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Title IX Changes Affect Houghton

BETHANY CHESEBRO

Last summer, the state of New York made changes to the Title IX policy regarding sexual assault and harassment. Title IX, a federal law under the Department of Education, was enacted in 1972 and states "No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program receiving Federal financial assistance."

At the collegiate level, this means the revision of policies and procedures to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to prevent sexual violence and to respond to reports promptly and effectively. As a result of the new

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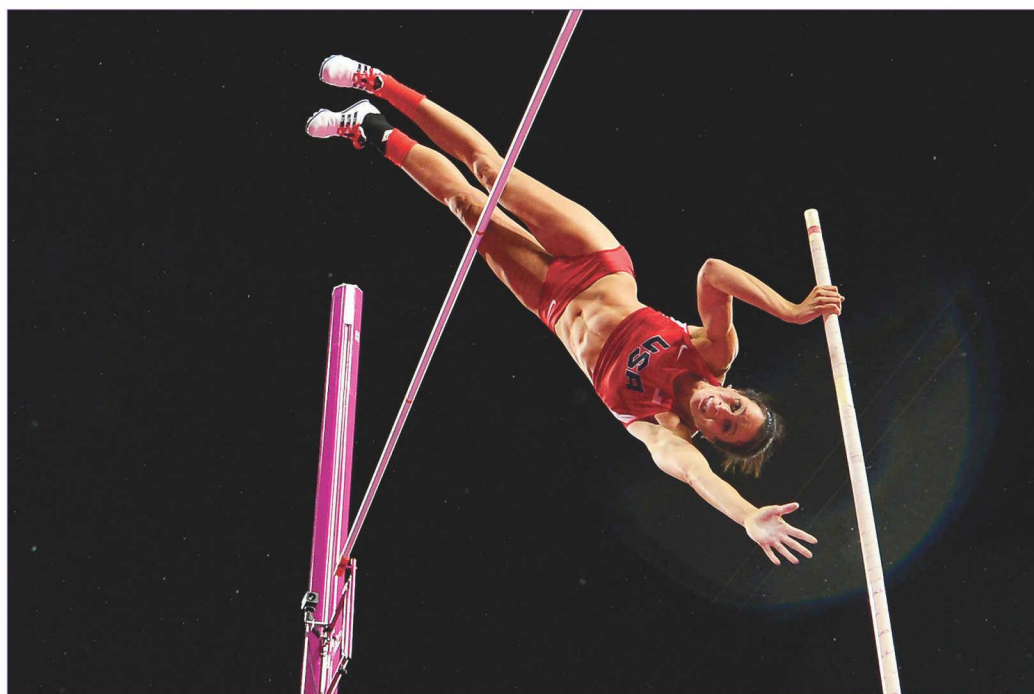
Olympic Gold Medalist Trains in KPFH

MARY CRONIN
DANI EATON

Olympic Pole Vaulter and gold medalist, Jenn Suhr, began training in the Kerr-Pegula Field House (KPFH) on weekday afternoons.

According to Athletic Director, Harold 'Skip' Lord, Rick Suhr, Suhr's husband and coach, called the athletic department in late September asking about the KPFH as a possible place for his wife and him to train. After multiple contacts, the Suhrs offered to be present for the homecoming ceremonies at the KPFH, including the ribbon cutting ceremony. The couple wanted to support the new facility, as well as the sport as a whole.

According to Lord, Suhr's ties to Houghton go back to her high school years. Originally a basketball player, Suhr did not participate in track and field until her senior year. She had been recruited by Lord to play for Houghton when he was the head women's basketball coach, but instead played basketball games in a Roberts Wesleyan uniform on multiple occasions at the Neilsen Physical Education Center.



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Jenn Suhr, Olympic pole vaulter, competes in the women's pole vault final in the 2012 Olympics in London, England on August 6, 2012, winning the gold medal.

Shortly after, she began setting national records in track and field, improving over time until she reached her current status. At the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, Suhr won the gold medal in pole vault. Then in 2012 Olympics, which took place in London, England, she received the gold medal in pole vault. Suhr also holds the world

indoor record for pole vault, as well as five indoor and four outdoor pole vault records. In addition to being a two-time olympian, Suhr also anticipates a third trip to the 2016 Olympic games.

Suhr and Mr. Suhr live in Rochester, but come to the KPFH about twice a week to train. As there are numerous

field house complexes in the Rochester area, such as at Brockport University, Roberts Wesleyan, RIT, and the University of Rochester, Suhr choosing to train at the KPFH compliments the facility in many ways. Lord said, "This [the KPFH] is as nice as any one

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Houghton Hosts First Indoor Home Meet

ALICIA NEEDHAM

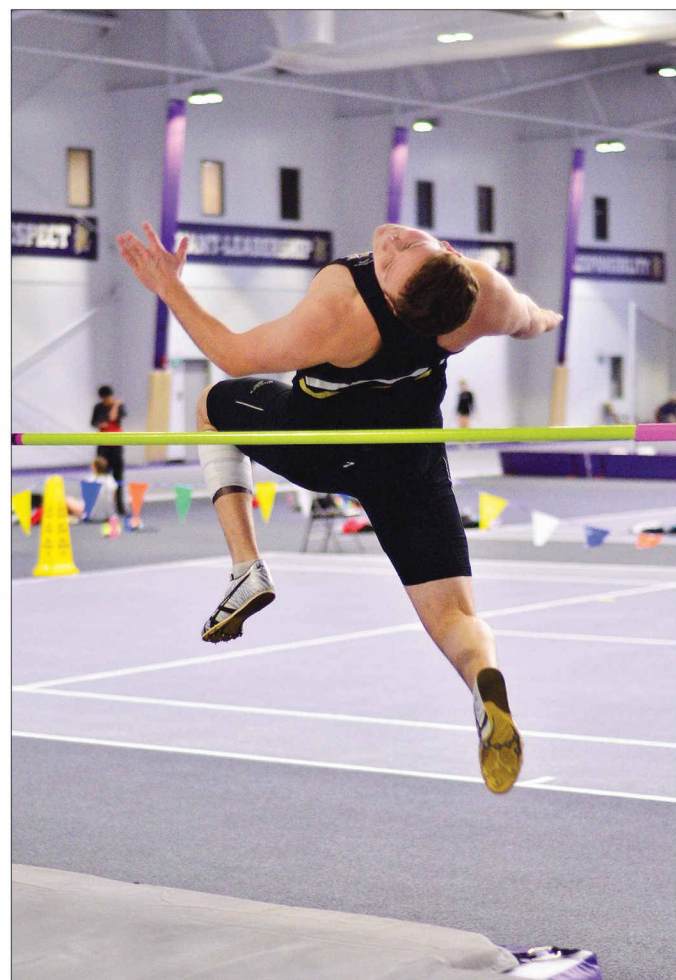
Houghton successfully hosted their first indoor track meet, the Highlander Invitational, on January 24 at the Kerr-Pegula Field House (KPAC) with six schools and about 300 athletes in attendance. They also hosted the Highlander Open/Multi-Event Indoor Track and Field meet on January 30 and 31. The KPAC has an eight lane track, which allows for events to be finished quicker than on a standard six lane track. Senior, Enrico Sukhdeo, believes "[the KPAC] gives the college a lot of exposure for recruits." Athletic Director, Skip Lord said, "Having this new facil-

ity will grow the track program" and "[we] intentionally kept this year's meets smaller because it is the first time in new facility and [we] want to make sure that we are prepared to run them efficiently and smoothly and give people a good experience."

Head coach, Patrick Hager said, "We had talked all week to the team about the fact that their performances might increase just based on the fact that they're at home." Many fans supported their fellow Highlanders at the Highlander Invitational, who competed exceptionally well as a team earning 13 indoor wins, ten personal bests, four second places, and three NCCAA national qualifiers. The Highlander athletes that have qualified for NCCAA nation-

als are Marshall Brady in the long jump (6.16 meters), Nikki Gams in 800 meter run (2:26:49), and Cara Davenport in the 5000 meter run (20:03:31). Sophomore, Marshall Brady said, "It's a tremendous blessing to have the KPAC" and "everyone got a chance to invite their friends and to compete not only for themselves but for the sake of others." Notable performances came from Jordan Cady, who finished second in the triple jump (12.47 meters), Enrico Sukhdeo who took third in the 60 meter dash (7:34), and Andrea Melhorn who took second and third in the shot put (10.17 meters) and weight (13.42 meters). Senior, Andrea Melhorn,

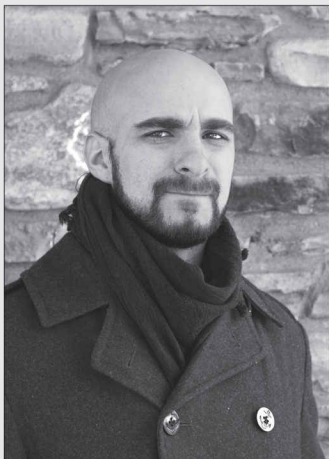
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COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

Marshall Brady '17, competes in the high jump at last weekend's track meet in the KPFH.

INTERNATIONAL // Mass Death Sentence in Egypt



JOE POYFAIR

An Egyptian court on Monday, February 1st 2015, sentenced 183 Muslim Brotherhood supporters to death. The court proceedings were held over the killing of 11 police officers in the violence that had engulfed Egypt after

the 2013 dismissal of the former Islamist president, President Mohammed Morsi. The attack took place after Egyptian military forces cracked down on Islamist supporters of Morsi in July 2013. Egyptian security forces descended onto two pro-Morsi camps in July and August 2013, killing hundreds. At the end of July and beginning of August 2013, hundreds of demonstrators were killed by Egyptian security forces. The Human Rights Watch said that this mass killing of protesters “probably amounts to crimes against humanity,” thus creating an international outcry that was quickly quieted by the Egyptian government. The United Nations has called the trials “unprecedented.” Amnesty International’s Deputy Middle East and North Africa Program Director, Hassiba Hadj

Sahraoui, said in a statement in response to Monday’s verdict. “The death sentences are yet another example of the bias of the Egyptian criminal justice system.” Sahraoui further stated that “issuing mass death sentences whenever the case involves the killing of police officers now appears to be near-routine policy, regardless of facts and with no attempt to establish individual responsibility.” The original trial saw 377 people sentenced to life in prison in absentia, while not present at the event being referred to. Hassiba Hadj Sahraoui said it would be wrong to impose the capital punishment “when there are serious doubts hanging over the fairness of the trial which disregarded international law.” The Egyptian court did not put 183 individuals to death lightly. The Egyptian

government has been attempting to fight against terrorism in Egypt. Muslim extremism has seen an increase in central Egypt in the past decade, and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has been fighting against these extremists. Egypt’s current government, led by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, has called for a ‘religious revolution’ and asked Muslim leaders to help in the fight against extremism. President el-Sisi has launched a war against terrorism, focusing particularly on the countries Sinai region, where an extremist group recently pledged allegiance to ISIS. In an act of counter extremism, Egyptian authorities cracked down in 2013 on former supporters of Morsi, a longtime member of the Muslim Brotherhood, which the Egyptian government had

officially declared a terrorist organization in December 2013. In a speech on New Year’s Day, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi called for a “religious revolution” in Islam that would displace violent jihad from the center of Muslim discourse. “Is it possible that 1.6 billion people should want to kill the rest of the world’s population, [which] is 7 billion people, so that they themselves may live?” President el-Sisi asked. “We have to think hard about what we are facing,” President el-Sisi said. “It’s inconceivable that the thinking that we hold most sacred should cause the entire Islamic world to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing, and destruction for the rest of the world. Impossible.”★
Joe is a senior political science major.

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believes the KPAC is the “start of something new, something good” and “the growth that’s gonna come from it is really exciting.” Some colleges in attendances at the Highlander Open/ Multi-Event Indoor were Man-

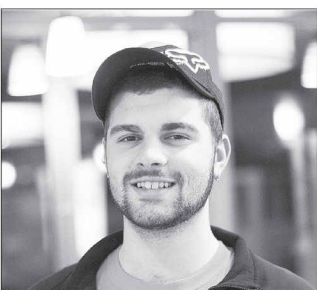
sfield University, Alfred University, Alfred State, and Mesiah College. On Friday and Saturday there was a heptathlon, a seven event contest, and a pentathlon, a five event contest. Senior, Savannah Doviak, set a new school record in the 300 meter run with a time of 44:43, which was almost one second faster than the previous record. Doviak, said, “Each week we set the bar higher and have higher expectations for ourselves” and “[the KPAC]

is a big deal for the track team and Houghton.” Both men and women accomplished the track and field team’s second goal of the meet, to get one facility best. Nikki Garns won the 600 meter run in 1:41:98 and the 4x200 meter relay team of Doviak, Nikki Garns, Kate Taggart, and Fiona Daloia won the race in 1:50:72. For the men, Jordan Cady took first in the long jump with 5.90 meters, giving the men their first win in the new facil-

ity and Jon Lewis finished in fifth place in the 600 meter run (1:29:00). The success of the meet could benefit Houghton in addition ways, such as an increase in enrollment. Doviak said, “[I] talked to recruits who said that after seeing the meet and the facility that they put Houghton as their first choice.” The track and field team has several goals for their season, some of which include a team GPA of 3.0 or higher, to be Empire 8 Conference Champi-

ons at Houghton, and to make it to the NCCAA finals. Hager said, “I want [athletes] to perform [their] best at the end of the season.” The women’s goal is to place fourth in the Empire 8 Conference, and the men’s is to get a certain amount of points to qualify for the Men’s National Meet. On February 14, Houghton is hosting the Empire 8 Conference Championships, fellow students are encouraged to show attend and show support.★

WORD ON THE STREET



“It’s very controversial, especially since it’s a Wesleyan college and a Wesleyan based chapel. I think a lot of people that go here are from different denominations, so making a Wesleyan chapel mandatory is something very difficult for others of different denominations to go through with and to follow through with because a lot of things can be different from denomination to denomination.”
-**Jacob Broniszewski**, *First Year*

“I think it’s fair thing to ask for the students. Personally, I love going to chapel when I’m there, and I never regret hearing Dean Jordan speak or any of the guests because it’s just kinda of nice to forget about classes sometimes and have an escape. So I think they expect just enough of us where they’re flexible with our schedules, but it is a really good thing to have in a Christian school that requires a little something from us.”
-**Katie Kriedler**, *Junior*



“People acutally go to chapel?”
-**Omar Mancio**, *Junior*

What are your thoughts on mandatory chapel?

“I think going to a Christian college, you know you signed up for that, that mandatory chapel is a neccessary thing.”
-**Racheal Gray**, *Sophomore*



“I think mandatory chapels are great because it gives us discipline with our faith, it gets us into a routine.”
-**Courtney Walters**, *First Year*

“I think chapel’s an awesome idea because I love praising God and I think everyone else should too, but I think it might be difficult and might deter some people if they don’t want to got to chapel every day.”
-**Angelica Tennant**, *First Year*



“I personally enjoy it because I think it’s not asking a lot of the students to go to two-thirds of the chapels. I think it’s a happy medium between having to be there all the time as a devotion to God and also just giving flexibility for hard student schedules and academics. ”
-**Kevin Biondolillo**, *Sophomore*

“It’s hard, students would just not attend at all, and these programs actually take a lot of work to get together, maintain, plan, and everything. Because Houghton students ‘just don’t attend anything and they have a participation problem’ they wouldn’t go. At the same time it is really frustrating that they are mandatory because then it’s like a class. You feel like you have to attend and take notes and spirituality isn’t a class, whatever your religion may be. ”
-**Rachel Wright**, *Junior*



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of them, if not nicer.”

The advantages of Suhr’s presence include increased visibility and publicity of the KPFH. Now that Houghton can now advertise hosting an Olympian on campus, Lord thinks filling up the building for both high school and collegiate indoor track and field events may be easier. “Prospective Houghton students still in high school, especially those we bring in for track meets, may be more drawn to the college because of this,” Lord stated. It is hoped high school track athletes visiting campus will be as impressed with the KPFH as Suhr is. Lord added, “This is a very good field house for a NCAA division three school.”

Increased visibility for the KPFH is a primary goal for the Athletic Department. Though, as Lord remarked, Houghton is still “learning how to get the word out” and use the facilities to the maximum benefit of the students and institution. The hope is with the events and visibility of the KPFH, it will expose prospective students to Houghton, create a stream of revenue for the college, and stimulate both the local economy and the surrounding community.

Current students can look forward to the possibility that Suhr may enter some inter-collegiate indoor track meets as

an open, unattached competitor. Houghton pole vaulter, Judith Marklin, thinks it would be intimidating to compete with Suhr, but also would motivate her to be a better competitor, “I think that when you compete with people that are a lot better than you it really pushes you in so many different ways and seeing how she trains and just looking at her, herself, how much conditioning and strength training has to go into everything and how she really has to touch on all aspects.” She said, “ It’s not just focusing on pole vault technique, but everything. Seeing how to really focus on on all different aspects of your life , spiritually included, in order to become a good athlete, and then being able to compete against someone like that, you also have to step up your game and take into consideration all the different things you’re doing.”

Marklin also thinks competing with Suhr would also help people to get to know Suhr as person, not just an athlete, “I think a lot of times we like to put people that have achieved that amount of excellence on pedestals and not really see them as humans, but I think in competition you really get to see people’s strengths and weaknesses, so I think it’d be a good opportunity to see that in some ways we are just like Jenn.”★



Jenn Suhr, gold medal Olympian, trains for pole vault in the Kerr-Pegula Field House at Houghton College.



Nancy Murphy, who works in the counseling center, was recently appointed as the Title IX Coordinator for Houghton College due to changes in New York State Title IX regulations.

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guidelines, Houghton College is in the process of revising the sexual harassment and assault policy in order to promote a healthier, safer environment for all students and faculty.

Houghton College’s Title IX Coordinator, Nancy Murphy, described Title IX as a law that is “critical for assuring that people of all genders are equipped to thrive in learning communities that are free of discrimination and violence.” The prevention of sexual harassment is very important because a college campus is an environment where many young people are not reporting cases of assault or abuse. Even when they are reporting, there are often times when college administrators fall short of the goal of taking care of the victim and holding the perpetrator accountable.

Previously under this law, Houghton’s sexual harassment policy was based on a “No means No” approach where investigation into an alleged sexual assault focused on whether or not the victim verbally said or behaved in a way that communicated a “no” in denial of sexual consent. However, Murphy stated, “many sexual assaults occur in the absence of a ‘no’ but without a ‘yes’”. She referred to the difficulty institutions are having determining whether or not a verbal “no” was stated by a sexual assault victim and, as a result, New York made a necessary adaptation.

The new motto for the Title IX policy is “Yes means Yes.” This motto places responsibility on the accused assaulter to state why he/she thought the sexual behavior was consensual. The changed policy challenges the assaulter to prove the words or actions that were present for him/her to believe he/she was wrongfully accused. The major reason for the policy change is often due to the inability of

assault victims to speak or take action for themselves under the circumstances they are in. Victims are frequently unable to give their consent due to incapacitation by fear, age, or alcohol.

However, since Houghton College is an institution that requires students to abstain from alcohol, Murphy asked, “What does this have to do with Houghton College?” She answered, “Though the number of assaults against Houghton students is arguably much lower than that of many college populations, our students do experience sexual assault, sometimes here on campus and sometimes off-campus. It is important that we as a community are educated about sexual assault for the primary purpose of prevention, but also to make sure that victims receive sensitive and helpful follow-up care and that student perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable.”

There are debates on whether or not this new change will be more beneficial in helping victims of sexual assault and harassment and Murphy believes, “There are elements both good and

bad.” If we abide by the “Yes means Yes” policy, then it may be favoring the victim’s rights more than the perpetrator’s rights. But with the old policy too much pressure was placed on the victim and it often resolved in a lack of action being taken.


SGA’s Executive Officer of Student Life, Jared Cram, said “I’m interested to see how this will pan out on a campus like Houghton where some of these issues may not be as obvious or prevalent. I’m part of the committee on Harassment Policy and Prevention and we had a lot of training on what to do in certain situations. It seems like they’re doing a very good job of making sure the victim is cared for above all else.”

One of the ways the college will inform students, faculty, and staff on the new policies is through a campus-wide survey that is due to come out in Fall of 2015. This survey will measure the rate of sexual assault on campus, how aware students are of current policies and procedures, and the likelihood that they would feel comfortable reporting sexual assault. ★

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Celebrating Black History Month

Black Heritage Club Plans Plethora of Events

AVA BERGEN

Black Heritage Club is not just for black people. Black Heritage Club is a place for people of all races to gather and engage in honest communication. This is the goal according to President Nailah Pressley, sophomore, “This year I really want to focus on bringing people together, and getting to know one another aside from racial differences.” This ambition is evident through the events Black Heritage Club has planned for campus during Black History Month. Each occasion provides an opportunity for fellowship and conversation, starting with Soul Food Night on Thursday, February 19th.

Club Communications Director Travis Trotman, sophomore, commented on the convenience of this year’s Soul Food Night versus previous years: “Last year we had it in Gillette and you had to get a ticket beforehand...this year, because it’s up in the cafeteria it lets everyone participate. We have some things planned, and we’re going to be playing soul music, and it will be a very interactive night for anyone who wants to come.” The Club will also be screening the new ABC televi-



Black Heritage Club cabinet members Lauren Lund, Nailah Pressley, and Travis Trotman.

ANTHONY BURDO

sion show *Black-ish* down in Big Al’s on Wednesday the 11th and the 18th, as well as facilitating a discussion with responses to the show afterward. Pressley said the club picked *Black-ish* in particular because, “It deals with racial issues in the world today but I also feel like it’s a show that anyone can relate to.”

Other main events include the showing of the critically acclaimed film *Selma* on March

6th, featuring David Oyelowo’s portrayal of Martin Luther King Jr. and the ongoing fight for civil rights in 1965. The Black History Club has also managed to secure the Reverend Marvin McMickle, Houghton’s CLEW speaker in 2014, for the last chapel of the month.

The Club has changed its focus under the leadership of Pressley, in comparison with previous years. Secretary and Treasurer

Lauren Lund, junior, has been a member since she was a first year and said, “It has definitely changed—different cabinets have different goals and that orients the type of activity we do. I know last year [then President] Katrina Sawyer was more focused on education and lectures. And my freshman year, Julian Cook focused most on outreach.” Pressley commented her main focus on the club is, “to encour-

age people to talk. Even if you disagree with what I think, what I’m saying, then let’s at least have a conversation. Because nothing happens when people don’t talk.”

Pressley speaks about how her goals for the club changed as her perspective changed: “I came into this position wanting mostly to inform people, talk about what black history is, why this is important...but after listening to a lot of the feedback here on topics of race, I just realized that we need to connect on a human level first, and then we can get to the hard-hitting issues. So, I listen and observe a lot more.”

Lund says that her involvement in the club has been invaluable in terms of broadened horizons: “It’s interesting because [while I’ve been involved] different events have happened both outside and within campus that relate to controversial social issues. To listen to different inside perspectives, how people are affected by these events, it really affects the way you think of things...I don’t just see the events, I think how would my friends be affected by this? It’s so important to learn how other people feel about things, not just your own opinion on how they should feel.” ★

Walk the Moon — Talking is Hard —

Releases New Album

HOPE MCKEEVER

On December 2, 2014, Walk the Moon released their album, *Talking is Hard* to an audience of eager indie pop/rock fans. Walk the Moon’s most recent album resonates with a generation that seeks communication through artful dialogues. The band perfects this art by addressing social issues without fear or apology. The creative use of percussion, guitar riffs, and stylized lyrics creates a kaleidoscope of sound that provokes a reaction in the listener that transcends mere melodic recognition.

The four-man band that formed in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2010 achieved success from their energetic self-titled album, *WALK THE MOON* in June 2012. Their listening audience grew as their contagious, youthful spunk infected the hearts of a generation not only eager to ask questions, but also eager to dance off the uncertainty of life by way of creative percussion lines and poetic lyricism.

The new album begins with lead singer, Nicholas Petricca’s distinguishable falsetto voice ushering his modern audience into a discussion on the timeless topic of race in culture. The song, *Different Colors*, depicts a celebration of differences ex-

pressed through a simple, upbeat melody reminiscent of a positive protest saying, “Come on lovers/come on haters/tonight we raise the fire/cause when people get to dancing/they forget about taking sides.” The song explores the healing powers of music and dance on topics that have plagued society for centuries.

The theme of curative dance first appeared when the band released their single, *Shut up and Dance* on September 9, 2014. The carefree dance anthem satisfied widespread anticipation for the release and provided an effective precursor for the album. The song highlights the popular theme of relationships that many artists attempt to capture. However, the vulnerable, honest approach that the band takes creates a credible framework for listeners to relate to. The untamed pop sound and metaphorical interpretations of relationships emerge clearly in the song, *Avalanche*, in which drummer Sean Waugaman keeps the listener dancing while Petricca provokes introspection through imagery. The song creatively tells the story of one look causing an avalanche to drop in the heart of a young romantic. Although the song idealizes love at first sight, the catchy chorus prompts the listener to give in to the beat and embrace the clichéd feelings that even the most rational thinker experiences.



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Walk the Moon is known for their funky and upbeat brand of indie rock music.

Fortunately, the band’s interpretation of romantic expression is not limited to clichés. The song *Portugal* depicts the complexities of relationships as a part of growing up. Petricca sings, “What you don’t know now one day you’ll learn/’Cause growing up is a heavy leaf to turn.” The honesty of uncertainty manifests itself in the raw emotion that the band conveys through a spoken portion of the song that encour-

ages thanksgiving amidst the unknown outcomes of life, love, and personal circumstance.

The biggest surprise of the album arrives at the fourth track entitled, *Up 2 You*. The song begins with synthesizer and bass, but it transitions to a heavy rock and roll chorus that catches the listener off guard. The chorus shouts, “It’s up to you” at a young person who has blamed the world for all his problems and neglects the

importance of personal change. The tone of the album changes at this point from celebration to instruction. The band feels responsible to educate their peers about lessons they have learned as a band and as individuals. The harsh song effectively makes its point to get the attention of the listener in an effort to guide the listener into the album’s final stage of optimism for the future.

The final song, *Aquaman*, ends the album with a ballad depicting a nervous man who stands at the edge of a diving board questioning whether he should dive into the water. He decides a minute into to the song, “So here we go, head first with no regrets.” He knows it won’t be easy as he sings, “You gotta risk your neck/but know in your heart it will be worth it.” The image does not sugar-coat relationships, but it accurately portrays the dichotomy of fear and hope that exists in the daily process of taking daily life “one breath, after another.” In this album the band finds new ways to play with their sound by implementing synthesizer, percussion, guitar, and powerful lyrics. This combination creates a provocative, yet fun listening experience for connoisseurs of music who hunger for innovative sound that inspires endless dance moves and meaningful reflection. ★

Faculty Art Show Opening Tonight

HATTIE BURGHER

Every year the members of the Art Department get a chance to display their personal work in the Faculty Art Exhibit. It is an opportunity for the professors to see their pieces in a gallery setting and for their students, colleagues, and friends to get a glimpse of how they apply what they teach in the classroom to their work.

This year’s show will feature Professors Dave Huth and Ted Murphy’s sabbatical work, installations by Professors Alicia Taylor and Ryan Cooley, ceramics by Professor Gary Baxter, and watercolors by Professor John Rhett.

Upon returning from a year devoted to his studio practice, Murphy is ready to exhibit the pieces that he has been faithfully working on for eighteen months. His works are mixed media, combining graphite drawings and washes of color that create invented spaces. “Baroque” is the term Murphy uses when describing the pieces. Out of the forty pieces he has made for this specific project, Murphy has chosen twenty-five to appear in the gallery.

Baxter will display what he does best, ceramics. The common theme of his wheel-thrown bowls is trout, which are intricately drawn on to the bottom, sides, and inside of his bowls. The series has taken him about eight months and in order for the pieces to make the cut for the show, they had to “come out of the kiln singing” said Baxter. His pieces are “Spiritual relics that are inspired by the natural realm” and that “celebrate and honor the beauty of nature.”

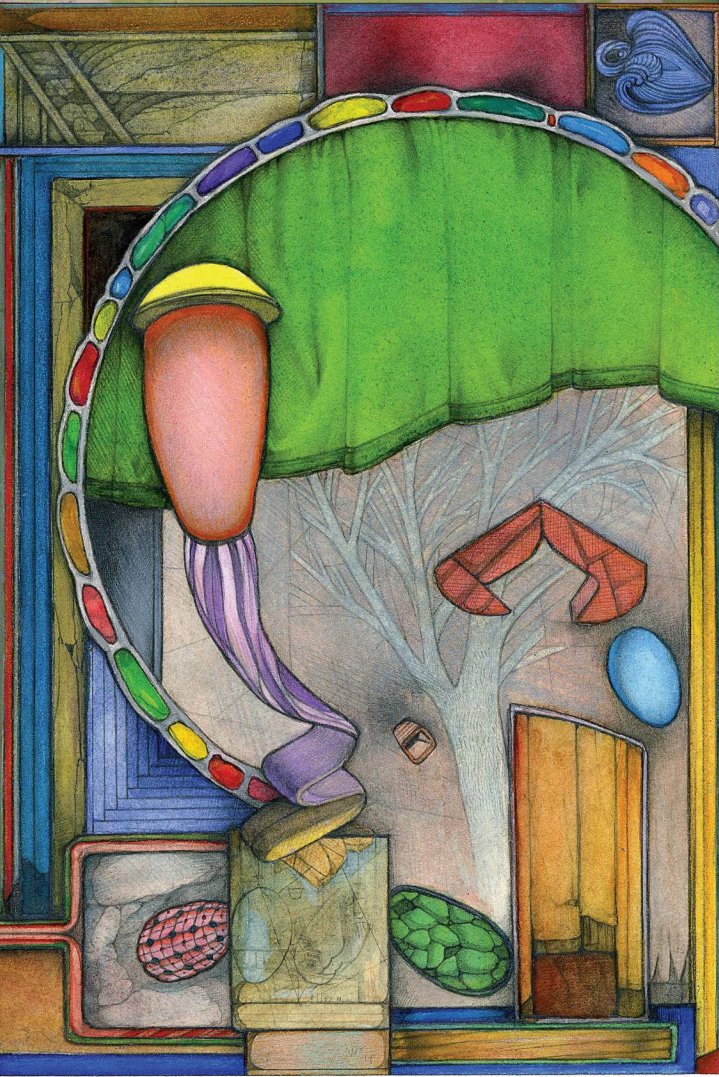
The dynamics and nuances of the gallery space were crucial for Cooley’s “site specific” photography installation.



From left to right descending: work featured by Professors Cooley, Rhett, Huth, Murphy, Baxter, and Taylor.

lation. His piece involves a combination of suspended lights and photography with the intent on focusing on the physicality of the photograph. “I’m thinking less about the content of the photograph and more about the viewer’s relationship to the photograph,” said Cooley. He wants to push the limits of the “viewers sensorial relationship” with an image, hoping to make it involve more than just sight. Cooley’s installation is “experiential,” meaning you need to see it in person rather than on a computer screen to fully understand it.

What Baxter looks forward to most from the exhibit are the reactions that people have to his work. “I enjoy just seeing them smile or have a look of confusion or bewilderment,” said Baxter. Murphy thinks that the Faculty Art Exhibit is important because it is a chance to share with the students what he is doing. “It doesn’t make sense to encourage students to do work and not do it ourselves,” said Murphy. For him, it is an opportunity for his students to judge whether or not his work has “any relevance to their work.”



Getting to see his work and also his fellow faculty members’ work in a gallery setting is what Cooley is highly anticipating. The exhibit is also a chance to see his work come to life. “Because it is so site specific, it almost always ex-

ists just as an idea until I can set it up,” said Cooley. The Faculty Art Exhibit is now open at the Ortlip Gallery and the reception will be held on tonight, Friday, February 6th at 6pm. ★



Endangered Language Species

HOPE MCKEEVER

Houghton should increase the amount of language credits required for integrative studies in order to support the school’s mission of global service. With the increasing globalization of technological communication, it is important for students to learn a second language in order to relate in a world that thrives on interpersonal relationships. Because technology provides an easily accessible route for conversation, verbal communication has become a lost art for many modern students. The language learning process encourages cross-cultural communication that extends beyond words, helping a speaker to identify with cultural values.

Like any difficult task, language learning requires motivation in order for proper growth to occur. Most people think language aptitude, the mental ability to acquire a new language, should be the primary motivation for language learning. However, according to a study done at McGill University, “when measures of aptitude are correlated with grades in language courses, the validity coefficients show considerable variability from situation to situation.” Fear of inadequate aptitude should not hold anyone back from learning a

second language. Instead, one should, with confidence and enthusiastic interest, strive to learn another’s language.

Houghton students strive to help others across the globe. However, we cannot achieve these goals if we assume that all cultures should conform to English as the one supreme language. This conformist view enables a subtle manifestation of ethnocentrism. Learning a foreign language combats ethnocentric tendencies by forming relationships between oneself and another culture.

Professor of Spanish, David Kinman, believes “the reason to learn another language is to be able to value the speaker of that language.” With the common bond of language, one better identifies with the other on a deep level. This approach transcends utilitarian uses of language by creating a foundation for building relationships of trust with people from other cultures. Professor Kinman disproves the misconception that only language majors have a purpose and motivation for learning a foreign language.

Learning a foreign language combats ethnocentric tendencies.

We should fight for our language programs.

Not only does language learning promote valuing other cultures, it supports the Christian ideal of service to others. Professor of French, Jean-Louis Roederer, spoke from personal experience saying, “As Christians, it is critical that we understand people of other cultures in order to minister better.”

For instance, Roederer recounted an experience from when he was a student to demonstrate his point. He and wife, Sandy Roederer, took part in a ministry at Houghton called Torchbearers. The group went door to door sharing their faith in Wellsville. Upon arriving at a certain house, Roederer asked in English if he could share his faith with the woman. She politely declined, but as he was leaving, he heard her call in French to one of her children playing in the yard. Roederer turned around and

began speaking French with the woman. Upon hearing her heart language, she welcomed the conversation and invited him inside to hear more about his faith.

This simple anecdote exemplifies how important learning a second language should be at a school that mission statement prioritizes global service. In order to fulfill the command in Ephesians 5:21 to “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ,” we must strive to relate to other cultures by conquering language barriers.

Throughout the years, Houghton has slowly gotten rid of the Classics major combining Latin and Greek studies, the German major, and the French major. The only language major that still exists at Houghton is a Spanish major. Houghton students used to be required to take 12 credits, or four semesters, of language before they could graduate. Now, only 2 semesters of language are required. Most students test out of this requirement. Houghton risks losing its language departments because the Administration worries that enrollment will

go down if the school requires language credits for each student, regardless of previous experience. Fear of decrease in enrollment should not hinder Houghton from making decisions that will increase the growth of students.

According to Roederer, Houghton sends out more international workers, missionaries, and linguists than any other Christian school in the nation. These students should be equipped with language learning tools in order for effective ministry to occur. Even if the language studied in college is not the language that a student will use in the field, language learning becomes easier and more natural as one continues to practice, according to Roederer.

For Houghton, cutting language programs means that the school’s focus is shifting from an attitude of compassion for other cultures to an attitude of competition with other Christian institutions. As a student body, we should fight for our language programs: healthy communication with other cultures depends on it. These programs reside at the core of a liberal arts education, and we, as inquisitive students, should not be denied fundamental learning opportunities.

Hope is a junior english major and is currently studying abroad in Rwanda.

Towards a New Feminist Imperative



ANTHONY BURDO

LEX DAKIN

When I finally found myself caught in a self-contradictory tangle of pop-activist ideals and “PC” jargon I decided it was high time to rethink my position on the political spectrum. As I have organized thoughts, ideals, opinions, and beliefs, I have encountered more than a few complicated “isms,” and the ever-popular *feminism* is one of them. Unfortunately, discovering the meaning of feminism for Western people today seems like an impossible task.

Feminism has become a catch-all term used in a variety of contexts, from internet comment threads to political and literary texts. Our common discourse is overrun by opinions, and not a few of them seem blatantly heretical in their barest, ugliest forms. A multiplicity of definitions detracts from meaning, and feminism loses its concision and strength.

If an ideal is a belief or standard that influences action, defining feminism by what it does may be the place to start. While I’m at an immediate loss for what exactly feminism *should* do, I certainly have a few thoughts on what feminism *shouldn’t* do.

Feminism should not shame housewives and conservative

There is a glaring contradiction in a feminism that despises and discriminates.

women. Feminism should not categorically label and degrade men. Feminism should not encourage anger or violence. Using feminism as a soapbox or a sob story to attract attention to individual people accomplishes nothing for the greater good of the whole. Rejecting people because they don’t fit the bill weakens the name of the cause.

If feminism seeks equality for women, it is on the basis

that all people deserve respect. No matter the race, sex, gender, orientation, beliefs, or identity, freedom to operate without fear of discrimination is a primary goal. If feminism so eagerly applies its force to free women from the bonds of sexism, it seems that feminists should be as eager to stand against discrimination across the board. Which is why I find myself sadly disturbed by the conversations flowing around me on a daily basis, espoused by people who would claim to be feminists but willingly degrade and disrespect others on the basis of sexual orientation, religious belief, or political ideology.

Too many “feminists” fall into the trap of blaming and stereotyping men rather than educating and empowering

men and women alike. Women who choose to live a lifestyle of religious conservatism that is interpreted as oppressive are mocked and patronized. The internet can be a snake’s den of hatred masked by anonymity.

I certainly do not have all of my own beliefs figured out, let alone a confident grasp on some of our culture’s most popularized beliefs today. But I can say that it seems to me there is a glaring contradiction in a feminism that despises and discriminates. Feminism begins with respecting, uplifting, and encouraging people for the pure fact of their humanity. Therefore, it is an originally justified idea and this respect should carry beyond the limits of sex and gender.

Maybe this topic is overwrought, but I’m tired of the hypocrisy. Regardless of how we identify as individuals, we should offer the same respect we expect for ourselves to everyone else. Besides, wouldn’t Christ do the same?

Lex is a junior english and history double major.

Discovering the meaning of feminism for Western people today seems like an impossible task.

Will Pictures be the End of Us?



ANTHONY BURDO

MASON WILKES

If there’s one unarguable fact about the digital age, it is that images dominate our lives. Every day we’re bombarded by advertisements, Snapchats, Instagram notifications—an unstemmed tide of visual narrative. If you’ve ever taken a class with Professor Dave Huth, you’ve undoubtedly heard what opponents of our image-saturated age think of this flood of images; how they destroy our culture, decrease social capital and interaction, and ultimately make us a bunch of gibbering idiots covered in x-pro filters.

At this point, you’re either tired of hearing this argument, terrified that we’re all going to devolve into those chair people from Wall-E, or, like the skeptical Houghton postmodern that you are, you’ve decided that images can’t be the end of human intelligence. In a way, I identify with all three of these perspectives. On the one hand, I see what appears to be a rapid decline in what has classically been defined as ‘society.’

People statistically talk face-to-face less often, hang out in shorter increments, and on the face of it, literacy and basic common sense seem to have been pushed to the side by our new, selfie-stick-wielding, 24-hour-news-cycle-watching overlords. Recently, this hit me as, ironically enough, I watched the 1963 film Contempt by French director Jean-Luc Godard. Characters in the film consistently quoted from

Go read a book, discuss it, and then snap about it with your friends.

memory the likes of Dante, Virgil, and Homer. And not only did they quote, but they APPLIED what they quoted. The words that they committed to memory, astonishingly enough, impacted their lives.

Now, I don’t know about you, but I find that our culture can barely remember which 125 characters we sent five minutes ago, let alone a passage from Dante’s journey through the bowels of Hell. The likes of media critics would assert that this is due to our increased dependence on our televisions, phones, and computer screens and the resulting ‘death’ of word-based, literary culture.

I urge consideration of a blended coexistence with technology.

In short, when a phone or a computer becomes your primary means of information gathering, you condense your thought life into a measly 125 characters.

However, before we finish unplugging our routers, deleting our contacts, and in some case (I see you, Neil Postman) fashioning tinfoil hats, I urge consideration of a blended coexistence with technology. While the dangers of technological dependence are well-documented, albeit highly contested, the benefits are often overlooked. Through computing power, we can create twice as fast, reach an exponential number of people with our ideas, and pretty much do ten times the work that we normally could. For instance, the current business idea of the ‘lean startup’ would be largely impossible without the ability of a small staff to work efficiently and

effectively—two game-changing characteristics of technological improvement.

In short, our tendencies are to create binaries—we can either have this or that, but not both. But that does not have to be the case in regards to our interactions with technology. If we foolishly allow ourselves to become entirely absorbed by yakking, snapping, and tweeting, we miss out on a significant portion of beneficial literary and interpersonal communication. Concurrently, if we focus only on the interpersonal and literary, we miss out on the benefits of mass communication, entirely disregarding the current trends of overlap between these two. Ultimately, by applying some self-control and a little creativity, the two often “opposing” parts of modern life can be brought together into a continuous whole.

So here’s my advice: go read a book, discuss it, and then snap about it with your friends. *

*(Data and message rates may apply.)

Mason is a junior english and communication double marjor.



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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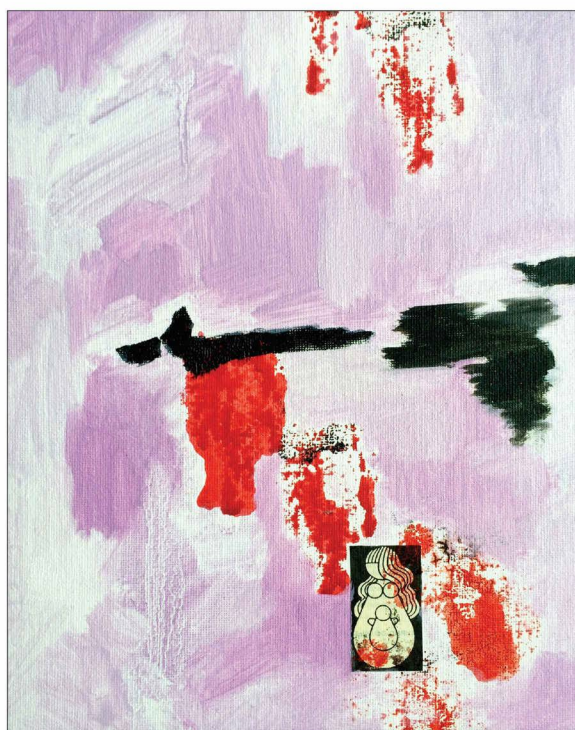
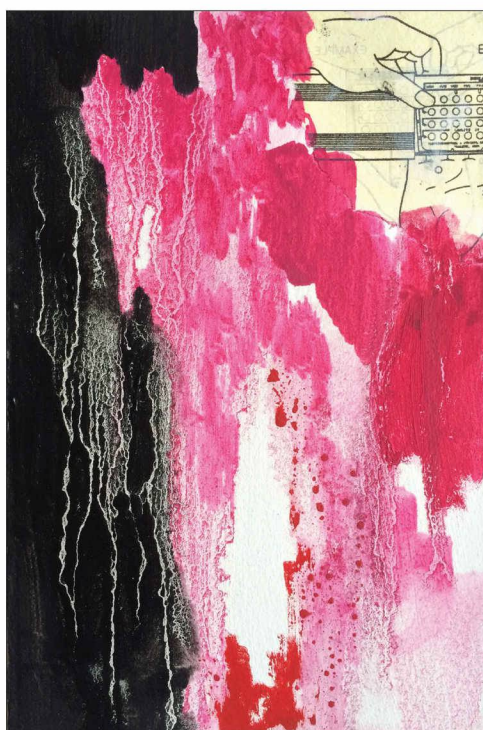
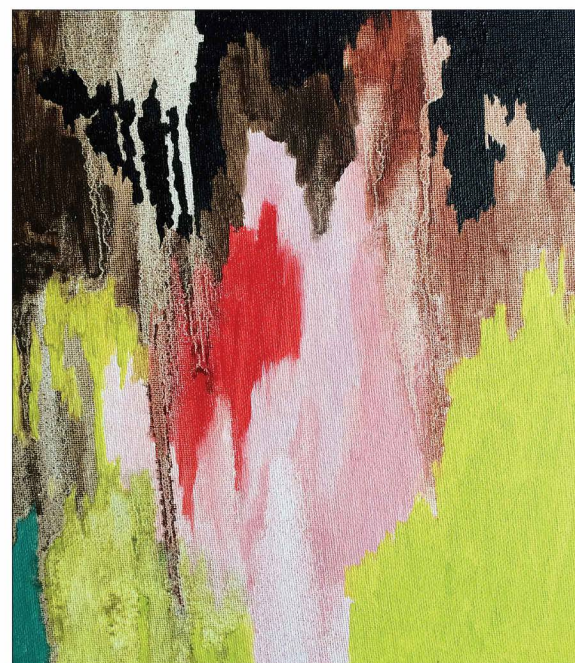
Artist of the Week

Emily Williams

//senior BFA studio art major



ANTHONY BURDO



Titles & Media

from left to right descending

"Lesion", *painting*

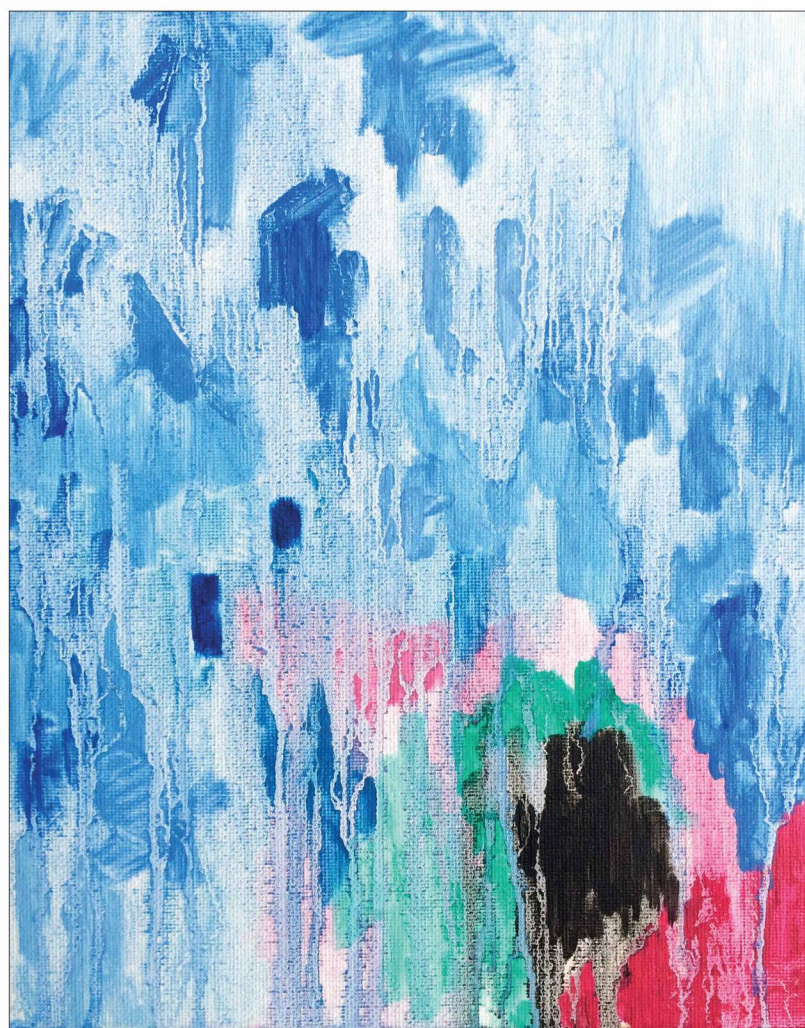
"Forth West", *painting*

"To Keep Her", *painting*

"Confession No. 1,"
painting

"Waves and Breakers",
painting

"He Was Lonely",
painting



“ Nothing gives rest but the sincere search for truth. ” -Blaise Pascal