges of terrorism, having planned to bomb several targets within the country. According to the Jordanian government, these men have links to both al-Qaeda and to jihadist rebels in Syria.

Only hours later, a Jordanian soldier was killed during overnight gunfights with Islamist extremists who were attempting to cross the border into Syria. Thirteen militants were captured during the skirmishes.

Jordan has recently been arresting scores of militants near its border with Syria to prevent them from crossing and joining Syrian jihadist rebels. Jordanian officials fear that the Syrian government would interpret this as an act of aggression and begin performing targeted strikes on Jordanian territory.

In this past month, tensions between the Syrian government and Turkey also rose after five Turkish civilians died when a Syrian mortar shell went across the border. On Tuesday, October 23, a Syrian anti-aircraft shell struck a medical facility in Turkey. While there have not yet been any reported casualties, this action only furthers the tension. Earlier this month the Turkish parliament authorized the deployment of Turkish soldiers across the Syrian border.

Brahimi had voiced hopes that the warring parties in Syria would arrange a cease-fire over Eid al-Fitr, but as the Muslim festival draws closer and the conflict spreads to surrounding countries, those hopes are dimming. Assad did not publicly commit to enter talks for such a cease-fire, and rebel leaders have declared them pointless.

Editorial Note: As of Wednesday October 24, the UN said that Damascus agreed to the cease-fire during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha. The Syrian government and most of the rebel leaders have agreed, though they did not specify if the commanders of the Free Syrian Army were also in agreement.

Stephen Hill is a senior history major

Java101 Robbed; Culprit Yet to Be Identified



LUKE LAUER

Helen Zaengle and Leah Doty, juniors, walk in to Java101 for a sweet treat.

ANDRÉ NELSON

An aspect of Houghton that might catch your eye if you are from out of town is the trust students seem to have with their possessions. Beyond the lack of cameras on Houghton's campus and the always-cheerful campus security, it is not uncommon to see laptops, cellphones and even wallets lying around the Campus Center lounge, unsupervised. Despite all of this, the rate of theft seems to be rather low.

Unfortunately, Houghton is not always spared of problems common to the rest of the world, namely, petty theft. On Wednesday, October 10, Java was robbed. The thieves remain unknown. Given the nature of the crime, the investigation has been put in the hands of Houghton's Safety and Security. If the state police had been contacted, according to Greg Bish, the Director of Student Programs and also owner of Java101, they would

have worked with and through Houghton's Security, so no official complaints have been filed with the State Police.

"We are a healthy college," stated Bish. However, in light of this theft, "we must remember to be careful."

"A question many of us should ask ourselves," stated Emily Rinehart, alumna, is, "do we start taking practical precautions or do we try and maintain this quintessential community as we know it?"

Senior religion major Dewayne Moore said, "The problem, too often, is that we have no cameras because we think we have 'Jesus cameras' everywhere." These so-called "Jesus cameras" didn't keep everyone from stealing.

Bish ended the interview stating that the important thing to remember is, "take responsibility for yourself and your possessions. Be good eyes and ears; if you see something, say something." ★



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

IMPACT ALLEGANY

Saturday, October 27, 2012

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Our Goal is 600 students. We will be going out to do community service projects in the local communities of Allegany County with a Christlike attitude.

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-AND-
FLOOR CREDIT

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that we’ve never had here.”

Bish said that he will bring a very healthy perspective but that he will probably spend “some time really wanting to know what the Houghton experience is like,” and that he will “help envision us and move us forward, maintaining that kind of Houghton experience for students in the future.”

All of this means that there might be some minor changes in the Student Life department in the future. For a start, Stack will be going back to his Dean of Students job instead of filling both positions.

“I’ll enjoy getting back to what I was doing. I found that very fulfilling,” said Stack. He said that he found this experience to be “stretching,” but also pointed out that “the beautiful thing about being stretched [is that] when you turn back to normalcy, you never turn back to the same place. You have more capacity than you thought.”

As far other potential changes in the Student Life department, Bish speculated that the office would stay true to the Houghton experience, but that it would look a little different with a different person in the Vice President of Student Life.

“I think any vision that comes, any changes that come, will be shared,” said Bish.

Pool is set to arrive in January in his new position. ★

KIITI from page 1

the summer; after hearing many powerful testimonies, Kiiti decided that they needed a video document of their work. So over October Break, she returned along with Steve McCord, a communication major with a concentration in media arts and visual communication, to record and document her research.

The results have been phenomenal thus far. According to Kiiti, representatives from Safaricom stated that they

were unaware of the amount of visually impaired that were affected by their services.

“The key importance is linking people’s reality and experience with policies,” stated Kiiti. “we need policy makers to understand what is happening on the ground.”

This research comes down to the importance of corporate social responsibility, especially to marginalized society. Her work impacts, and will continue to impact, how Safaricom makes poli-

cies. Kiiti maintains that video research can bridge the reality of people on the ground with the policies of these corporations for social change.

With the assistance of Houghton students in research and video documentation, Kiiti will be presenting her project and video at the IMTFI—University of California, Irvine’s Institute for Money, Technology and Financial Inclusion—Conference in January 2013. ★

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Another significant subject covered by the Board’s meeting was the granting of sabbaticals, extended periods of leave granted to professors for the sake of research in their fields. For the 2013-2014 academic year, three sabbaticals were granted. They were: Professor Mark Yuly, physics; Professor Kristina LaCelle-Petersen, religion and theology; Professor Ted Murphy, art.

As for the President’s Five-Year Plan, which was also approved at the meeting, it is a 5-year budget model that outlines plans that will contribute to the financial strength of the college.

“This laid out an anchor plan for progress and advancement plans and enrollment, which included things such as the Buffalo AA program [the Buffalo-based two-year degree] and the Adult Education program,” said Mullen. “The goal is for a sustainable long-term tra-

jectory of flourishing.”

Another approval by the Board was the Buffalo Associate of Arts degree—its projected start will now be fall semester 2014. Houghton is also looking at partnering with Eastern Nazarene College (in Boston, Massachusetts) in order to offer another such degree in New York City. There is potential for demand for such a degree in the area, Mullen said, due to the background of the city and its many churches.

The diversity audit approved by the Board is focused on assessing where Houghton is on the question of multi-ethnicity, and cultural diversity. It is a plan that has been in the works for about three years, and the idea was first put in place by former Academic Dean, Dr. Ron Mahurin, and by former Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Sharra Hynes.

“Houghton has long been kind to international students, but what

about domestic students of other back-

grounds?” Mullen said.

The audit will examine the level of ethnic diversity among faculty, students, college leadership, and also the curriculum. And while gender and socioeconomic diversity are factors, multi-ethnicity and cultural diversity are still the audit’s main focus.

Houghton will bring in Jane Higa, Vice President of Student Life at Westmont College, to perform the audit. While diversity questions can be of a delicate nature, Mullen is confident that Higa’s experience and long-term commitment to the complexities of diversity issues on Christian campuses will prove invaluable. The end result of the audit will be an action plan for the college to follow.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place February 8-9, 2013. ★

WORD ON THE STREET

Q: What was the most awesome thing you did over October Break?

A: I went to Washington DC to visit a friend, and I went to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History where I learned the pros and cons of having large brains in the Origin of Man (and Woman) section.

--Colin Lauer, senior



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

A: Hanging out with my family and getting sleep at home. Mostly stuff like talking, playing games, like Racko.

--Jenii Statt, freshman

A: I flew a kite and it was awesome! So they only have Barbie kites in the Campus Store, but that’s okay because Barbie’s awesome and it was so much fun!

--Marina Slavin, sophomore



LUKE LAUER



LUKE LAUER

A: I really didn’t do anything. I cleaned my apartment and I worked at Wilson Farms in Fillmore. I went to Buffalo to visit my parents, and hung out with my mentees. We did crazy Wal-Mart adventures.

--Nick Quigley, senior

Catch Current Gallery Show Before it Closes



Lauren Bull contemplates a painting on opening night

LYDIA WILSON

If you’ve glanced through the windows of the Center for the Arts recently while passing to and fro, you may have noticed some bright splotches of color dancing along the walls of the Orlip Gallery. An exhibit titled *Recent Paintings* by Stephanie McMahon has been on display since September 28, and there is still time to go see it before its removal on November 1.

Houghton initially formed a relationship with McMahon last year when she was a juror for the Student Juried Exhibition. Former Director of Exhibitions, Meagan Luhrs, asked McMahon to do a solo show this fall. The display itself was put together as collaboration between the artist and

current Director of Exhibitions, Renee Roberts. Roberts, along with gallery assistant Hannah Jennings, picked up the paintings from McMahon’s studio at Alfred and transported them to the Orlip Gallery.

“Hannah was instrumental in helping with the process and offered several excellent suggestions as to the arrangement of the paintings,” said Roberts. Both Jennings and Roberts worked with McMahon to rearrange and remove certain paintings until the artist was satisfied.

McMahon received her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Alfred University in 1998 and her Masters in 2004 from the University of Texas at Austin. Since her graduation from Alfred, McMahon has exhibited her pieces in over 30 group and solo shows nationwide. She has received multiple awards and fellowships for her work, performed three artist residencies, and served as a judge and panelist numerous times.

Despite these impressive accomplishments, Roberts described McMahon as “humble, candid, laid-back and fun,” saying that “working with Stephanie was fabulous—she is a vibrant artist and always willing to talk about her work... I couldn’t have asked to work with a better artist.”

Indeed, McMahon provides her viewers with a detailed artist statement, which describes her artistic process and gives a glimpse at how she interprets her own finished work. The paintings themselves are not representative of any recognizable forms, but McMahon says that she “begin[s] with visual references to the specific qualities and nature of observed spaces, objects and phenomena.”

The paintings are brightly colored and filled with spatial references; lines intersect and overlap, and one line may switch between layers or colors without changing course. This suggests a spontaneity that is reflected again in McMahon’s statement that “Each painting evolves independently as successive layers interact with previous actions... the works are not preconceived and discovery of the unknown keeps me engaged.”

Only eight paintings grace the walls of the gallery, and the leftover white spaces add a sense of clarity, allowing for heightened focus on each individual painting. Roberts described the paintings as “fluid and vibrant,” and said she

Artist Series Opens with Concertante

LIZZIE SPAULDING

Houghton College is welcoming Concertante Chamber Players to the stage this evening at 7:30 in the Wesley Chapel. Concertante Chamber Players had what some may consider an inauspicious start in 1995 as a string chamber orchestra. Since then, the group has traveled the world playing their music in places as diverse as Puerto Rico, Israel, and China.

This variety is understandable considering Concertante Chamber Players is composed of performers from all across the continents. The group’s regular members consist of Xiao-Dong Wang and Lisa Shihoten on the violin; Ara Gregorian and Brian Chen playing the viola; and Alexis Pia Gerlach and Zvi Plesser playing the cello.

During the 2012-2013 touring season, the group added extra members to their six-piece ensemble, otherwise known as a sextet, to make for an even fuller and more exciting sound. The original performers are joined by several additional artists including clarinetist Christopher Grymes, cellist Raman Ramakrishnan, horn player Eric Ruske, viola player Dov Scheindlin, musicologist James A. Grymes, and the three pianists Xak Bjerken, Adam Neiman and Miri Yampolsky.

The group will be playing pieces composed by Tchaikovsky, Haydn, and Elgar. Violinist Xiao-Dong Wang revealed that the program the group has prepared for Houghton is extremely orchestral.

“The first half consists of two pieces that are arrangements from Orchestral pieces,” Wang explained. “The Haydn Sinfonia Concertante is originally a

Concerto for solo Violin, Cello, Oboe and Bassoon with orchestra. Part of the reason we chose the piece was because it has the group’s name in the title of the piece which is Italian.” The name, Concertante, simply means ‘multiple soloists.’

On a personal level, Wang spoke of growing up in a family of musicians and how that shaped his career. Both of his parents were violinists, so playing the violin wasn’t something Wang ever really had a choice about. The passion he has now developed for the instrument did not come naturally when he first began playing at the age of four.

An intriguing side note on Wang’s career is the fact that his parents kept his violin lessons secret for a while, since he began lessons during the Culture Revolution in China. Wang said that his real love for the instrument began when he actually got on stage and started performing for others.

“It is the biggest reward to a performer for [him] to be able to stand in front of thousands of people and communicate with them with his instrument,” Wang said.

Wang is actually the artistic director and founding member of the group, and he said that having been involved with Concertante Chamber Players for the past fifteen years “has been one of the most rewarding musical experiences.”

“All we can hope,” said Wang, “is that [the audience] walks away with an experience, whatever that may be. Even if the experience was [one of] disliking the performance, it is still a thousand times better than listeners walking away feeling indifferent. The artist succeeds when he makes an impact.”

See CONCERTANTE on page 5

SPORTS RECAP

Men’s Soccer

Houghton 3-0 Alfred
Houghton 3-1 Point Park
Houghton 1-0 Elmira
Overall 9-5-1

Women’s Soccer

Houghton 2-1 PSU Behrend
Houghton 5-1 St. John Fisher
Houghton 3-2 Elmira
Overall 11-6

Volleyball

Houghton 3-0 Alfred
Houghton 0-3 SUNY Canton
Houghton 3-1 D’Youville
Houghton 3-1 Hilbert College
Overall 15-9

Field Hockey

Houghton 4-3 Mansfield
Houghton 0-2 W & J
Houghton 5-1 Morrisville
Houghton 2-3 Utica
Houghton 2-1 Brockport
Overall 8-6

All information from
<http://athletics.houghton.edu>

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Athlete Profile



Michael Amico

SHELBY WEIL

Michael Amico is a senior business administration major at Houghton College. Amico plays center defense mid on Houghton’s soccer team, and he has played soccer since he was four years old.

To Amico, the closeness and support of the soccer team is an encouragement. “The pre-season is probably the best time of the year, where it’s just us on campus,” said Amico. “In between practices, we’ll all get together and then at night, we’ll go to bonfires, and different people will share different devotions. The soccer team has the most impact on my spiritual life.”

Amico explained that Head

Coach Matthew Webb helped him become interested in playing soccer for Houghton in the first place.

“I played soccer until I was a junior in high school. And then I lost a love for it. I kind of quit and didn’t play for two years,” said Amico. “And then I came to Houghton on a basketball recruiting visit, and the soccer coach heard that I played soccer before, and he asked for a one-on-one try-out, so I went and kicked the ball around with him, and he said, ‘I think you can play. Would you like to play here?’ I was able to play both.”

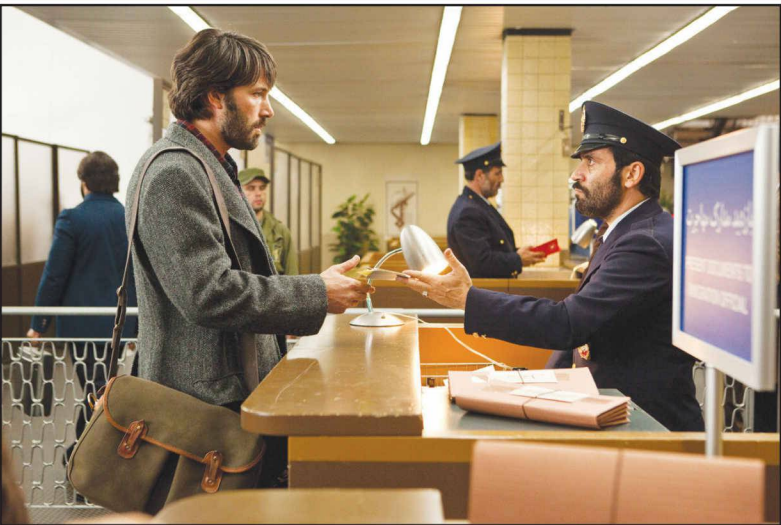
Coach Webb “played a role in restoring my love for soccer, and he manages his team very well,” Amico said. “He keeps the morale really high.”

Fellow teammate Jonathan Figueroa said that Amico “is athletic, smart on the field, and tough, which makes him a force to be reckoned with. He is the kind of guy that definitely leads by example, pushing himself the hardest during sprints or going in hard in tackle during the game, he gets the job done.”

Amico’s goal for his soccer season is to win the NCCAA tournament that is held in Florida this year. Already this fall he has scored four goals and assisted in several shutouts.

Figueroa described Amico as “one of the hardest working guys on the team,” saying that he is very “selfless and always willing to give a helping hand” and that “despite all of the recognition that Mike has gotten, he is probably one of the most humble guys I know.”

Thrilling Dramatization of Iranian Hostage Crisis



Ben Affleck as Tony Mendez in Argo

KATHERINE BAKER

Argo is a dramatization of the 1980 hostage crisis in Iran based on true declassified events. It is a gripping film, and actor-director Ben Affleck proves to be a great storyteller despite his flatline performance as the lead character.

Argo begins with a newsreel-style prologue detailing the historical events leading up to the hostage crisis. The audience learns about the CIA-backed Iranian coup in 1953 deposing democratically-elected Mohammad Mosaddegh because he nationalized the oil business. The coup resulted in the installment of the U.S. ally, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who abused Iranian citizens for 26 years before he fled to the U.S. for asylum.

This brief yet poignant introduction points to the most ironic aspect of the film; it tells the story of how CIA agent Tony Mendez, played by an insipid Affleck, cleaned up a mess that the U.S. created itself 27 years earlier. These events are yet another chapter in the complicated tale of the ways U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East has been shaped by demand for oil.

Tensions against the U.S. were rising in Iran after the Shiite revolution overthrowing the hated Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and they culminated in a mob storming the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979. Affleck’s recreation of this event is very powerful, with actual footage incorporated to add an element of realism.

The film centers on the six Americans who managed to escape from the embassy

when it was stormed. They hide out in the Canadian ambassador’s house, and the longer they are there the more immediate the need for their extraction becomes. Although their story is the focus of the movie, the characters of the six fugitives are not portrayed as terribly interesting, and the audience doesn’t learn much about them as individuals.

There is some comedic relief in the middle of the film as Affleck’s character develops his outrageous plan to rescue the six fugitives. He proposes that the CIA stage the filming of a fake science fiction movie titled “Argo” and that they give the fugitives bogus credentials so they can fly out of the country with him as his film crew as though they had just flown into Tehran together a couple days earlier on a location scout.

Although the idea is far-fetched, the CIA has nothing better and Affleck’s character ends up in the Canadian ambassador’s home helping the fugitives memorize their cover identities. What follows is a series of hair-raising close calls and suspenseful escapes, most of which are Hollywood flair added to embellish the story. These additions seem unnecessary in light of the already fantastic real life events that the movie is highlighting.

Despite its flaws, *Argo* is a dramatic thriller that is worth a trip to the theaters. Skip out on that low-budget horror flick or that average sequel for a film calling attention to an important and fascinating incident in U.S. history.

Field Hockey Strengthens Amid Transition

LAUREL WROBLICKY

Spending time in the bus, eating meals, and playing on the field together all semester long, the women’s field hockey team has spent plenty of time getting to know one another. Bonds made throughout the season will help the girls finish as a team on the field.

“We would like to better our record from last year,” said Coach Rachael Snelgrove as she identified her goals for the rest of the season. “And just continue to better each individual player so, as a team, we are growing each and every day. We learn from our games, whether it’s a win or a loss, and take that to our practices.”

“Practices are a little more clear cut because Coach can spend only so much time with us,” said sophomore Tyler Reese on the school’s transition to NCAA. “Apparently, before I came, she used to do some one on one time with players, but now she can’t because it’s against the rules.”

With the dissolution of the American Mideast Conference (AMC) and Houghton’s subsequent transition to NCAA Division III Empire 8, there are new regulations the teams must follow. While all AMC participants have had to move to various conferences and experienced changes in their athletic programs, Houghton teams have been affected by physical changes brought to campus as well.

“We love the new turf, that’s a big part of our game [in] how we train,” said junior Adria Bridgwood. “We are a very fast team and other teams know that.”

The women’s field hockey team has adjusted well to the transition to NCAA with their stats reflecting their success. Last year, the women had an overall record of 9-7. As of now, their record this season is 7-6 and they have four more games to play, not including post-season.

The team was smaller last season with only fourteen girls compared to this year’s roster of seventeen. The team

graduated two defenders, Ashley Daigler and Jillian Watts, and brought in six new players.

Elaborating on the change in team dynamics, Reese said, “We lost a big part of our defense last year because both seniors were very good defenders. But, the younger classmen have stepped up to fill their positions this year.”

“We’ve developed a very close team,” Bridgwood said. “One team goal is just taking the bond we have off the field and applying it out on the field.”

Snelgrove highlighted the play of several seniors on the team. “It’s nice that we’ve got Ashley [Engle] in the forward line, Rachel [Stefanski] in the midfield, and Sierra [Mitchell] in the back field...And our goalkeeper, Hillery [Duman], has been doing really great as well,” Snelgrove said.

Senior Ashley Engle was awarded Offensive Player of the Week on October 21 by the Empire 8 Conference. She was honored for scoring eight goals in the two games against Morrisville and Utica the Highlanders played that week.

The players have attributed this season’s positive contrast with last season to a number of factors, such as the new field, new team members and their individual skills and talents, their hard work, and most significantly, the bonds they have made with each other.

“Our best games have been those when we are communicating well with each other,” said Bridgwood. This is “a result of how close we have become.”

Regarding this season as a whole, Snelgrove said, “What we as coaches mainly look for is...progress from day to day in practice and in games. This last game [against Morrisville] was our best game so far and because of that I think it has been successful so far.”

ART GALLERY *from page 4*

is “energized every time [she] walk[s] into the gallery. [She] appreciate[s] that [McMahon’s] paintings demand a second, third, and fourth look.”

The artist herself seems to agree with Roberts’ take, expressing in her statement that “some passages appear to float to the surface while further inspection reveals an armature embedded beneath.” The way McMahon speaks about her own paintings implies that she sees them almost as living, changing beings, and in some ways they are.

Trap, one of the pieces currently on display, seems to shift with every glance, as lines dart forward and back amidst chunks of vivid color. *Glimmer* has a depth brought about by membrane-like layers of similar colors, with drips where the paint has thinned appearing like peepholes to the next color.

Junior Lauren Bull greatly enjoyed her visit to the gallery, and she encouraged others to experience it for themselves. “It’s the kind of art that you can get the most out of by viewing it alone, letting it sink in at your own pace... you can look at a painting almost indefinitely. The longer you look the more you see, and the deeper it draws you in,” Bull said.

CONCERTANTE *from page 4*

Students who want to attend tonight’s performance can get free tickets at the base of the stairs in the campus center during meal times. Any faculty and staff who hope to attend must contact the Music Office. Free tickets will not be available at the door.

Things to Do

KATHERINE BAKER

It’s not every day that a brand-new restaurant comes to the Houghton area. But that’s exactly what happened just north on Route 19 in Fillmore on October 1 when Rolland’s Divine Diner opened its doors to eager, hungry customers.

The *Star* staff was intrigued by this new arrival, so last Wednesday night we headed to the diner together for some dinner before working on layout. I had some delicious grilled cheese, Andre ate a double-decker club sandwich that would hardly fit in his mouth, Emma had a mushroom and Swiss burger, Monica ordered eggplant Parmesan, and Luke tried a ricotta ham and mushroom calzone. As you can see below, we have documented our trip with some extremely flattering photographs.

We had a great time talking together and bonding over a meal. After our entrees, we topped off the

evening with some savory pumpkin pie that was smothered in fresh whipped cream.

The diner’s prices were reasonable, and there was plenty of seating available. The one comment I would make is that there are not many vegetarian options. But when you and your friends want to go out to eat together, you can now add Rolland’s Divine Diner to your repertoire of possibilities. It’s always nice to have more options.



The Star staff sharing a meal together at Rolland’s Divine Diner

Local Politics Matters, But So Does National Politics



LUKE LAUER

CHRIS HARTLINE

A few weeks ago, Andre wrote an editorial arguing that the thoughts and actions of people like us are better spent focused on local politics, rather than national politics. With the presidential campaign between Mitt Romney and Barack Obama in the critical phase, the coverage has been almost incessant, with little talk of local politics, unless you're a nerd and read the *National Journal* or *The Hill*.

I wanted to give some perspective as a recent graduate and someone who currently lives in Washington, DC.

Andre was right when he says that local politics are important, but I don't think he went local enough. He argued that disenchanted voters should focus on the congressional race between Tom Reed and Nate Shinawaga, but members of Congress are not local politicians; they represent voters from a specific district in Washington, DC. So in the national/local divide, most people would put them in the national category. There are, however, local issues and

local politicians that warrant much greater attention.

For instance, the State Assemblyman representing Houghton is Daniel Burling and the State Senator is Catharine Young. Allegany County has three elected officials in its government – Sheriff (Rick Whitney), County Clerk (Robert Christman), and County Treasurer (Terri Ross). If you want to go more local, the Town Clerk of Caneadea is Dorothy Lendel and Houghton's own Professor Ron Oakerson holds a very part-time, but very important position in the Caneadea government.

Nate Shinagawa may take a strong stance on fracking, but most of the decisions on that issue are being made at the state and local level, in Albany and in Belfast (the Allegany County seat), along with decisions about education, infrastructure, and taxes, to name just a few issues. So if you feel like you're not being represented in Washington, but desire to be involved in the political process, get involved in local politics that are actually local. I'm sure Professor Oakerson would love to help you with that.

But I also want to take issue with something else Andre said in his editorial. He asked the question of whether the presidential election really matters, whether there is really a substantive difference between

Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. While I agree with him that our congressional representatives are important, discounting the importance of the presidential election is a mistake.

It has become commonplace among our generation to say that our elected officials fail to adequately represent us and shrug off politics as a meaningless nuisance. This view, while prevalent, is both naïve and dangerous; it is to some extent the reason why our country, and our generation, face many of the issues we do.

In 2008, 57% of the total voting age population turned out to vote, but only 51% of all eligible voters between the ages of 18-29. And that number of millennials is actually an increase from a historic low of 40% in 1996. During that period, the government has racked up trillions of dollars in debt, engaged in two wars and myriad other conflicts, and refused to reform major entitlement programs. The result is that our generation will feel the burden of austerity and sacrifice more so than others.

Simply put, politicians do not take the future ramifications of their actions into account because we don't vote enough to be relevant.

So voting is important, but so is the choice between the two candidates. It is

true that President Obama, particularly in the arena of foreign policy, has continued, and even expanded, some of the policies of the Bush administration and that Mitt Romney would probably do the same. The most notable instance is the use of drones, but it is a relatively insignificant issue in this election and, at least in my opinion, a wholly rational and positive development in American foreign policy.

But when it comes to the pressing issues of our time, Mitt Romney and Barack Obama embody two divergent visions of an American future. Should government be a major player in the economy or should it simply create an environment where the private sector can thrive? Does tax fairness necessitate the rich paying a greater share or should the tax code emphasize capital formation and economic growth? What areas of government spending should be targeted for cuts?

This presidential election is one of the most important elections in recent memory. The outcome will determine the trajectory of both the American economy and the role of government for decades to come. Being involved in local politics is a great thing, and I would recommend it to anyone. But don't discount the presidential election. It matters to everyone, but particularly to us, the uninterested millennials. ★

Chris Hartline graduated in May from Houghton College with a degree in political science.

This presidential election is one of the most important elections in recent memory. The outcome will determine the trajectory of both the American economy and the role of government for decades to come.

Ex Mea Sententia / In Any Other Context



LUKE LAUER

ANDRE NELSON

Athletes are gods. Let's face it, we idolize professional athletes and raise them above everyone else. They can do no wrong. When people try to convict them of wrong doings we find ways of brushing the accusations away. If it is an athlete we dislike, or an athlete of a team we dislike, sure, we'll let them take responsibility. But we consistently let our heroes off the hook for their more irresponsible actions.

We treat them differently and expect authorities to treat them differently. And when they are not treated differently, God forbid, we will post angry Facebook statuses expressing our utter disgust at the fact that our sometimes steroid-filled, sometimes financially shady, sometimes pedophilic, often disgraced idol had his or her hand slapped. What do our reactions to sports scandals say about our integrity?

The world of sports always has and always will be fraught with scandals. You don't need to look far to find dirt to throw around. Karim Benzema and Franck Ribéry, two world-class soccer players, were put on trial in August for hiring an underage prostitute. Michael Vick, quarterback in the NFL, served time for his involvement in a dog-fighting

ring. Joe Paterno and Jerry Sandusky were both involved in the Pennsylvania State University sex abuse scandal. And most recently, Lance Armstrong has been in the news concerning his involvement, along with much of the U.S. Postal Service's team, in what the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said was, "the most sophisticated, professionalized and successful doping program that sport has ever seen."

These are just a few of the thousands of scandals that have occurred in organized sports from college levels to professional standards world-wide. Sometimes these scandals directly impact the sport, such as the use of steroids and the paying of referees, and other times they simply involve the athletes outside of the context of their respective sports, such as the sex scandals and dog fighting.

What I find both fascinating and disturbing are the reactions caused by some of the more atrocious scandals. When Benzema and Ribéry were accused of hiring an underage prostitute, the judge was quick to dismiss the case on the grounds that they "did not know she was underage."

When Joe Paterno was fired from Penn State, the support people gave him was astounding. A quick search on Facebook will give you an idea of the way people see him, with fan pages such as: "Support Joe Paterno," "Keep Joe Paterno," "Save Joe Paterno," and many more, all of which have followings reaching into the tens of thousands. Yet this man deliberately turned a blind eye to the crimes of a pedophile. Granted, the situation is more complex than can be addressed in 800 words, but the fact is that his lack of action has ruined the lives of many young boys, who will never be able to escape from the memories of a few minutes with Jerry Sandusky.

And a slightly less grim, but nevertheless scandalous, event in the world of sports has been the recent "conviction" of Lance Armstrong regarding the alleged doping spree that led him to win 7 consecutive Tour de France titles. Overall reactions have been overwhelmingly sympathetic towards Armstrong.

But take him out of the context of sports. If any other person—non—"world-class" athlete—had been found doing something illegal that enhanced their job performance, we would have no issue punishing them. If anybody else had been discovered in a sexual relationship with an underage prostitute, we would have no problem throwing them in jail. If any other individual had been caught dealing in vicious animal fights, we would not think twice about their sentencing.

In trying to justify the actions of athletes for no other reason than their status as an athlete, what does that say about our character? Would you defend the actions of a pedophile, a drug user, a cheater or a criminal if they weren't winning titles? In any other context you would probably treat them very differently. Our avid support of athletes in any context, when put next to our condemnation of the average, nameless criminal, sheds light on our lack of personal integrity. This is hypocrisy. ★

Andre is a senior communication major

Our avid support of athletes in any context, when put next to our condemnation of the average, nameless criminal, sheds light on our lack of personal integrity.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK / Combating Feelings of Low Political Efficacy



LUKE LAUER

KATHERINE BAKER

I would be willing to bet that many of us struggle with feelings of low political efficacy. It is easy to feel like you have no influence on political affairs or the actions of your leaders, especially at a national level.

One example of the way in which my own feelings of political efficacy are threatened is the recent landmark Supreme Court decision in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010) case. The Court's ruling held that independent political expenditures by corporations and unions are covered under the First Amendment and thus cannot be restricted by the government.

It is frustrating that corporations are being given rights that I consider to be set out for individuals, especially considering the fact that corporations generally have more money to spend on politics than do individuals. It is beginning to feel like the government is no longer for the people, but is instead for the corporations.

When politicians rely on the support of voters for reelection, they are held accountable by their constituents. They must serve the interests of the people in

order to remain popular. When politicians rely on financial support from corporate backers for reelection, they are instead accountable to the interests of corporations in order to receive funding for their campaigns. Can corporations essentially buy elections now? That thought definitely gives me a feeling of helplessness, but I try not to completely give in to it.

While my point is that you are not alone in having doubts about your political efficacy, I still want to encourage you to have faith in our political system. The easy thing is to criticize the political process as irrelevant and hopeless, but where does that leave us? Without any hope for improvement or faith in the system, we may as well sit back and watch as those in power make choices we consider to be detrimental to our rights. In fact, that is what many of us choose to do, and it is a destructive decision.

One aspect of political efficacy is internal; that is, beliefs about whether you can understand politics. If you don't believe you can understand politics, you probably won't feel as though you can participate in the political process. The first step towards feeling a higher level of internal political efficacy is to educate yourself on the issues.

Our generation does not have any problem accessing information quickly and easily; in fact, we instead suffer from an information overload. You can 'Google' the different candidates, different issues, and different parties, and receive hundreds of millions of responses in less than a second. The difficulty we face is being able to

sort through that information and make decisions about what is important and what to trust. That is why we need the media.

In a postmodern era, many of us dismiss the press because we do not believe objectivity is possible. Journalists Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel argue in their updated version of *The Elements of Journalism* that the mistake we make is seeing objectivity as an aim rather than a method. Journalists cannot personally be objective, but their professional discipline of verification can be.

Although journalists always carry a personal bias, they strive for an objectivity in method that news aggregator sites and partisan journalists do not aim for. News aggregators do not pull forward certain pieces of information over others; they leave the task of deciding what is important to the audience. Partisan journalists gather and present information supporting only one stance, merely "affirming the preconceptions of the audience," in Kovach and Rosenstiel's words.

You must do your part as a responsible citizen by not just checking news aggregators like *Huffington Post* or following partisan journalists such as Ann Coulter or Al Franken but instead getting your news from reputable sources, be they the mainstream media, the alternative press, or opinion journalism magazines. As long as these different publications hold to the same objectivity of method, their different styles of presentation are not detrimental to their news value.

In addition to staying informed, it is essential to make your voice heard. This

brings me to the external aspect of political efficacy, or beliefs about whether your participation in the system has an effect on leaders and policies. Whether you get involved by participating in a march for life, an Occupy rally, or even by tweeting or posting statuses on Facebook that stimulate intelligent political debate among friends, your involvement is important.

In case you are wondering what possible social and political causes you can work for while living in Houghton, you may be able to take some inspiration from the Concerned Citizens of Allegany County, CCAC.

From 1989 to 1990 CCAC and other groups used civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance to protest the placement of a nuclear waste dump in Allegany County. You can read more about their efforts online at Swarthmore College's Global Nonviolent Action Database, but the long and short of it is that because of their actions the nuclear dump was never built. CCAC is still active today, and they are now working to keep fracking out of Allegany County.

I am not necessarily encouraging you to get involved in fracking protests; instead, I am encouraging you to get involved with those social, political, and environmental issues that are closest to your heart. By being both informed and involved, you will feel a greater sense of political efficacy, and you will have more confidence that your vote will carry some weight in this election. ★

Katherine is a senior psychology and sociology major

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I want to comment on the article "A Critique of Creating an 'Ethic of Service'" in the October 12 issue of the Star about this Saturday's upcoming "Make a Difference Day: Impact Allegany." I think the article was very well-written, and I think the writer is correct that we should not just focus on how Make a Difference Day benefits Houghton students, but also how this day of community service can lead us to form connections with residents and organizations of Allegany County. To me, the title of the article came across as a bit negative (a "critique" on the "ethic of service"), but actually the article seemed to be very positive. I believe the article was saying that Make a Difference Day is a great event for Houghton students to support, but we need to keep in mind that it's not just about us in our "Houghton community." I totally agree.

I hope that this day of service sparks a desire in students to follow up with people in Allegany County with whom we work on Make a Difference Day. I would love to see students connecting with residents of surrounding communities whom we help out on Saturday, and even stay in contact with them beyond

Saturday's events. In addition, students will gain awareness through this event about what organizations and charities exist in Allegany County to benefit local residents. Now that they know the organizations that are out there, students may decide to participate in long-term service opportunities with these groups during their time at Houghton. Students may be able to refer local people they know to these groups or organizations because they know about the work these groups do in the county. All these are ways that a day of community service can have a lasting impact on Allegany County.

Joel Ernst,
Class of 2013; SGA President

The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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ARTIST OF THE WEEK

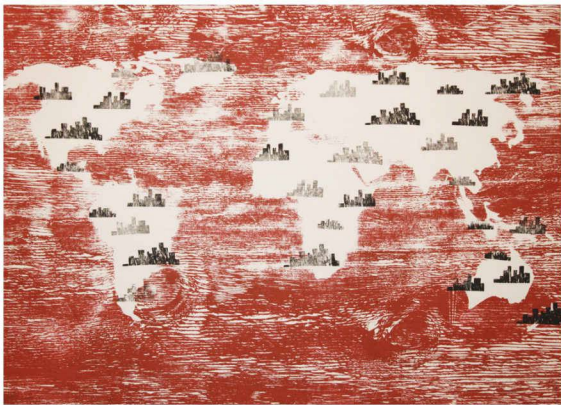


LUKE LAUER

MEGHAN VANDERKRUK

Printing allows me to share ideas.
Printing allows me to make mistakes.
Printing allows me to break rules.
Printing allows me to create meaning.
Printing allows me to express passion.
Printing allows me to glorify God.
I will never stop printing.

Meghan is a junior double majoring in art and business, with a concentration in management, and minoring in French.



Minplenty series No.5: "We Couldn't Stop"
Wood Relief Monotype



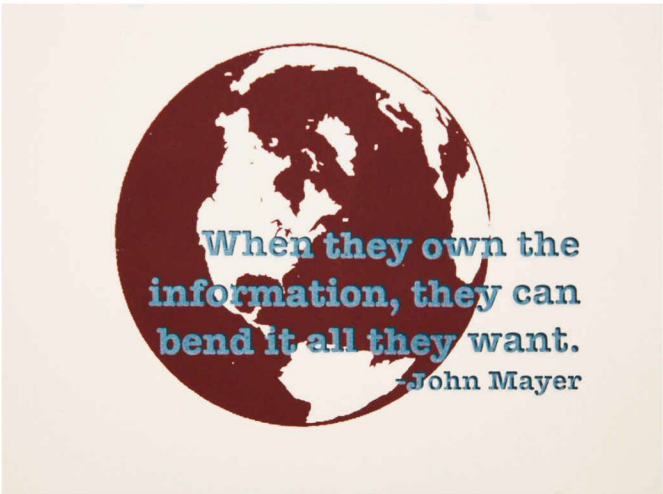
Twinkle, Twinkle, Screen Print



Miniplenty series No.7: "Help Us Remember"
Wood Relief Monotype

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Waiting on the World to Change, Screen Print

To enter a drawing for a free Java drink, bring your finished puzzle, clearly marked with your full name and CPO, to the Star office in the basement of the Campus Center by 6PM on WED 10/31.

Last week's winner was JOYCE CRISSMAN! Your Java card will be sent to you through campus mail.

Crossword Solution from 10/12

I	T	E	M	S		V	A	T			P	A	P	A
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