

# HOUGHTON

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

EVERYDAY  
FAITHFULNESS

KRISTINA VAN DYK '05  
L.A.-BASED WARDROBE STYLIST





## HOUGHTON COLLEGE

VOLUME 90, NO. 1 | SPRING/SUMMER 2015

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# Welcome to the 175<sup>th</sup> issue of *Houghton*!

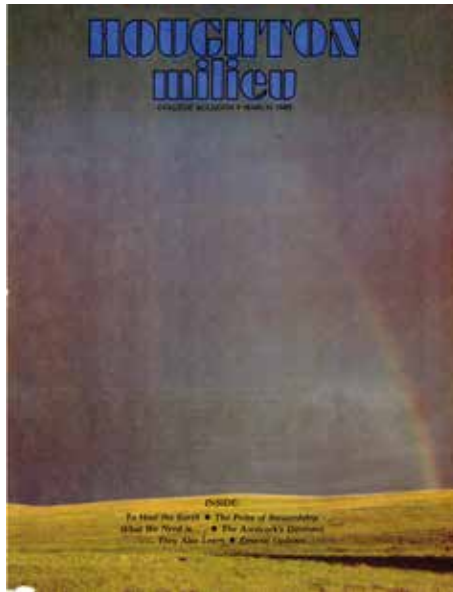
In 1970, **Dean Liddick '60**, Director of Public Information at Houghton, inaugurated a new publication for Houghton alumni and friends called *Milieu*. The new magazine format replaced what had formerly been a series of three newsletter-style publications.

The first issue was deemed an “experiment” that sought to convey the “flavor and effectiveness of today’s Houghton” via features, campus news and alumni stories. The magazine has evolved over the last 45 years, varying in size, length and the number of issues printed per year.

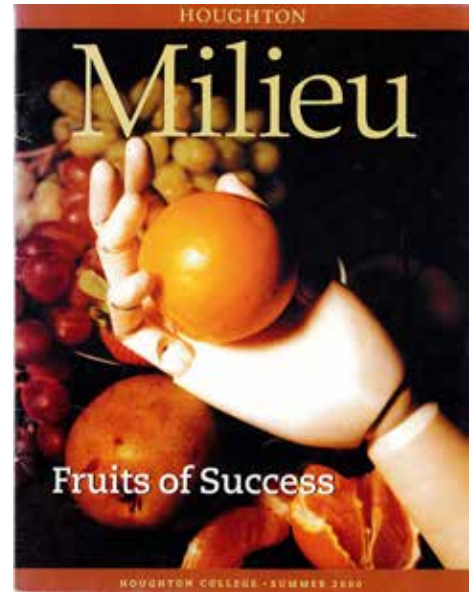
Today, the magazine we call *Houghton* exists to communicate the values and vision of the college, to connect alumni from across the decades, and to engage and encourage readers in their Christian faith, vocations and service throughout the world.



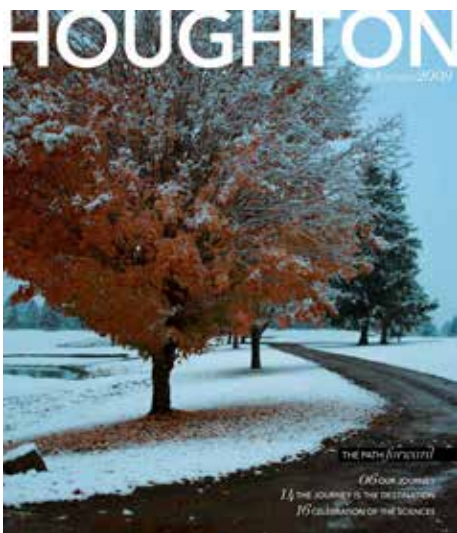
First issue, December 1970



First full-color cover, March 1985



New cover design, Summer 2000



First issue called *Houghton*,  
Fall/Winter 2009

## Cover Trivia

Which campus building most often graced the cover of *Milieu/Houghton*?

- A. Luckey Memorial
- B. Fancher Hall
- C. Wesley Chapel

Turn to page 34 to find the answer!

## Editors

*Milieu/Houghton* has had eight editors over the years, with Dean Liddick presiding over an unprecedented 130 issues.

## Stats

**175:** number of printed issues\*

\*Every statistic these days has an asterisk, including this one. The 175 issues include only printed issues. This does not include an online issue that was published in October 2006.

**4,380:** number of pages in all 175 magazines from the first in December 1970 to the one that you hold in your hands today.

## In today's marketplace, "brand" is everything.

Companies spend millions of dollars on advertising that will set their products apart in the minds of consumers, increase their perceived value, and ultimately result in greater market share. Colleges and universities are increasingly taking part in this rush to stake out highly specified market niches, cultivate name recognition, and be known for something that is unique and valued in the open marketplace of higher education.

The challenge for Houghton in this marketing arena is that our "brand"—the compelling "something" that makes a Houghton education worthwhile, today as much as ever—is best witnessed in the lives of our alumni. Our alumni are the Houghton brand, much as St. Paul told the Corinthians: "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all" (II Corinthians 3:2).

How does one convey the richness of the lives of our alumni in a soundbite or tagline? Day in and day out, Houghton alumni live out the commitments and habits that became second nature to them as a result of their Houghton education. They do not have to think about whether they will be generous with their lives, whether they will care about the rest of the world, whether they will be people of integrity, or whether they can be depended upon. They do not have to think about being committed to lifelong curiosity and adventure or letting their Christian faith and their disciplinary training speak to each other. They do not have to think about living integrated lives, being creative with the gifts that God gave them, or living out of gratitude and joy. This is just who they are.

I have had several tangible glimpses recently of the power of the Houghton brand through the lives of individual alumni. Two of them came as a result of funerals where I was asked to speak on behalf of the college. The two individuals had different personalities and different gifts, but both were marked by lifelong commitment to exploration and discovery, excellence in the workplace, service, and stewarding their lives as gifts from God. The Houghton brand showed in the concentric circles of people who showed up to pay tribute to the impact of these individuals on their lives and their communities.

Fortunately, I don't always have to wait until a funeral to hear about the impact of the Houghton brand. The chair of Houghton's accreditation review told me that he agreed to chair the review because a long-time member of his faculty, a Houghton alumnus, was a person of great professional commitment and personal maturity. He wanted to see a place that could produce an individual like that.



In this issue of *Houghton*, we celebrate living examples of the Houghton brand. We are thankful to each alum who lives out the mark of his or her Houghton education day in and day out in this country and around the world. Our "brand" is not easy to capture in a slogan, but, in the end, it is the kind that truly matters. ■

Grace and Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shirley A. Mullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Shirley A. Mullen, Class of 1976  
President



# THE JOY IN THE FIGHT

Matthew Dean '15



Houghton is the place where countless students have received their calling from the Lord. **Justin** and **Hannah (Prentice '13)**

**Bowersox '12** received theirs during a Mayterm in Buffalo. One evening, Justin and Hannah—who were dating at the time and are now married—put their creative minds together and wrote five worship songs. That night sparked a fire in their hearts to pursue music as a vessel to reach the lost.

Upon returning to campus in the fall, Hannah and Justin recruited two other talented musicians. **Justin “Mosy” Moser '13** and **Dan Larson '13** joined on the spot, and the band now known as *Samecity* was born.

Committed to pursuing music with all of their energy and resources, the four friends accepted any and every gig they could. Hannah describes their college playing days “We were very ambitious but definitely did not understand how things worked. Our expectations were constantly crushed, but we continued to play in the most random places, sometimes driving five hours for a thirty-minute set. Even though we rarely got paid, something made us want to keep pursuing this lifestyle.”

After graduation, the group prayerfully sought God's will for the next step in their ministry. Was music their vocational calling, or was it time to go their separate ways? The group unanimously decided to move to music capital Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue their calling.

The decision to leave family and friends to embark upon an adventure of uncertainty was one that "didn't make a lot of sense to people," admitted Justin. Despite the naysayers, the lack of connections, and unfamiliarity with the city, they felt confident that God had big things in store for them in Nashville.

The transition from Houghton to Nashville has, at times, proven frustrating, but it has also been fulfilling. "Due to the sheer volume of musicians in Nashville, the competition can be extremely fierce and intimidating when first entering the scene," said Dan. "On the flip side, being surrounded by musicians and producers can be extremely rewarding once you do start making those connections." The band is finally starting to reap the rewards of their patience. They have gained some invaluable connections that have allowed them to record and produce their music in

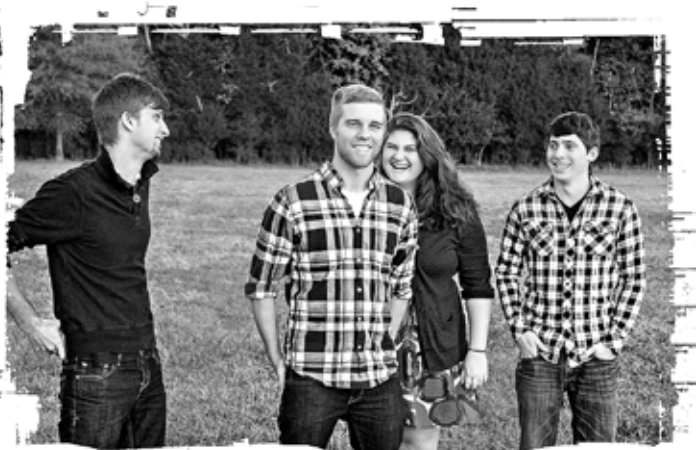
Dark Horse Studios, a music studio that has yielded albums from artists such as Relient K, Tenth Avenue North and Taylor Swift.

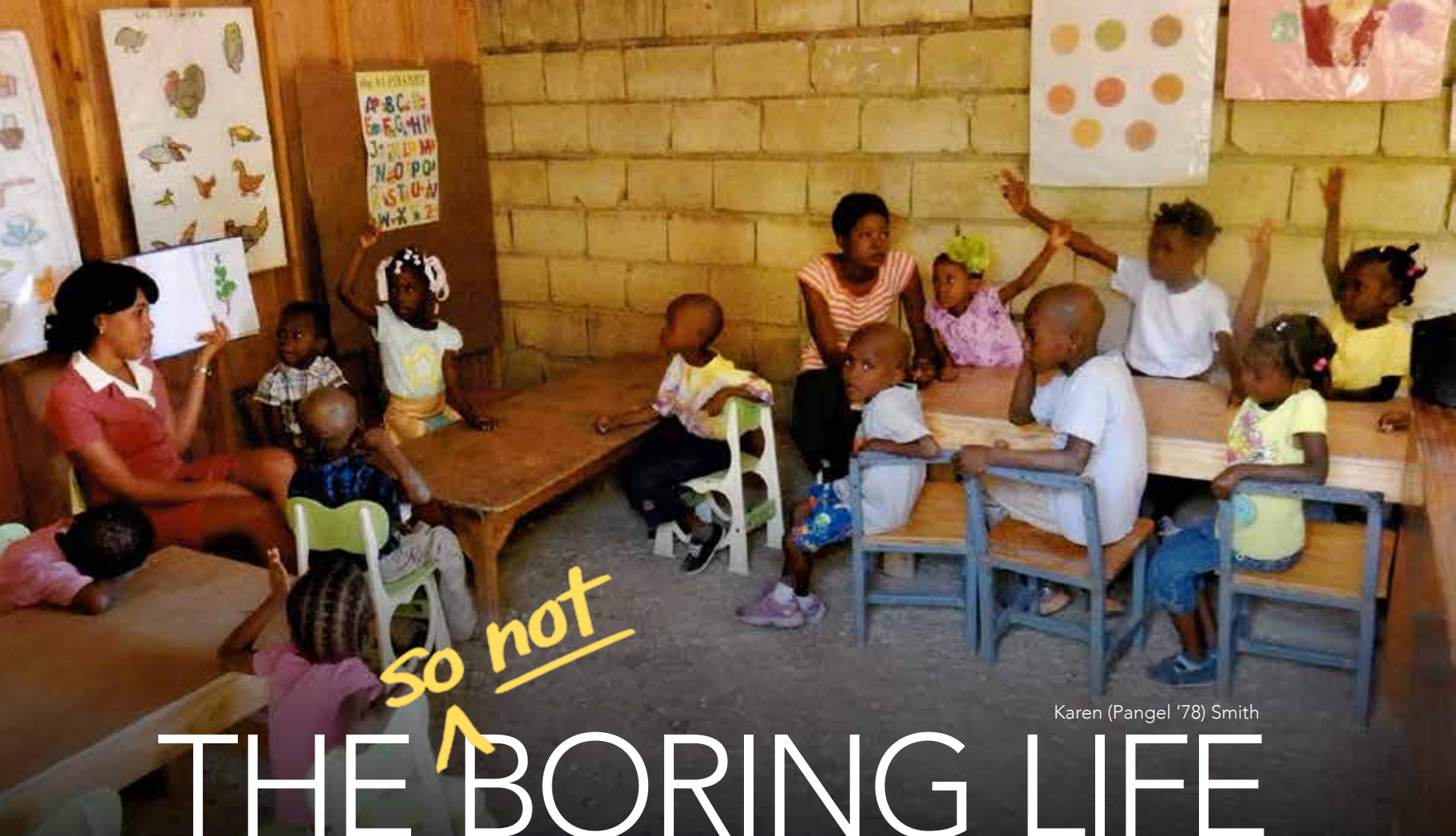
Each member of the band is balancing life as a musician with a "regular" day job. Hannah is a tutor, Justin waits tables, and Dan and Justin both work in retail. The physical and emotional strain has taken a toll on each of them. "After being here a year and a half, there are definitely days when we feel like we have no more left to give, we're exhausted from having basically two full-time jobs, and we're wondering if our hard work will ever pay off," explained Hannah. "Ultimately, we feel like God is calling us to this, and however tired we get, the joy of sharing Christ's love with others constantly fills us up again, and we are encouraged to keep fighting for this dream."

Providing encouragement and staying positive has been essential in maintaining morale and healthy relationships within the group. The most uplifting moments of their ministry occur when they hear stories from those whose lives they have touched. After one concert, a woman approached the band in tears. She recounted the story of her sister who had recently passed away and expressed that their song "There's An Ocean" was instrumental in keeping her going through her grief.

"That's why we're doing what we're doing," asserts Hannah. "Not to get the thanks but to hear how God is using our music to touch the lives of people." ■

THE JOY OF SHARING  
CHRIST'S LOVE WITH OTHERS  
CONSTANTLY FILLS US  
UP AGAIN, AND WE ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO KEEP  
FIGHTING FOR THIS DREAM.





Karen (Pangel '78) Smith

# THE BORING LIFE

I came to Houghton as a freshman in 1974, a new believer from a non-Christian background.

Vividly and emotionally, I recall the first time I heard “And Can It Be” and “It Is Well With My Soul” in chapel. With little Biblical knowledge and even less exposure to missions, I was the proverbial sponge ready to soak it all in. Bible with Dr. Carl Schultz was a revelation to me, and Life of Christ with Dr. Warren Woolsey was just astounding. Volunteering with Allegany County Outreach fueled my desire to train to be a teacher and then go out into my world next door and teach the disenfranchised and those with special needs. The Holy Land trip with Dr. Larry Mullen (a favorite of my husband, [Douglas Smith '78](#)) was thrilling and heart wrenching as I saw intense, abject poverty for the first time.

Graduation brought a compulsion to further my education with a master’s degree in special education. This was achieved while Doug was in medical school and residency. I taught abused and neglected children for several years which drove home to me what I had come to learn at Houghton—that there is a mission field all around us.

Two decades and many “mission fields” later, I looked up at the screen at church to read about a new ministry launched by Samaritan’s Purse, The Children’s Heart Project, which brought children with life-threatening heart issues to the U.S. for surgery. A host family





was needed to house two Mongolian toddlers in dire need of life-saving surgery. The babies would come with their mothers (nomadic herdsman) and an interpreter. The children would recoup from surgery at the host's home for six to eight weeks. This had my attention.

Next, smiling down from the screen, was a picture of two of the most exquisite faces—which I later came to know as belonging to Nyamsurin and Anujin. Now this had my heart.

I was bowled over with the thought of a mission opportunity right in our own home with involvement—and sacrifice—by our entire family. A teen friend's words resonated in my mind: "but Mama Smith...I just think the Christian life is so boring."

*We would see.*

Fast-forward 12 years, 18 international kids and their caregivers from five countries (Mongolia, Kenya, Kosovo, Honduras and Haiti), and 10 interpreters—toddlers, teens, children and adults from Muslim, Buddhist, Animist, Atheist and Christian backgrounds. Poor and destitute, they came for heart surgery, and many found a heart change, too. Moms saw their dying children brought back to health when they thought there was no hope and were told of the

One who is our only hope. What an honor to be a witness to their transformation.

On one occasion, a local philanthropic group needed a host family for a Haitian toddler scheduled for heart surgery. This family came with a few caveats: there would be no translator, and the mom was pregnant, but only about five months according to the nuns who had examined her. Off we went to the airport to pick up an adorable toddler in rags with the telltale blue-tinged skin and her mother, also in rags and enormously pregnant. Less than 24 hours later, at 3:00 a.m., I heard a distinctive newborn cry and found a strapping seven-pound baby boy with a full head of hair squalling on our bathroom floor, cord and placenta still attached, and one very bewildered, naked young mama.

*Another example of the boring life?*

In God's timing, the Samaritan's Purse chapter in our lives came to an end. We kept our eyes and hearts open for what might be next. In 2013, we became involved with an organization called Hearts and Hope for Haiti that planned to open a preschool on site at an orphanage in Haiti. I was in full throttle during the Christmas season with plans for the school. During my preparation, tragedy struck as two friends

(Marylyn and her daughter Kelley) were brutally murdered—two beautiful Christ followers gone from us forever. What does one say to the family left behind? Surely there is no card eloquent enough, no flower arrangement fragrant enough. Many restless nights ensued wrestling with God until one night, just before the trip to Haiti, peace enveloped me with the thought, "Name the preschool after Kelley." I had tutored alongside Kelley at an inner-city mission and knew she had the gift of teaching. I asked the director of the trip if I could be so bold as to name the school.

Several days later, we arrived at the orphanage. I was distracted thinking about hauling the tables from the kitchen out onto the porch to set up the school. We pulled into the compound and off to the right, a new wooden building—primitive, but with walls and a roof—caught my attention. The Kelley Erb Pre School stood before me.

In January 2015, we were back again, living our, oh, so not boring life. With tears swelling, I joyfully hammered an official sign—small and inconspicuous so as not to be a temptation to steal and because the woman whose name it bears would want it that way—next to the entry with a small picture of a beautiful young teacher: "The Kelley Erb Pre School... Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

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"He did what was right and just, he defended the cause of the poor and needy...is that not what it means to know Me?" (Jeremiah 22:15-16, the Smith family verse—well, one of them.) ■





**Top:** Wesley Dunham '87 at the 2012 London Para-Olympics. **Bottom left:** Sydney Collier, award-winning para-equestrian rider. **Bottom right:** Lizzy Traband, new rider in 2015.

Lindsay Y. McCall

# A JOURNEY OF LISTENING

Wesley Dunham '87



Susan J. Stickle



Lindsay Y. McCall



## It all started with my pony, Dolly, who knocked me off as a child by running under a low-lying branch.

We had been at my parents' new farm only a few days when I decided to go on my first trail ride. I had plans for an adventure discovering new lands in the forest beyond the horizon. As we approached the last of the apple trees before entering the woods, Dolly stopped, looked left, and turned to go back to the barn. I pulled with all my might on the right rein to try to turn her back; she happily took the right rein pull, flung all her weight into it, and turned left anyway.

With my bloody nose, scraped knees and teary eyes, I tore after Dolly, pleading with her to stop. She made it back to the barn much sooner than my little legs could take me. Upon reaching my once-trusted mount, we returned to the traumatic scene. I reassured her as I walked by her side into the woods and got back on once I knew she was listening to me. We went for hours exploring new territories. I loved the feeling of having my pony listen to and trust me. Since that experience, I have never been able to shake the desire to ride.

This desire continued with my first job after graduating from Houghton with a degree in physical education. As a physical education teacher at Randolph Academy, I began to think about how horses could be incorporated into a traditional physical education curriculum. I developed a physical education program that would become equestrian riding and horsemanship. Our alternative program quickly became one of the most sought after in our school.

My passion for horses eventually transformed my career as I transitioned to my current profession as proprietor of Woodstock Stables, an equestrian dressage facility in the Hudson Valley of New York State. My daily regimen entails managing every aspect of the farm from coaching and training to riding—from dawn until dusk.

It was God's prompting in fall 2010 that turned my outlook and career upside-down. A client asked me to give a friend a dressage lesson. Her friend hoped to make the U.S. Para Dressage Team. The United States Equestrian Foundation defines the primary focus of "para-equestrian" as "providing educational and competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities." Para-equestrian events are highly competitive both nationally and internationally and include the World Equestrian Games and the Paralympics.

Donna Ponessa was my first para-equestrian. With her wheelchair and determination—Donna was unstoppable. We developed a plan and set out on a journey that took us to Australia, Mexico, and finally England where Donna represented the United States at the 2012 Paralympics Games. She finished fifth in the team competition, sixth in the individual, and eighth in the freestyle. I was so proud of her and my horse, Western Rose.

In England, para-athletes are superstars, much like movie stars in the U.S. They are hounded by the paparazzi and sought after for autographs by adoring fans. This inspired me to develop students and athletes in the hopes of changing our cultural perception of athletes with physical disabilities.

That same year, I was contacted by the Collier family of Anne Arbor, Michigan, about coaching their daughter, Sydney, who has Wyburn-Mason Syndrome. After much dialogue about her goals, Sydney and her mom moved to New York to train while the rest of the family stayed in Michigan. In my two years as Sydney's coach, she has represented team USA at the World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France. She has won the Federation Equestre International "Against All Odds" Award and was the 2014 United States Equestrian Federation Junior of the year.

In 2015, Sydney and a new rider, Lizzy Traband of Centre Hall, Pennsylvania, both hope to represent the United States in Kentucky at an international competition. With hard work and determination, I hope to bring them to my second Paralympics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016!

Along with providing me with a diverse education, Houghton instilled within me an attention to detail and a spirit of empathy. Houghton's strong sense of community and camaraderie and learning to let God guide the way through life has never been forgotten—even in the best of times.

My journey seems very short since the days of wandering off to the barn as an undergraduate at Houghton—yet it has involved decades of preparation, fine tuning, and a whole lot of determination heading toward my current profession.

It's been a journey of listening—and trust. ■

# PASSING THE BLESSING

David Blanchard '54

We grew up in similar circumstances, Allene in the Appalachia of South Central Pennsylvania and I in the Appalachia of Eastern Kentucky. Living conditions were a little sparse and primitive back in those days, especially in those locations. As a child, I either walked or rode the horse or wagon through the creek bed to get to the nearest road eight miles away. My family didn't have electricity until I was about 10 years old. The only running water we enjoyed was from the hand pump. We never had a telephone until after I left home at the age of 16.


I was the oldest of five, Allene the youngest of three. We were each blessed with Christian families that nurtured us and showed an interest in our respective educations.

Allene's family was very musical. Her dad had his own small combo, and her sister sang at local events in the region and at church. As a preteen, Allene played piano and accompanied people in all the local churches. As her skills developed, her sister, along with her teacher and her minister, encouraged her to go to Houghton College because of the quality of the music program.

Back in those days, there was no financial aid, and neither of our families could afford to put us through, so we worked, borrowed money, and scrimped. We did everything we could to get through college.







I worked part time and sometimes full time. Allene spent two years working, just saving money to come that first year at Houghton. She got through the first year, and the chance that Allene would finish her degree in music was a very shaky one. In her sophomore year, she had decided she was going to drop out because she couldn't afford to pay the tuition any longer.

Word got around in her small home town community of friends, and a kind woman gave Allene a line of credit with no interest to allow her to finish at Houghton. Allene and I started paying this back after our marriage—until the woman said, “I think that’s enough.”

It’s generous people like that with a giving heart who made our education possible.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in religion, I applied to law school. This didn’t turn out to be the right path, so I ended up pursuing a master’s degree, and later, a PhD in physics.

I started off my career journey in underwater oceanography, then went to NASA working on some really challenging and interesting problems. I worked on over 150 different missions including interplanetary exploration, the space shuttle, the Hubble Space Telescope, and the Space Infrared Telescope.

As we moved around the country, Allene worked in the music programs of the various churches where we were members. In addition to serving as church organist or pianist, she taught piano lessons. She had a wonderful and fulfilling career performing the music she loved with the skills she’d learned and honed at Houghton.

## WE WANT TO HELP OTHERS BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS OF CAREERS THEY WOULD LOVE IN THE SERVICE OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

At our very core, both Allene and I are products of our early childhood experiences. That core determines many aspects of the people we have become. Around that core is a layer—a very firm layer—that casts our total personality and our worldview. For Allene, that firm layer of personality and world view was established by a liberal arts college education in applied music at Houghton College.

As God has generously blessed, we want to pass this blessing on. We want to make the Houghton experience affordable for others. We want to help others be able to follow their dreams of careers they would love in the service of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. ■

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**David and Allene (Horne '57) Blanchard '54** were recognized at a chapel service in the spring of 2014 for providing an endowment that fully funded the Horne-Blanchard Chair in Music. The preceding story is an edited version of David’s remarks shared in chapel that day.

*The endowment fully funds one faculty member’s salary and provides additional funding for that faculty member to use in his or her pursuit of academic excellence. The chair is currently held by Dr. William Newbrough, professor of piano.*



# A CONTAGIOUS LOVE

Shelley (Smith '93) Noyes

I recently interviewed Los Angeles-based wardrobe stylist **Kristina Van Dyk '05** on her way to San Francisco for an 11-day photoshoot to style all of Buick's print advertising for 2016. As I spoke with her on the phone, I suddenly heard the beeping of an open car door on her end followed by muffled voices and laughter. I had never had a phone interview quite like this before, so I asked, "Are you getting gas or something?" Kristina got back on the phone breathless and excited. "I'm with my assistant, Brooke, and we found a BEAUTIFUL lake along the drive, and we had to get out and take some pictures!" Her enthusiasm is contagious—I can hear her smile through the phone as she takes me along for the ride. Talking to Kristina is an exhilarating adventure, and by the end of the conversation, I look down at my arm wondering if maybe some of her sparkle has rubbed off on me.

Kristina is often a company's first call when they need a wardrobe stylist, and I can immediately see why. Her kindness draws people to her, and her attention to detail and commitment to her clients' success makes her one of the best in the business. Her client list includes companies you know: Apple, Google, Gymboree, Subaru, Citibank, Charles Schwab, Doritos, Sketchers, and Reebok. Her work can be found in magazines, on websites, in TV commercials, and on billboards all across the country. To get a broad sense of what Kristina does for a living, pick up a magazine the next time you are in your doctor's office waiting room, and flip through the ads. Stop at one that features people, and notice what they are wearing. A wardrobe stylist was hired by that company to put those outfits together to best reflect the audience whom the company is marketing. Kristina's job is to shop for, dress, fit, and style the clothing and accessories for all of the "talent" who will be appearing in the client's commercials or print advertising.

When Kristina came to Houghton as an art major in 2001, she had never heard of a wardrobe stylist. "I loved fashion," she exclaims, "but I didn't even know that job existed! I thought maybe I would work for a designer, own my own store or design my own clothing line." At the wise suggestion from her father, **Robert "Bob" Van Dyk '75**,





photos by Emily Morgan. [www.ekm.la](http://www.ekm.la)

Kristina added a business minor to her schedule. Art and business fit together naturally for Kristina, and her minor soon became a major. “Kristina was a standout student in many ways. She was a role model for others in finding balance and integration between art and business,” explained associate professor of business administration **Ken Bates ’71**. “But what I really remember is the amazingly creative enthusiasm she carried around with her.”

Ted Murphy, professor of art, recalls her strong work ethic and her ability to take risks with ideas—especially during the critiques in his studio art class. “Later, when she was out in the world of business, she told me those critiques were instrumental in her success,” remembers Murphy. “She learned how to give an account for her proposals in a room full of people [in my class], and now it is something she does every day.”

PEOPLE ASK ME, ‘ARE YOU SPIRITUAL OR SOMETHING? YOU ARE THE FIRST STYLIST WHO HAS NEVER CRIED OR FREAKED OUT DURING A SHOOT.’

“Kristina is vibrant, energetic and driven,” says classmate **Elaine Tooley ’05**. “At the same time, she is gracious and kind.” It is this kindness that makes Kristina so magnetic—especially in an industry known for its ruthless competition. “People ask me, ‘Are you spiritual or something? You are the first stylist who has never cried or freaked out during a shoot. It is just so nice having you around! There is something so different about you.’” That difference is the big love of Jesus—and Kristina wants to share it with everyone she comes in contact. “One day, I was praying and thanking God for this job, and I said to Him, ‘You have me here for a purpose. Who needs to see you, feel you, or know you? If I’m the only person—the only example of Jesus—they ever see, then I need to make sure I’m doing you justice.’”





## I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE MY LIFE! I FEEL SO RIDICULOUSLY BLESSED.

Today, Kristina shines brightly and loves big on every job she does. Sometimes, that love is being patient and gentle with an attention-starved child on a Gymboree shoot who is running a truck over Kristina's face instead of cooperating during a fitting. Sometimes, it is listening to the breakup story of a heartbroken coworker. And sometimes, it is praying with her staff, inviting curious friends to her church, or even answering a child's questions about the cross she is wearing around her neck and watching him or her hear the story of Jesus for the first time.

As Kristina and I finished up our interview, I found myself wishing you could meet her in person. Our conversation was

full of superlatives, capital letters and exclamation points. Even over the phone, she radiates life. While we walked, Kristina hit a spot in the mountains with no cell service, and I lost her—but not before she bubbled, “I love, love, love my life! I feel so ridiculously blessed.” ■

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*When Kristina is not working, she is busy flying around the world and volunteering at orphanages in Africa, Bangladesh and India. She is also writing and illustrating a children's book about her travels.*



photos on pages 14-16 by Emily Morgan. [www.ekm.la](http://www.ekm.la)



# TRADITION KEEPER

Bruce Campbell '81

**T**hough still a young man, **Andrew Hutton '18**, a first-year student from Brantford, Ontario, is a keeper of multiple traditions.

The son of **Tim '79** and **Sue (Cooper '79) Hutton**, Andrew's Houghton College tradition extends to four generations and reaches back over 100 years—to the days of the Houghton Wesleyan Methodist Seminary and his great-grandparents **LeRoy '10** and **Isabella (Stebbins '11) Fancher**. (That's *Seminary* classes of 1910 and 1911!) LeRoy and his daughter (Andrew's grandmother) **Ruth Fancher Hutton '43** and her husband **Lindol '57** contributed decades to the Houghton College faculty and staff. All told, some 40 Fancher family members have earned a Houghton degree, including Andrew's siblings, **Heather '07** and **Alastair '10**.

Andrew is advancing another tradition—one that is much older and deeply personal. He is an accomplished bagpiper. Through his beloved and proudly Scottish maternal grandmother, Andrew and his siblings inherited a natural fondness for their Scottish heritage and an enviable grasp of that history. His familial ancestry is through the McEacherns of the Isle of Islay, a sept of the eminent Clan MacDonald.

When their matriarch passed away, Alastair took up the bagpipes in her memory, and Andrew, nine years younger, took note. He began bagpipe study with the chanter at age eight, took up the bagpipes at ten and later joined the Paris Port Dover Pipe band, with which he still performs.

Piping has afforded Andrew the opportunity for travel and competition—and he has competed well. Recent individual honors from competition at the highest amateur levels include first place in the Toronto Knockout Contest and in the Balmoral Invitational; Piper of the Day at the Glengarry Highland Games' North American Championships; a #3 amateur solo ranking for the Province of Ontario; and a recent second place at the March, Strathspey and Reel in Hamilton, Ontario. His pipe band has also enjoyed success, earning significant honors in the World Pipe Band Championships in 2008, 2013 and 2014. While his solo competitions have been in Canada and the U.S., his travels with the Paris Port Dover Pipe Band have taken him to Scotland, Switzerland, France, Germany and Crete.

Memorable experiences have included his band playing before Parliament and sharing the stage with Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Paul McCartney; piping the Olympic Torch into his community with Alastair; and performing at a variety of special events and ceremonies. He is also called upon frequently to play at weddings and funerals, including those of family and friends.

On campus, Andrew and his Great Highland Bagpipe may be found practicing in the Center for the Arts and outdoors when weather permits. He continues to pursue both technique and repertoire. As the designated piper of Houghton College (as Alastair was before him), he has played for new student orientation, led athletic teams to the playing field, and performed at commencement and other ceremonies.

For Andrew, piping at Houghton represents the crossroad of two important traditions. This intersection may soon become more crowded as Andrew starts passing on his skill to others. Plans to offer lessons to Houghton students have quickly come to fruition and will start this fall. Perhaps someday, Andrew will be leading a Houghton College pipe band. ■



# COMMENCEMENT2015

Enjoy this moment today. And then, tomorrow, when you first wake up to the world as a college graduate, commit yourself to the twin calls of patience and boldness as you find the next place of challenge and grace that God has prepared for you, knowing that He who brought you to this place has every intention of completing His work until the day of Jesus Christ.

*-Shirley A. Mullen, President, to the Class of 2015*

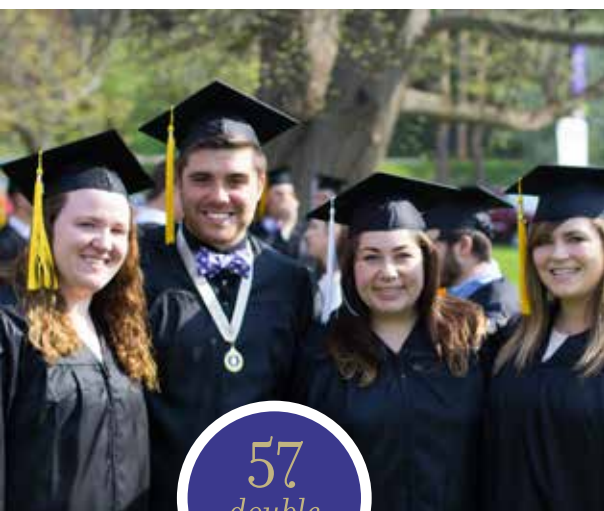
Saturday, May 9, 2015  
class of  
2015

244  
graduates  
234 undergrad  
10 grad

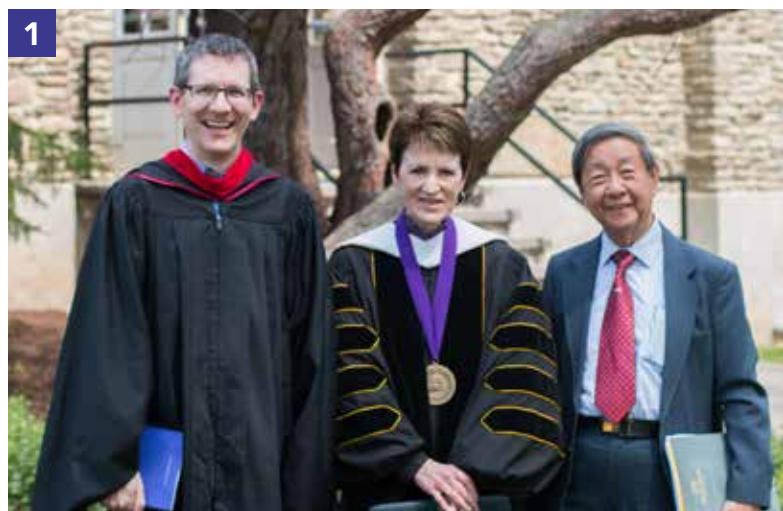
9  
foreign  
countries  
represented







57  
double  
majors



1



110  
graduates  
with academic  
honors



2



3

**1 President Shirley Mullen** with Commencement speaker Andy Crouch (L), author and executive editor of Christianity Today and Houghton medal recipient: **Dr. Paul Pang '64 (R)**

**2 Valedictorian Samantha Fairchild '15 (L)** and Salutatorian: **Joanna Sudlow '15 (R)**

**3 The Class of 1965** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion during Commencement.





Houghton's new, 11-acre, 2.5 megawatt on-site solar energy installation opened in April 2015

## CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES

### COLLEGE NEWS

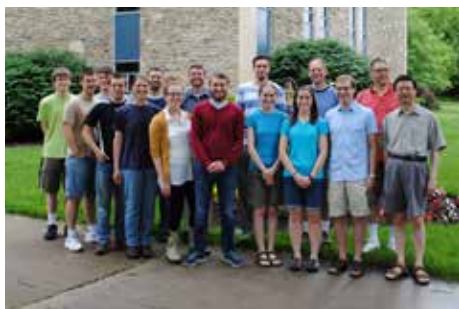
#### **Board Elects Mullen to Four-Year Contract**

The Houghton College Board of Trustees formally elected President Shirley Mullen to a new four-year term during a Board meeting held at the college's campus this past May 15 and 16. The new term will begin June 1 and run through May 31, 2019.

#### **Renewable Energy Forerunner: Houghton College Installs New York's Largest College Solar Array**

Houghton College announces the completion of its 2.5 megawatt on-site solar energy installation, which is currently the largest on a college campus in New York State. The array will provide enough energy to meet more than half of the school's electricity needs, significantly reduce its energy costs and have a long-lasting positive environmental impact.





## Houghton Conducts 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Research Institute

This summer, Houghton College will conduct its ninth undergraduate Summer Research Institute which brings together motivated physics, chemistry, biology, math and computer science students in a more intense research environment. Topics of the research projects include inertial confinement fusion, biodegradable glycopolymers, thin silver films, deep learning and more.



## Houghton Raises Over \$1.1 Million in 24 Hours: The most donors to ever give in one day to Houghton College

Houghton College hosted its second 24-hour fundraising campaign entitled "I am Houghton: Houghton's One Day Giving Challenge" on Friday, April 24, exceeding last year's record giving day by garnering over \$1.1 million from over 1700 donors.



## Over 20,000 Pass Through KPAC During First 7 Months of Operation

Since opening in October 2014, the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex has seen over 20,000 athletes, coaches, spectators, concerts goers and others on campus for events at the complex, including students from 95 high schools throughout New York State.

## PEOPLE

### Gaerte is Recipient of Excellence in Teaching Award

Houghton College awarded the 2014-2015 Excellence in Teaching Award to Dr. Douglas Gaerte at the Excellence in Teaching Chapel on Monday, March 23. Gaerte is a professor of communications and chair of the department of communication and has taught at Houghton College for the past 27 years on both Houghton and Buffalo campuses.

### Houghton Recognizes Employees for Years of Service

Houghton College recognized five retiring employees along with 22 staff and faculty members for their years of service at the annual Retirement & Recognition Dessert event on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Retirees honored were Daniel Moore, director of audio visual with 33 years of service; **Jean-Louis Roederer '64**, associate professor of French and Spanish with 45 years of service; **Lois Ross '73**, associate professor of accounting with seven years of service; **Michael Walters '86**, associate dean for biblical studies, theology and philosophy with 33 years of service; and Thomas Kettelkamp, chair for the department of leisure studies with 38 years of service.

## LIFESTYLE

### Houghton Named One of the Safest College Campuses in America

According to the 2015 Niche Rankings, Houghton College ranks 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation as one of the safest college campuses based on crime statistics and student opinions. Additionally, a new website hosted by New York State ([www.campuscrime.ny.gov](http://www.campuscrime.ny.gov)) lists Houghton College as having one of the lowest crime rates among New York colleges and universities.

## ATHLETICS

### Houghton Enters Final Year of Provisional NCAA D-III Membership

This summer, Houghton College will enter its final year of provisional membership in NCAA D-III, on pace for full membership beginning fall 2016.

### Winter/Spring Athletic Highlights

Highlander teams continue to transition to the Empire8 Conference and NCAA Division III. Highlighting the winter sports season was **Nikki Garns** being named the Empire8 Track and Field Rookie of the Year. Teammate **Andrea Melhorn** earned NCCAA All-America honors with a second - place finish in the hammer throw at the NCCAA Outdoor National Championship.

The spring season saw Houghton baseball place fifth in the inaugural Empire8 postseason tournament. The softball team earned their first Empire8 conference win in program history. Twelve spring athletes earned conference or region honors, and 41 winter and spring student-athletes earned NCCAA All-America Scholar-Athlete honors. ■

# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

**Houghton College welcomes submissions to Alumni News & Notes.** Not all news items or photos may be published, and the college reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content. You can submit updates online at [www.houghton.edu/magazine](http://www.houghton.edu/magazine). Please submit photos in the highest resolution available. Thank you for keeping in touch with your alma mater!

**1952**  
**Frederick Mills, Sr.**, has been named an honorary alumnus of LaGrange College in LaGrange, Georgia. The award was presented during the college’s homecoming activities in October 2014. Dr. Mills began his career at LaGrange in 1967 as an associate professor of history, was named a full professor in 1973, and in 1987, was named the Flora G. Candler Chair at LaGrange. His pastoral work includes appointments in the Greater New Jersey Conference of the

United Methodist Church, and chaplaincies with the New Jersey National Guard and U.S. Army. He is married to Antoinette Lee Mills, and they have three children.

**1962**  
**Philip Collmer** and his wife, Bonnie, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in British Columbia. They began their celebration earlier in August, however, when they visited their daughter’s family in Cologne, Germany. There, they had the opportunity to return to the Basilica of Constantine in Trier, Germany—the church where they were married. **1**

**1964**  
**Ron Dieck** published an engineering textbook, *Measurement Uncertainty, Methods and Applications* (ISA; 4th edition, December 4, 2006). Ron has been employed in aerospace and test measurement instrumentation and metrology for over 35 years and currently is the director of Ron Dieck Associates, Inc., a company that provides training and consulting in measurement uncertainty

and measurement systems. He lives with his wife, **Donna (Drowne ‘65) Dieck**, in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

**1965**  
**Roger C. Moyer** published a book titled *Growing Up Strong: A Study in Christian Spiritual Maturity* through FriesenPress on August 29, 2014. Roger and his wife, Diane, are founders of Christian Counseling Ottawa (CCO), a therapeutic and educational ministry that has been serving the individuals, couples, families and churches of the Ottawa area since 1978.

**1966**  
**Ron Fessenden’s** book, *The New Honey Revolution* (Xulon Press, May 28, 2014), has been awarded first place in the health category of the Fall 2014 Christian Author Awards sponsored by Xulon Press. Dr. Fessenden’s book is an updated version of *The Honey Revolution* (2008) and details the health benefits of consuming honey. Ron and his wife, Joyce, reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.





## 1967

**Gary Prawel** was appointed Town Justice in the Wayne Town Court in Wayne, New York. He continues to teach criminal justice and sociology at both Keuka College and Corning Community College.

## 1970

**James Lewis** published an essay reflecting on the death of his mother in the November-December issue of *Family Medicine* titled "Going Gently: On Aging." Dr. Lewis, MD, is professor of pediatrics at the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. He is also a member of the division of child development and behavior and currently serves as a pediatric subspecialist at Marshall's Barbourville clinic. Jim attributes his writing success to Houghton where, as a student, he was the literary editor of the '69 *Boulder*.

**Linda (Jones) Mudry** published her first book titled *A Soldier Remembers* (Infinity Publishing, 2011) following her father's remarkable WWII experiences as he journeyed from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Japan and back again. Linda is a retired medical technologist and lives in Murrysville, Pennsylvania. She enjoys the outdoors and has hiked the entire Appalachian Trail in sections over a nine-year period.

## 1972

**Alfred "Fred" Day** was recently selected to serve as the General Secretary of the Commission on Archives and History for the United Methodist Church (UMC) with the mission of preserving and promoting the historical interests of the UMC worldwide, overseeing the UMC's archives and libraries, and supporting historical work in annual conferences and jurisdictions and across the general church. Rev. Day previously served as pastor and librarian at Historic St. George's UMC in Philadelphia, the oldest Methodist church in the USA (1769) and a UMC heritage landmark. **2**

## 1973

**Thomas Fuller** recently retired from the Royalton Hartland Central School District in Middleport, New York, after 25 years of service as a science teacher. A desire to teach led him back to Houghton 12 years after graduating to pursue his teaching certification, and he received his master's from SUNY Brockport. Currently, Thomas and his wife, Kim, are enjoying their small farm property in Medina, New York. They also hope to travel "just enough to miss home and see grandkids every chance we get," says Thomas.

## 1977

**David Penne** had his studio space featured in *Hyperallergic*, an online magazine that offers "playful, serious, and radical perspectives on art and culture in the world today." David is a working artist in Annapolis, Maryland. The description of his studio can be found in the magazine's segment, "A View from the Easel," found at [www.hyperallergic.com/159258/a-view-from-the-easel-64](http://www.hyperallergic.com/159258/a-view-from-the-easel-64).

## 1978

**Nyla (Schroth) Gaylord** has been named Director of Development and Community Relations for Hospice of Orleans in Albion, New York. Prior to this appointment, Nyla received her master's in liberal studies with a concentration in public administration from SUNY Brockport and worked for organizations that provide services to people with disabilities. She then completed a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Disability Studies at Syracuse University. Nyla lives in Albion and is delighted to be working in her local community after commuting to Rochester for more than 30 years.

## 1979

**Graham Walker** was named Head of School for Oaks Christian School, an independent college preparatory school serving grades 5-12 located in Westlake Village, California. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Walker served

as the president of Patrick Henry College and vice president of academic affairs and dean at Oklahoma Wesleyan University.

## 1980

**Benjamin Colter** is the new Donor Relations Coordinator for Houghton College. He says, "I enjoy connecting with Houghton alumni and parents, hearing their stories, and helping connect the resources God has provided them with projects at Houghton that will continue building Christ's kingdom. I love that Houghton College is committed to the development of deeply Christian servant-leaders who are exceptionally trained, broadly educated, and globally aware."

**Linda (Chaffee) Taylor** is an instructor in the professional writing department at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, where she teaches editing, freelance and article writing, social media platform building, and business writing. She also supervises students in their required internships. While Linda still does freelance editing and writing, she says she is "thrilled with the opportunity to share my many years in publishing with the next generation of writers, editors, and publishers." Linda completed her master's in English from Ball State University in December 2013 and will be starting an MFA program in Creative Writing this summer at Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio.

## 1981

**Rich Felder** is writing, directing and producing a 30-hour dramatic internet television series titled *Jesus of Istanbul*, a project designed to bring the gospel to Turkey, one of the largest unreached nations. It is set in 21<sup>st</sup> century Turkey and uses all Turkish actors to tell the traditional gospel story while weaving in real-life issues that Turks face today. Rich has been writing scripts of various lengths for 30 years. He has lived in the Turkish world for 18 years. Learn more about the project at [www.jesusofistanbul.com](http://www.jesusofistanbul.com). **3**

**Jean (Smith) Hunsberger** has sung in the Philadelphia Singers Chorale which performs with the Philadelphia Orchestra for six years. She is also writing a tour guide for the German Society of Pennsylvania where she volunteers. Jean's husband, Tom, is a software architect for First Data Corporation in Wilmington, Delaware, and their daughter, Andrea, is in eighth grade at Masterman Middle School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Hunsberger family attends Souderton Brethren in Christ Church.

**Chris Moseley** is on sabbatical doing research in differential geometry at the University of Hawaii at Manoa during the 2014-15 academic year. He considers this by far the best way to spend the Michigan winter. He is scheduled to return to Michigan this fall, where he serves as professor of mathematics at Calvin College. **4**

1985

**Paul Alderman** recently retired from the Air Force after 26 years of service. Major Alderman served our country as a pilot during both the Desert Shield and Desert Storm campaigns. He was also an instructor and held various positions while in the Air Force. He currently works as a pilot for American Airlines.

**William Mirola** published a new book titled *Redeeming Time: Protestantism and Chicago's Eight-Hour Movement, 1866-1912* through University of Illinois Press (January 2015). In the book, Dr. Mirola explores how the city's eight-hour movement intersected with a Protestant religious culture that supported long hours to keep workers from idleness, intemperance, and secular leisure activities. Bill is chair of the department of history and social science as well as professor of sociology at Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana. **5**

1990

**Heidi Jensen** recently published a conversational English curriculum with Cru Press titled *Eyes to See, Ears to Hear* (2014). Heidi joined Christian Embassy New York, a ministry of Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ International), in 1998, where she has been teaching conversational English and Bible classes to members of the United Nations diplomatic community. She has a Master of Education in TESOL from Regent University and has taught part time in the United Nations English Language Programme since 2007.

1998

**Angela (Keppen) Babbitt** became a domestic engineer for her family in 2003 after working for Houghton College for the first six years following graduation. She is now homeschooling her fifth grader and three year old. Angela is married to **Jeff Babbitt '96**, and the couple is "celebrating 18 years of marriage, adventure and excitement" this year. The Babbitts have four children and are foster parents through Allegany County. Angela also enjoys teaching adult learners in Allegany County's foster parent certification classes. **6**

2000

**Laura (Titus) Eggert** and her husband Thomas are pleased to announce the birth of twins on December 2, 2013. Trent Thomas and Alana Grace join older sister, Kayla Hope, who was born on August 2, 2011. The Eggerts live in Wheatfield, New York, where Laura is a paralegal at Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP in Buffalo, New York, and Thomas is a paramedic with Twin City Ambulance. The couple recently celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. **7**



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8



9



**Dionne Miller** is weekend sports anchor for Chicago's WLS-Channel 7 and the first woman on the ABC-owned station's sports staff. Miller was formerly a host and reporter for Fox Sports Ohio and Big Ten Network and most recently was weekend sports anchor at Fox-owned WFLD-Channel 32. Dionne lives with her husband, Ray Crawford, who covers college football and basketball for Chicago-based Campus Insiders. **8**

## 2001

**Dana Basnight Brown** is a research scientist and professor whose primary research focuses on the cognitive processes surrounding human memory and language, particularly within the domain of bilingualism. Dr. Basnight Brown recently received two awards from the American Psychological Association (APA) in honor of her teaching and research: the APA Early Career Achievement Award (2014), selected based on "scientific achievement and demonstration of astute leadership in the field of psychology," and the APA International Psychology Division Early Career Professional Award (2014), for which she was selected as the non-U.S.-based psychologist awardee for "outstanding contributions to international psychology." **9**

## 2002

**Jennifer Schriefer** married Jeremy Corll on October 10, 2013. The Corlls live in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, where Jennifer is a gymnastics coach at Gymkhana Gymnastics, and Jeremy is a pilot for Aircraft Management Group. **10**

## 2005

**Johnathan Davidson** and his wife Allison relocated to Allentown, Pennsylvania in June 2014 after Allison received her doctorate from Purdue University. Jonathan has accepted a position with Lehigh Valley Health Network in its physician group administration as a subject matter expert. Allison is an assistant professor of statistics at Muhlenberg College.

**Selena (Duroy) Gonzalez** married Andre Gonzalez on November 9, 2013, at the Europa Village Winery in Temecula, California. Selena and Andre live in San Diego, California. **11**

**Jason Smith** defended his PhD in entomology from the Pennsylvania State University in June of 2014. He was also awarded a Fulbright fellowship to conduct vegetable research with the East African branch of the World Vegetable Center from

January to September 2015. He and his wife **Naomi (Spurrier '05) Smith** are now residing in Arusha, Tanzania with their three children: Gloria (7), Reuben (4) and Miriam (2). Naomi blogs about their adventures at [oureverlastingdwellingplace.blogspot.com](http://oureverlastingdwellingplace.blogspot.com). **12**

**Isabel** and **Kevin Tom '04** are pleased to announce the birth of a son, Samuel Pui-Yan Tom, on September 9, 2014. He was named in honor of his grandpa and joins older sister, Madeleine (2). **13**

## 2006

**Anne (Kenote)** and **Benjamin Valentine '07** are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Eden Harper, on February 22, 2015. The Valentine family lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, where Ben is the high school youth pastor at Trinity Church. Anne partners with Ben in the ministry by serving the church as the student ministries coordinator. **14**

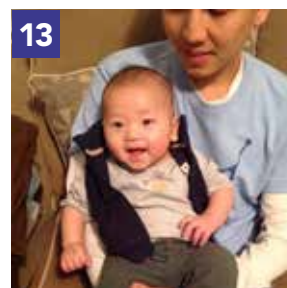
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12



13



14



2007

**Ada “Blonnie” (Creswell) Crispin** and Joseph Crispin are pleased to announce the birth of Jack Tucker Crispin on October 20, 2014. He joins big sister, Juliet Danielle, who was born on November 7, 2012. Joseph serves in the U.S. Army, and the family is currently stationed in Fort Drum, New York. **15**

**Cassie (Bertrand)** and Joseph **Goldsmith** are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Arianna Elise, on May 22, 2014. The Goldsmith family currently resides in Mechanicsville, Maryland, where Cassie, a former high school music teacher, is staying home with the baby, and Joseph is a teacher in Charles County Public Schools. **16**

2009

**Mindy Swancott** married Ryan Christa on July 18, 2014, at Faith Bible Church in Rochester, New York. The reception was held at Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor, New York. In the wedding were Houghton friends **Stephanie (Wing ‘09) Giles**, **Madeline (Arkin ‘09) Mbeh**, **Amanda Brenon ‘09**, and **Naomi (Sherwood ‘09) Johnston**. The Christas make their home in Lima, New York, where Mindy is a math teacher at Lima Christian School, and Ryan works for Metro Real Estate. **17**

2010

**Megan Ginder** attended a missionary training event this past summer at the Center for Intercultural Training in North Carolina and was pleased to discover that some of her classmates are Houghton alumni, including **Sue Mast ‘88**, serving in Ecuador; Megan, serving in Czech Republic; and **Kathie (Merrill ‘84)** and **Ken Golde ‘90**, serving in Niger.

2011

**David** and **Lindsey (Hults ‘10) Dix** welcomed their first child, Sophia Grace, on November 9, 2014. Sophia Grace is the first grandchild for **Daniel** and **Brenda (Cummings ‘75) Dix ‘76**.

2012

**Jacob Moyer** married Jeanna Smith on May 24, 2014, in French Azilum, Pennsylvania. **Phil Schmidt ‘12** served as the best man, and in attendance were Houghton friends **Vijay Virmani ‘12**, **Nicholas Spoth ‘11**, **Mike LaScala ‘11**, **Mary-Anne Stern ‘13**, **Gabe and Lauren (Del Mauro ‘12) Stegen ‘11**, and **Deidre VanDerMark ‘12**. The Moyers reside in Ulster, Pennsylvania, where they own a dairy farm. **18**

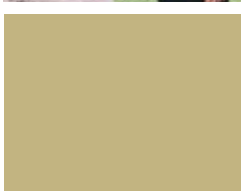
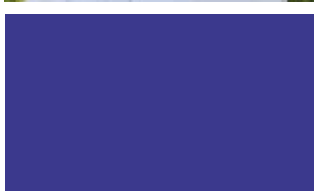
**Philip Schmidt** married Juliet Dodson on April 25, 2014. His groomsmen included **Jacob Moyer ‘12** (best man), **Joshua Akpan ‘12**, **Nicholas Spoth ‘11**, and **Gabe Stegen ‘11**. Philip and Juliet currently reside in West Seneca, New York, with their daughter, Adaya. **19**

2013

**Michael Dix** and **Sierra (Mitchell) Dix** were married on July 12, 2014.

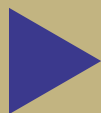
**Kelsey (Hancock) Carpenter** married Robert Carpenter on May 16, 2013, in Houghton, New York. The couple lives in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where Kelsey is an educational programming director, and Robert is a pastor. **20**

**Robert Martin** is attending Queen’s University Belfast in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he is working on his MA in arts management. He also serves as the conductor of the Queen’s University Chamber Orchestra.





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Ever wonder what your favorite former professor is up to these days? We polled our Houghton Alumni Facebook page to find out who you wanted to hear about, and below is the second installment of what we hope will be a continuing segment in *Houghton* magazine. We want to hear from you! Whom would you like us to track down next?



## DR. DAVID OETINGER

**Dr. David Oetinger '67**, associate professor of biology 1978–1984, has recently retired from Kentucky Wesleyan College (KWC) in Owensboro, Kentucky. He spent the last 41 years specializing in helminthology—the study of parasitic worms. Students remember Oetinger's enthusiasm for the subject matter. "He taught my all-time favorite class at Houghton: parasitology," recalls **Meg (Martino '82) Wright**. "I know he scoured the country roads for roadkill; I think it was like a treasure hunt for him to see what microorganism he could find in the unfortunate animal. I am a PA now, and it's nice to 'see' the microorganisms in my mind—not just theory."

Oetinger is published in scientific journal, has earned awards for his teaching and his scholarship; however, the highlight of his career "has certainly been having the opportunity to work with students on research projects!" Students enjoyed working with Oetinger too: "Dave Oetinger

was a wonderful inspiration," recalls **Rick Vienne, Jr. '84**, D.O., Regional Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Univera Healthcare. "He encouraged me to consider a career in medicine when a previous professor told me I had no chance of ever becoming a physician." Students also remembered his quiet, dry sense of humor and his commitment to teaching. "He was passionate about educating his students—not just giving them facts but teaching them how to think critically," remembers **Dr. Timothy Benning '81**, a partner with Peninsula Pathology Associates in Salisbury, Maryland.

Today, Oetinger is still teaching part-time at KWC. What else is he doing with his time now that he is "retired?" "Mowing the lawn?" he quips dryly. "Still studying 'acanthus,'" he offers.

## DR. CHARLES BRESSLER

In 2008, after nearly 30 years at Houghton, **Dr. Charles Bressler**, former professor of English, chair of the language and literature department, and associate dean of curricula, embarked on a new adventure. "The Lord called me to Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) to teach in the department of modern language and literature," writes Bressler. "After one year, I received a joint appointment with the department of modern language and literature and the John Wesley Honors College. Presently, most of my teaching responsibilities are in the John Wesley Honors College, where I teach both writing and literature courses. In addition, I have been appointed Senior Scholar for Undergraduate Research at IWU.

Houghton students from three decades claim "Brother Charles" as their favorite professor. The award-winning teacher could often be found conversing with students around campus. "He would saunter and bounce through the campus center, swatting at the students he knew," recalls **Michael R. Evans '95**. Students were drawn to Dr. Bressler not only because he was kind, friendly and personable but also because he expected a lot and seemed to draw out their best work. "I worked harder for Charles Bressler than I ever have before or since and learned more from him because of it," remembers **Laurie (Palmer '84) Virkus**.

**Dr. Timothy M. Kitchen '86** tells his children the story of how upset he was freshman year upon receiving a C from Dr. Bressler on his first English paper. "I had never received a C in high school," said Tim. "He encouraged me that 'the only place to go was upward.' [After that,] I worked diligently in his class to do my best and received a wonderful education in the English language."



# IN MEMORIAM

## UNITED WESLEYAN COLLEGE

**Marvin Dennis**, 71, died on November 15, 2014. Dennis graduated from Eastern Pilgrim College in 1966. He is survived by his wife, Shelley Goodrich Dennis; a daughter, Pamela Jean Hogan; two stepsons, Joshua P. Williams and Nicholas Williams; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

**Frances Dieter**, 86, passed away on October 20, 2014. She was a graduate of Allentown Bible Institute. Frances is survived by her brothers, Rev. Dr. Melvin Dieter and Harold Dieter; brother-in-law Rev. Charles Rex; cousin Rev. Paul Dieter and his wife, Clara Dieter; and many nieces and nephews. Frances was predeceased by her sister, Eunice Rex.

**Ethel (Goss) Mayes**, 86, passed away on November 30, 2014. She was a graduate of Allentown Bible Institute.

**Paul Maloney**, 69, died on November 28, 2014. Paul was a graduate of Eastern Pilgrim College. He is survived by his mother, Ruth Maloney; son, Ryan Maloney; and granddaughter, Megan Maloney. He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Maloney.

**Paul A. Wheeler**, 93, passed away on August 11, 2014. Rev. Wheeler attended United Wesleyan College and is a former district superintendent of the Virginia District of The Wesleyan Church. He is survived by his wife, Marie Wheeler; daughter, Karen Gillespie; son, Jack; two sisters; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

## TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

### 1948

**Norma (Thomas) Anderson** died on February 17, 2015. Norma worked for Houghton before becoming dean of women and English professor at both Cleveland Bible College and St. Paul Bible College. She was a devoted wife and mother and enjoyed teaching Bible studies and Sunday school in the community and in church. Later in life, she was a speaker at women's retreats. She is survived by her four children, Suzan, Carol, Judy and Robert; as well as seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and 11 nieces and nephews. Norma was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Oliver, and two brothers.

**Erwin L. Knowlton**, 93, died on February 14, 2015. He served in WWII as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. After graduating from Houghton, he earned a master's degree from The State University of New York at Fredonia. He spent most of his career teaching social studies and history at John C. Birdlebough High School in Phoenix, New York. In addition, he was active in his church and served with the Greater Syracuse Youth for Christ and Gideons International. He is survived by his sons, **Kevin Knowlton '79** and his wife, **Lois (Clair '79) Knowlton** and Kenneth Knowlton; a daughter, **Marjorie (Knowlton '81) Palm**; nine grandchildren, including **Meagan Palm '16**; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law; and many nieces and nephews. Erwin was predeceased by his wife of 51 years, Arlene Knowlton.

### 1950

**Marilyn (Bourne) Phillips Carpenter** died January 19, 2015. Marilyn spent most of her career teaching French at Parkersburg High School in West Virginia. During her tenure at Parkersburg, she was the

chair of the foreign language department and received the West Virginia Teacher of the Year Award. Under her leadership, Parkersburg High School received the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language Award, and, in 1993, she was given Houghton's Distinguished Alumni Award. Marilyn is survived by her husband, Jackson Carpenter, sons Mark and Paul Phillips; a step-sister and two stepbrothers; a sister-in-law and a niece; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by both parents and her first husband, Rev. Dr. Maurice Phillips.

### 1951

**Tarbell B. Lamos**, 90, passed away November 6, 2014. Tarbell served in the Army Air Corps before coming to Houghton. After graduation, he received his Master of Education degree from Syracuse University. He was principal of Smith Road Elementary School in the North Syracuse District for more than 15 years before retiring in 1979. He was an active member of Lyncourt Wesleyan Church and served on the Central New York Wesleyan Church's Board of Administration. He is survived by his sister, Carol Wilson; several nieces and nephews; and his extended church family. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, **Charlotte (Carnal '51) Lamos** and several brothers and sisters.

### 1952

**Robert K. Denny** passed away on October 7, 2014. He was a dedicated Presbyterian minister for 50 years and "an avid runner," said his wife of 62 years, **Elizabeth "Betty" (Bjorkgren '52) Denny**. "He finished the course with dignity." He is survived by his wife, four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



## ALTON JAMES SHEA

Pastor, musician, gospel radio producer and missionary, **Alton James Shea '36** passed away on January 17, 2015, in Houghton, New York. He was 101.

Alton was born in Winchester, Ontario, Canada, to pastor and evangelist Adam Shea and his wife Maude Shea. Alton was around four years old when Adam moved his family from Canada to Houghton in 1917. The Shea family was in Houghton only four years, but Alton remembered running across the fields that now comprise the college campus with friends **Homer Fero '31**, **Robert Luckey '37** and **Willard Smith '35**; watching the students singing on the Fancher Hall steps at the close of WWI; and attending camp meetings where the Nielsen Center now stands. Alton returned as a freshman in 1932 and called Houghton home for 58 of his 101 years.

Among Alton's significant contributions to Houghton College was his recommendation of a young artist, **Aileen Ortlip**, to President Luckey upon hearing that the college was considering adding an art department. Aileen and her sister, **Marjorie Ortlip Stockin**, founded Houghton's art department in 1936. After Aileen began teaching at the college, Alton pursued his calling in ministry at Biblical Seminary in New York City. The couple married in 1938 after Alton had begun his first pastorate at Gates Wesleyan Church in Rochester, New York.

For the next 69 years, Alton served together with Aileen in a variety of ways and places. They pastored several congregations around Western New York and, in 1970 traveled to Sierra Leone, West Africa to spend seven years in gospel radio production in several local languages for airing over Radio ELWA in Liberia.

"Alton was a prayer warrior for Houghton—like no one else I know," reflected Houghton College president, **Shirley A. Mullen '76**. Son Paul recalled, "Dad raised us kids on encouragement. All of their lives [my parents] wrote us encouraging letters. And they continually prayed for us and all of the warriors of the Gospel worldwide."

Surviving are three children: **A. Jonathan "Pat" Shea '63**, **Eila Shea '66**, and **Dr. Paul W. Shea '69** and wife **Debbie (Greenmeyer '69) Shea**; five grandchildren, **Alan J. Shea '92**, **Robin (Shea '94) McGee**, **Heidi (Shea '96) Huizenga**, **Christy Shea '98** and **Linda (Shea '01) Knapp**; eleven great-grandchildren; a sister, **Ruth (Shea '41) Willett**; and numerous nieces and nephews. Alton was preceded in death by his wife of nearly 70 years, Aileen Ortlip Shea; siblings Pauline Lusk, **J. Whitney Shea '33**, **Mary (Shea '23) Robinson**, **George Beverly Shea '32**, **Lois (Shea '38) Wright** and Grace Baker; as well as his parents, the Reverend Adam J. and Maude Whitney Shea.



**Robert "Bob" C. Macy**, 84, died unexpectedly on March 27, 2014. Bob began his career in banking and then went on to head up the property management departments of both Carnegie Mellon University and Harvard University. After retirement, Bob and his wife, **Priscilla (Gilde '54)** spent 12 years in Ireland. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years; four children, Daniel Macy, Elizabeth Costa, Stephen Macy, and John Macy; three daughters-in-law and one son-in-law; eight grandchildren; a brother, J. Thomas Macy; and many nieces and nephews.

**Donna (Potter) Stoneburner** died November 6, 2014. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Virgil Stoneburner; her children, Stephen Stoneburner, Victoria Peterson, Rebecca Stoneburner and Sharon Redondo; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

## 1953

**Paul W. Dekker** entered eternity on December 25, 2014. Rev. Dekker spent nearly his entire career in ministry, first as a pastor of a Wesleyan church in Michigan, then as a missionary with his wife, **Dona (Gotter '55)** in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where they worked at the hospital in Kamakwie. After the Dekkers' retirement from Wesleyan World Missions, Paul taught at Satellite Christian Institute in San Diego, California. Later, Paul joined Overseas Crusades, traveling with ministry teams worldwide, but ultimately, God called Paul and Dona to form their own ministry, Dekker Ministries, Inc. Paul is survived by his wife of 58 years and three children.

**Sibyl (Brennan) Slagle**, 83, died August 31, 2014, at Hospice LaGrange in LaGrange, Georgia. Survivors include her husband of 50 years, Thomas F. Slagle; son, Larry Reid Slagle; two grandchildren; a sister-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

## 1954

**Robert “Bob” D. Boyer**, 87, passed away on October 17, 2014. Bob served in U.S. Army Air Corps as a photographer and photo lab technician in Japan during WWII. After graduating from Houghton, Bob received a master’s degree from SUNY at Geneseo and spent his teaching career serving Allegany County, New York, first at Belfast Central School and then at Belmont Central School. He also owned and operated Boyer Welding in Belmont, New York. In 2006, Bob was named “Citizen of the Year” by the Belmont Betterment Association for his work in helping restore the Park Circle Fountain. Bob is survived by one daughter, Susan Young; two stepchildren, Gena Benjamin and Anthony Fantauzzo; a sister, Rachel Hager; a brother, Donald Boyer; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; his wife; his son, Robert; and a brother, Paul.

**Rev. Col. (ret.) Ray Strawser** passed away on December 31, 2014. Col. Strawser joined the Army during WWII, serving in the Philippines for two years. After graduating from Houghton, he and his wife **Elva Jean “E.J.” (Barr ’49)** served a church in Chicago, while Ray studied at Northern Seminary. During the Berlin Crisis, the Army invited him back as a chaplain. In Vietnam, he served soldiers in battle and received a Bronze Star. He later continued his chaplaincy career, earning a doctorate at Wesley Seminary. He and E.J. served in Germany, receiving honorary citizenship in Darmstadt for their many contributions to German-American relations. He retired as a colonel and as a priest in the Anglican Church in America. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, E.J.; his children, Karen Strawser, **Kathy (Strawser ’77) Worgul** and **Rev. Ray Strawser II ’78**; and six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

## CONNIE TAYLOR

Spirited, gregarious and warm and a “life-long, loyal, true-blue alumna,”

**Constance “Connie” (Hazelwood ’46) Taylor** passed away December 3, 2014. She was 92 years old.



Connie Taylor loved Houghton, and many areas of the college have benefitted from her generosity over the years. Some of her contributions include capital-building campaigns, student scholarships, Fancher Bell Tower refurbishment, and the renovation of Wesley Chapel—but she was especially committed to giving to the sciences and athletics.

Friend **Beverly Crowell ’73** remembers Connie’s last trip to campus for the Celebration of the Sciences in 2011. “I had difficulty keeping up with her as she dashed around campus to view a renovated classroom in the Paine Science Center and a row of renovated seats in Wesley Chapel thanks to her generosity. She was so thankful that she could share her blessings!”

Connie loved sports, especially lacrosse, and was eager to give toward the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex. “She was very excited to see Houghton’s move to NCAA D-III and the addition of lacrosse,” offered regional director of development, **Joe Liddick ’72**. “She was a true fan,” said Executive Director of Athletics **H. “Skip” Lord ’80**. “She knew more about the game than I could hope to—and told me all about the strong college programs in the area.”

Connie had a zest for life, and “her knowledge, interest, and curiosity in so many different areas were inspiring and not typical for a nonagenarian,” remarked Crowell. She was a savvy business woman and a seasoned traveler, and she could talk about anything from current events to sports to parasitology. “Her passions were church, family, cooking, bridge, lacrosse, and Jeopardy, not necessarily in that order,” offered son, James “Jamie” Hazelwood Taylor.

“What stood out to me was how vibrant she was,” remembers Lord. “She was deeply committed to Houghton and wanted to make a difference for the young people who attend here.”

Connie is survived by her children, Dr. Christine Taylor Waddill, Paul Holland Taylor and James Hazelwood Taylor; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and siblings, James Hazelwood and **Natalie (Hazelwood ’49) Mehne**.



## 1956

**Karl Woodmansee**, 79, died on April 3, 2014. Rev. Woodmansee served as a pastor of churches in New Jersey, South Carolina and Michigan. He is survived by three daughters, **Karen (Woodmansee '83) Martin**, **Gloria (Woodmansee '86) Good**, and Naomi Woodmansee and three grandchildren. His wife, Roberta, preceded him in death in 1999.

## 1957

**Richard "Dick" Freeman, Sr.**, 82, died on November 13, 2014, after an extended illness. Freeman was a veteran, serving in Korea and on Guam for the Army-Air Force Corps of Engineers. Dick's educational career spanned many levels of teaching and administration from junior and senior high classrooms to serving as vice principal of a middle school and then principal of a central school. He retired as Professor Emeritus from Slippery Rock University in 1992 where he had taught and supervised student teachers. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Marion (Johnson '55) Freeman**; seven children; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; several aunts and uncles; and a niece, Kathy Freeman.

**June (Ware) Morente** passed away peacefully on October 17, 2014, at the age of 80. June is survived by her son Jacob; two grandchildren; six brothers and sisters; and dozens of dear nieces and nephews. June was predeceased by her son Stephen; four brothers and two sisters.

## 1958

**Edward R. Savolaine**, 76, died November 10, 2014. Dr. Savolaine had a long, distinguished career in medicine as a neuroradiologist, starting in the Army, including a deployment to Vietnam in 1969, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star. He later worked in private practice and as a professor at the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo until his retirement in 2000. Ed is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Carol**

**(Sturgis '59) Savolaine**; his children, Ruth, John and David Savolaine; three grandchildren; a brother and many nieces, nephews, cousins and relatives in Finland.

## 1960

**Ernest "Ernie" Valutis**, 75, passed away December 13, 2013, after three years of cancer treatments. Dr. Valutis served for 10 years at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, and went on to a career as a licensed psychologist for 30 years before he retired. Ernie was honored to be asked by NHL hall of famer Pat LaFontaine to be a contributing author in his book, *Companions in Courage: Triumphant Tales of Heroic Athletes*. He is survived his wife, Beverly Valutis; two sons, Dr. William Valutis and Eric Valutis; one daughter, Dr. Stephanie Valutis; one sister, Kay Murphy; and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

## 1962

**Leo Angevine**, 74, passed away on February 11, 2015, following a lengthy illness. Leo was a veteran of the Vietnam War, having served with the U.S. Air Force as an airman. He was employed by United Airlines as a pilot for 34 years and, after retiring in 2000, went back to school and was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 2005. He was also a private pilot and farmer. He is survived by his wife of over 50 years, **Adeline (Jones '64) Angevine**; three daughters, Elizabeth Montgomery, Jeanette Anderson and Paula Angevine; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Emily Wineriter, **Danna Angevine '73** and Michele Zapel. He was preceded in death by two brothers, George Angevine and the **Rev. Jerry Angevine '55**.

**Joyce (Calusine) Shannon Hatten** passed away on August 29, 2014. Joyce obtained her master's degree in education and served as founder and vice principal of Grace Heritage Christian School in New London, Connecticut. Joyce began her

struggle with Multiple Sclerosis in 1986 and was bed-ridden for the last 20 years of her life. She is survived by her daughter, Kelly Shannon Kelly; grandson, Theo Braden; and two great-grandsons, Jaedyn and Kyran Braden. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Air Force 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant **Robert Shannon '63**, who died in active duty in 1965; second husband, Navy veteran Walter Hatten; and two siblings.

## 1963

**Ann (Whitmire) Hathorn** went to her Lord and Savior on October 16, 2014. She was 73 years old and passed peacefully at home with her daughter, Joy Girard, by her side. She was preceded in death by her husband, Captain Vincent L. Hathorn.

**Lucille (Hinkle) Volk** passed away peacefully on December 18, 2014, at her home in Chittenango, New York. She is survived by her husband, **Gerald Volk '63**; daughters, Kathy Trojanoski and Cheryl Seale; five grandchildren; a brother, Thomas Hinkle; and numerous nieces and nephews.

## 1966

**Dorothy (Holtz) Barker**, 70, died on July 30, 2014. Dorothy was a case worker for the State of Michigan for five years, then a stay-at-home mom and babysitter for many children. She returned to work when her children were in school, teaching pre-school at His Spot for Tots at the First Baptist Church of Coldwater, Michigan, for 23 years. She retired in 2001. She was an active member of the Sturgis Wesleyan Church, where her love for children led her to devote time to children's ministries. She is survived by her husband of nearly 50 years, **Gary Barker '66**; her children, Danice Chartrand, Kevin Barker, and Tracy Martinson; six grandchildren; and two sisters.

### 1968

**Kenneth “Ken” Kohler** died suddenly on November 17, 2014, at his home in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri. Ken will be remembered for his many performances of sacred music on the organ and piano as well as organizing special cantatas. He and his wife of 50 years, Claire Kohler, raised puppies that were being trained to serve people with disabilities. Ken is survived by his wife; three sons, Franz, Vaughn and Lance; three daughters-in-law, Jillian, Jessica and Kasia; a grandson and two granddaughters.

### 1970

**Nancy (Cassaday) Cummings** passed away on July 29, 2014. Nancy had a heart for service and joined Volunteers in Service to America after graduating from Houghton. Her work took her to Johnson City, Tennessee, where she worked with civil rights groups, housing rights, community food canneries, and other projects. She is survived by her husband, John Cummings Jr.; sons, John Cummings III and Matthew Cummings; five grandchildren; her mother, Ellen Cassaday; her brother, Bob Cassaday; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her father, Warren Cassaday, as well as father- and mother-in-law, John and Ruth Cummings.

**Joan (Mullet) Seymour**, 66, died on October 4, 2014, after a long illness. Joan spent her nearly 45-year career working at Christian schools. During that time, she earned her certification with the National Institute of Learning Development. Her last 20 years in education were focused on helping children of all ages overcome learning challenges. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Michael Seymour, Sr.; a daughter, Corinne Adams; three sons, Michael Seymour, Jr., Douglas Seymour, Sr., and Brian Seymour; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Barbara Kershner. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Russell Harris Jr. and Don Harris, as well as her sister, Cheryl Bilbrough.

### DR. JAMES P. CHEN

**Dr. James P. Chen '55**, associate professor of chemistry from 1960 to 1964 and one of Houghton's 100 notable alumni (awarded in 1983 during Houghton's Centennial celebration), passed away in Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 13, 2014, following a brief illness.



Born in Fungyuan, Taiwan, into a Buddhist family, James transferred to Houghton in 1952. He found that Houghton's small liberal arts atmosphere suited him very well and quickly immersed himself in college activities. “The college accepted him into the community,” notes Chen's son Jeremy. “The many pictures of Houghton that he kept feature him experiencing student life with a happy smile.” Houghton had a transformative effect on James' life; it was his first contact with Christianity and the place where he accepted Christ as his savior.

Dr. Chen received his PhD in biochemistry from Penn State University and returned to Houghton as a faculty member for several years before following his strong desire to work in medical research. He worked in that field in Buffalo, New York, and Galveston, Texas, before obtaining a tenure-track position as a professor and medical researcher at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 1976.

“It was at Tennessee that he had his most productive research years,” explains Jeremy. “His work in thrombosis and hemostasis covering blood coagulation gained him recognition in the scientific community throughout the world.”

At one point during his student days, James considered going into the ministry after hearing Dr. Claude Ries speak in chapel. In a yearbook note to Dr. Ries, James wrote: “I shall never forget your message...it had such great impact that I...have to do something about it. I feel I have a great responsibility for my people in Formosa, so pray for us.” While he never became a minister, James stayed active in church throughout his life, often serving as an elder or deacon and sometimes delivering a message in his native Taiwanese.

Dr. Chen is survived by his wife of 50 years, Metis Chen; sons, Mark and Jeremy Chen; a daughter, Eunice Zhou; five grandchildren; two brothers; a sister; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother.



## BILL ROESKE

Faithful example of Christ as a husband, father, grandfather and community member; kind and gentle faculty member who gifted others with his interest and warmth; “a really fine Christian gentleman” known for his quiet smile and unswerving trust in God; and the man who ushered Houghton College into the digital age, **William “Bill” Roeske ‘56** died March 15, 2015.



In 1970, before laptops, thumb drives and iPhones; before “Google” became a verb and AOL coined the phrase, “You’ve got mail;” even before dial-up internet connection and the blinking MS-DOS C: prompt, Houghton College had one computer on campus: a rented, floor-standing IBM 1130 that weighed half a ton and was about as large as an office desk. Small by 1960s standards, the machine came equipped with accessories that included a card reader, punch processing unit, line printer, single disc platter and card sorter. Associate professor of mathematics Bill Roeske was one of the few people on campus who knew how to use it and, as the new director of data processing, was given the daunting task of computerizing all of the administrative offices on campus.

“It was very difficult for people who worked in the administrative offices to have to change over to computers,” said Bill in a 2014 interview with **Dean Liddick ‘60** and **Deborah (Greenmeyer ‘69) Shea**. For Bill, the change on campus wasn’t as much about progress and technology as it was about building relationships and pursuing his God-given mission to help people. “You had to deal with these dear people tenderly,” he remembered.

Students were also impacted by Bill’s warm and gentle treatment—in and out of class. Often, he and his wife, **Jane (Gregg ‘60)**, invited students over for dinner or to enjoy a late-night study break of cookies and cocoa by their living room fire. “Bill was one of those people that, the first time you met him, you felt like he was a friend,” said former student **Tim Kangas ‘87**. “And what was remarkable was that Bill and Jane invited me, and many others, into their warm family life.” On these occasions, the students observed a married couple who “loved and respected one another and truly seemed to enjoy being in each other’s company,” continued Kangas. “I also saw how they loved and valued and prayed for their children. As a new Christian, I found this memorable. For many of us, the Roeskes were family away from family.”

Roeske is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, **Jane (Gregg ‘60) Roeske**; their children, **Martha “Marty” (Roeske ‘90) Skeele** and her husband, **Shawn Skeele ‘87**, and **Peter Roeske ‘93** and his wife, **Faith (Winchell ‘99) Roeske**; six grandchildren, including **Aubrey Skeele ‘18**; sister, Dorothy Dye; and four nieces.

## 1973

**Ralph D. Bishop**, 63, died on November 26, 2014. He is survived by a son, Michael Bishop; a daughter, Kristin Lampe; a granddaughter, Annabelle Lampe; and two brothers, **S. William “Bill” Bishop ‘71** and **Robert “Bob” D. Bishop ‘79**.

## 1974

**Katrina “Tina” (Hinderer) Fisher** passed away peacefully on December 21, 2014, from complications due to cardiac arrest. She is survived by her husband of nearly 40 years, Charles A. “Chuck” Fisher; a son, Aaron Fisher; her mother, Betty Hinderer; her brother, David Hinderer; and a niece, Megan Hinderer. She was preceded in death by her father, Richard “Dick” Hinderer.

## 1978

**Patricia L. (Speirs) Morris** died on January 4, 2015. Pat was a teacher at Riverside Elementary as well as Columbia County Christian School, both in Pennsylvania. In between, she worked as a stay-at-home mother raising her daughters. She also invested several years volunteering to help pregnant women understand the miracle of life. She is survived by her husband of 38 years, **Gary E. Morris ‘76**; five daughters, Amy E.M. Fanus, Kristin L. Morris, Suzanne M. Keffer, Katelyn J.M. Williams and Stephanie A. Morris; and five grandchildren. She is also survived by her mother, **Lois (Robinson ‘50) Bier**; two brothers, **H. Jeff Speirs ‘75** and **William A. Speirs ‘85**; and a sister, Rebecca Arnold.

### 1985

**Cheryl Burdick**, 51, died on December 6, 2014 after a battle with cancer. Cheryl earned her M.S. degree from Alfred University and was most recently employed at Rutgers University with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. She touched many lives with her talents, compassion and friendship. She is survived by her parents, William and Ellen Burdick; two siblings, Scott Burdick and Barbara Lew; close-to-her-heart niece and nephew, Sarah Kate Burdick and Justin Burdick; many relatives and friends in New Jersey; as well as lifelong friends Sara Wilfred and Nan Eddy.

### 2003

**Matthew Dickerson**, 34, passed away in November 2014 in Tonawanda, New York. Matt was a member of the US Army National Guard and was working for Home Depot in Tonawanda. He was an avid runner and participated in numerous marathons. He will be remembered as someone with a good heart. Survivors include his parents, **Charles** and **Karen (Jaekley '76) Dickerson '80**; a brother, **Andrew Dickerson '04**; grandmother, Barbara Jaekley; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his grandparents, Earl and Gladys Dickerson, and his grandfather, Robert Jaekley.

### FORMER FACULTY

**Arnold W. Cook '44**, emeritus professor and founder of Houghton's business department, passed away on May 7, 2015, at Warm Beach Senior Community in Stanwood, Washington. Please see the upcoming Fall/Winter 2015 issue of *Houghton* for an extended tribute to this beloved professor.

### HAROLD W. BUIRKLE

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your might as working for the LORD, not human masters..."*

COLOSSIANS 3:23 (NIV)

President's Advisory Board Member and alumni parent, highly successful business man and generous friend to the college, and a humble man with a great sense of humor who "loved Jesus like crazy," **Harold**

**W. Buirkle** passed away on October 1, 2014.



After serving with the U.S. Army Air Corp in Europe during WWII, Harold went to college and pursued a degree in finance and accounting. He quickly advanced in his field, first serving as Controller for Allied Chemical/Signal (now Honeywell International Inc.), then as Senior Executive VP of Finance. Later in his career, he worked for the Henley Group while serving on the boards of Motel Six, Converse, Biogen Idec, Camp-of-the-Woods, and various others.

Harold was known for his overwhelming generosity and humble spirit. "He was at the very top of the business world," said long-time friend and fellow Camp-of-the-Woods board member **John Bechtel '62**. "But I had to work hard to get him to tell me his business achievements (which were enormous!). He was highly motivated to serve Christ and use his wealth and position to further the Kingdom of God."

Harold helped build hospitals, clean drinking wells, teen centers and church buildings. Houghton College was one of the many Christian organizations he supported. "If he felt someone had a need, he would try to meet it," remembers daughter **Janet (Buirkle '83) Ross**. "He was always ready to share what he had with others: his time, homes, cars, money, and effusive praise."

Harold's generosity stemmed from a deep place of gratitude in his heart. "The joy of knowing God loved a sinner like him brought tears to his eyes," recalls Ross. "God gave Dad a big heart—a heart for people and a heart for the Gospel," offered Ross. "Combined, they were a FORCE—an outgoing, loving, caring, supporting whirlwind that enveloped us all."

Harold is survived by his five children, Richard, James, Robert, **Janet (Buirkle '83) Ross**, and Ruth Hecht; 10 grandchildren; and Susan, Jacob, and Jerry Chacko, who became family to him and his wife, Helen. He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Helen Buirkle.



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