

# HOUGHTON

A man wearing an orange helmet, a dark blue t-shirt, and khaki shorts is participating in a ropes course. He is holding onto a rope with both hands and is looking down. In the background, two children are also participating in the ropes course. One child is wearing a red helmet and a light blue shirt, and the other is wearing an orange helmet and a yellow shirt. They are all wearing safety harnesses and helmets. The ropes course is set up in a forest with many trees.

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

2 TIMOTHY 1:7 **FEARLESS**  
BEGINNINGS



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External Engagement**

Karl Sisson

**Editor**

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

**Lead Designer**

Amy (Danna '93) Tetta

**Alumni Notes Editor**

Jake Crawford '20

Evan Logee '20

**Contributors**

Elianna (Chroniger '18) McHenry MBA '20

Jason Mucher

Daniel Noyes '93

Karl Sisson

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

**Proofreader**

Hilary (Young '07) Gunning

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Cathy Freytag

Phyllis Gaerte

Jason Mucher

Greg Bish '95

Karl Sisson

Amy (Danna '93) Tetta

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Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

**Photography**

Michael Blankenship '10

Jake Crawford '20

Sissi Lu '18

Erin Ozminkowski '23

Alessia Salati '23

Matt Wittmeyer

**Printing**

The Zenger Group

Tonawanda, N.Y.

# FEARLESS BEGINNINGS

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

## INSIDE:

03 FROM THE PRESIDENT

04 FAITH OVER FEAR

06 HERE I AM

10 BUILDING COMMUNITY

12 PLANS TO PROSPER YOU

22 ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

28 IN MEMORIAM

*Cover Photo: Climbers take some fearless steps on EPIC Adventures' new high ropes course in the Houghton woods.*

*This Photo: Sunrise over the Equestrian Center at Houghton College.  
Photo credit Alessia Salati '23.*

Dear Friends,

I have had a number of “new beginnings.” The most significant of all would be my acceptance of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and beginning an intentional relationship with Jesus as a teenager. Others have included starting college, getting married, becoming a father, beginning my first chief executive role and, of course, beginning a new chapter of work and life at Houghton College.

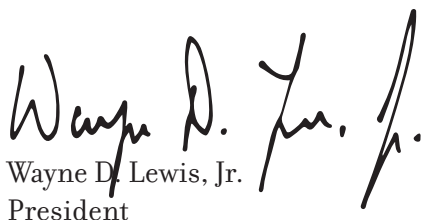
There is one particular beginning that I do not often talk about but which has had particular significance in my life. In August of 2005, Monica and I lost our home in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, to Hurricane Katrina. Knowing that a monster storm was approaching the Gulf Coast, we made the decision to evacuate. Thankfully, we had the means and ability to do so, unlike so many others living in our region. We fully expected to return home within a day or two, possibly with a bit of flooding. We had miscalculated. We lost our home and just about everything in it. I will never forget walking into our home for the first time after being allowed to return to see our refrigerator at the staircase on the 2nd floor.

On the other side of Hurricane Katrina, our lives began anew. Much more important than anything we lost, here is what God taught us:

- » While you will have to weather some storms in this life, I will be with you, always. (Psalm 27:4-6)
- » I am able to keep you through the storms of life and restore you on the other side of those storms. (1 Peter 5:10)
- » I will make all things good for those who love me and have been called according to my purpose. (Romans 8:28)

With this issue of Houghton Magazine, as you read about the new beginnings of fearless Houghton students and alumni, I encourage you to identify the ways in their lives and in your life that God cares for us, equips us and strengthens us, even in our new beginnings. Our beginnings are often fresh opportunities for God to showcase His amazing power and continued faithfulness.

Yours in His Excellence,

  
Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.  
President





# FAITH OVER FEAR

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

When the 286th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion of the Maine Army National Guard deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2009, each member took a dog tag inscribed with Joshua 1:9: "Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Those dog tags were a gift from the unit's chaplain and from their commanding officer, **Diane (Meserve '88) Dunn**. For Diane, that scripture carried a vital message she wanted those under her command to remember—and one she also needed to reflect on regularly.

A life in the military comes with a great deal of transition, uncertainty and opportunity for fearless beginnings on a routine basis. So, when Diane retired from the National Guard in October of 2021, she was prepared to face an unknown future with a faith developed throughout a lifetime of learning to trust God with composure and contentment.

Diane came to Houghton in the 1980s, intent on a college degree but with no idea how she was going to pay for it. With help from **Troy Martin '83** in the Student Financial Services office, scholarship aid, work-study and participation in Houghton's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, God made a way for Diane to finish her degree in psychology and pursue what has become a remarkable career.

It was her experience on the Highlander Wilderness Adventure—a program created for first-year students by **Doris "Mabel" (Garrett '71) Nielsen**—that convinced Diane ROTC was the right fit for her. The skills she explored—team-building, bonding, testing herself—transferred well to the life she would eventually lead in the National Guard. She learned to overcome challenges, to do things she didn't think she was capable of, to rely on the support of others, to trust in God's plan, and to apply leadership skills and mental health care skills to everyday life.

Diane tirelessly filled her college years in the classroom, on the basketball court under Coach **Robert "Bob" Smalley '78**, in the kitchen, in the Snack Shop under "Big" Al Rehn, and even babysitting for faculty and staff members like **Dr. Paul and Debbie (Fero '76) Young '76**. And, of course, the effort of service with ROTC—which took up regular weekends for training exercises—under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Danner, Vice President for Student Life.

Directly out of college, commissioned into the Maine Army National Guard, Diane took on work in the civilian sector for a community mental health agency. During her years in community health, Diane developed incredible skills, balancing her full-time job, raising a family and fulfilling her Guard requirements. Her plate was full, and when the opportunity came to combine the work she did in the civilian sector with a full-time military role, she took it.

Diane served full-time in the National Guard from 1997 until her retirement in the fall of 2021. At the time of her retirement, Diane held the rank of Brigadier General and was the first female general officer in the history of the Maine Army National Guard.

Her retirement brought a new opportunity for a fearless beginning for Diane. Today, the same as a decade ago when she was leading her unit in Afghanistan, Diane relies upon the wisdom found in Joshua 1:9—the truth that God is truly with her wherever she goes.

**We don't have to be  
afraid; know for a fact that  
God is in control.**

Diane needs that truth as she begins anew in the civilian world. Today, she serves as Special Advisor to the President at the University of Maine. Using all the skills she has developed over a lifetime of leadership, she is carrying forward a number of special projects. She's also adjusting to civilian life and the change in support structure from her time in the National Guard.

Over the last 15 years of her career, throughout her time in Afghanistan, Texas, Colorado and Maine, Diane developed a powerful connection with her Chaplain—who today serves as the State Chaplain for the Maine Army National Guard. As the only woman and as a leader, Diane often found she had no one in whom she could confide other than her Chaplain. He was, and remains, a faithful spiritual advisor and prayer support.

Diane is learning how to be a light in her current role. She's living out her Gospel calling in a completely different context, and she's realizing the continued need she has to surround herself with the support of a Christian community.

As Diane embarks on this new venture, she has some words of wisdom to share with others who are preparing to start their next fearless beginning. "Go big—fearlessly. Trust God, rely on your faith, and don't hesitate. Be at peace with the options God is presenting to you. Heed His call, and go for it with much prayer and faithfulness. We don't have to be afraid; know for a fact that God is in control. Know your job; do the best that you can. Be intentional, be present, and serve others. You're there for a reason."



Diane (Meserve '88) Dunn | 2022 Alumna of the Year



# HERE I AM

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

Nuclear safeguards and nonproliferation. It takes a great scientist to understand this complicated topic and a great communicator to explain it to the rest of the world. Sitting with **Dr. Katrina Koehler '11** Associate Professor of Physics, it's clear she's both. In addition to being a physicist and communicator, Katrina is a passionate advocate for diversity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields; deeply interested in advancing missions efforts around the world; and devoted to consistently practicing the spiritual disciplines.

These are the ingredients that make up an amazing professor—one who is uniquely suited to Houghton College and our students.

Dr. Koehler's Houghton story began at Rosslyn Academy in Kenya, when she met with an admission recruiter. Dr. Koehler was highly attracted by Houghton's low faculty-to-student ratio and by the first-year Honors program entitled "East Meets West."

Katrina came to rural Allegany County without a strong inclination toward a particular future career path. She considered math and physics. Literature, education and even a career in missions work in Islamic nations also made the prospective careers list. Even after Katrina settled on a dual degree in physics and mathematics, she filled her elective credits with a wide array of liberal arts courses, particularly in humanities.

Houghton's emphasis on hands-on science was a substantial boon to Dr. Koehler. She worked closely with her advisor, Dr. Mark Yuly, Professor of Physics, through five semesters of research and two summers in what is now known as the Shannon Summer Research Institute at the Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico. Dr. Yuly encouraged her to present at a national conference during her undergraduate studies.

Her time at the conference and her experience with research led to a gap year at Los Alamos National Lab where she continued gaining research experience in a mentorship program.

Nine additional years at Los Alamos, with a break to work on her master's and PhD at Western Michigan University, saw Dr. Koehler promoted to research scientist at Los Alamos. She could have settled into a full-blown research career and the notoriety that comes with that type of profession. However, Dr. Koehler realized that the most fulfilling part of her work was the mentorship role she played for the aspiring student researchers who started their careers at Los Alamos.

When Dr. Yuly invited her to apply for the physics professorship opening, Dr. Koehler was excited for the opportunity to return to her alma mater to impact future scholar-servants. Pulling up the stakes she had planted in New Mexico, she moved back to Houghton and traded her lab for a classroom.

"As I thought about the change," Dr. Koehler shared, "I realized the question I needed to ask myself was, 'Do I want to work for The Kingdom, or do I want to work for my own kingdom?' It turns out, I want to do Kingdom Work, and here I am."

She did not just give up a chance at scientific notoriety by returning to Houghton. Dr. Koehler shares that the hardest part of a transition for her—and she's had many in her life as a "third-culture kid" and young professional—is finding a new church home. The church body is a place where one becomes deeply known, and the process of becoming known to a new group of believers is not easy.

Dr. Koehler shares that, in this season of struggling to become known, she is leaning into the spiritual disciplines. Relying on the encouragement of Dr. Richard J. Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*, Katrina focuses on a nightly prayer ritual and daily scripture readings. These things frame her day and encourage





her spirit. She's further encouraged in her day-to-day work by support from fellow 2011 classmate **Professor Madison Murphy**, Assistant Professor of Media Arts and Visual Communication; long-standing mentor and advisor Dr. Yuly; and other incredible members of the STEM faculty at Houghton such as her own former professors Dr. Brandon Hoffman, Dr. Rebekah Yates and **Dr. Jill (Brautigam '99) Jordan**.

The challenges presented by beginning something new have not dampened Dr. Koehler's resolve to throw herself wholeheartedly into the Houghton community. In addition to teaching, mentoring students in research, and continuing to pursue her own research, she has recently taken on the role of Faculty Advisor for the International Student Association and as a speaker for Global Christian Fellowship.

As Dr. Koehler continues to grow and flourish in her role, she looks forward to continuing to mentor students in science, particularly young women and minority students. She believes the STEM fields can benefit from the perspectives of those who have historically been absent from the conversation. She is also excited about opportunity for growth of the International Student Association particularly as it brings more global engagement opportunities to Houghton and creates a stepping stone for Katrina to fulfill her personal goal of promoting missions through mobilizing current generations of students equipped to serve around the world.

« **Dr. Katrina Koehler '11,**  
**Associate Professor**  
**of Physics**



# From THE ALUMNI BOARD

Fearless Beginnings is an apt description of three exciting new initiatives your Alumni Board is working on for the coming year. Because of our strong previous leadership under past president **Tim Deckert '95**, we were able to build quickly on the healthy foundations we inherited.

First, under the direction of the Enrollment Office, the Alumni Board celebrates the vision of the new Alumni Ambassador Program. This powerful tool enables Houghton alumni to offer four-year scholarships to new prospective students. Yup. You read that correctly. Those alumni who have received the proper training are empowered to guarantee an incoming student a \$500 scholarship for the next four years. It's that simple. It's also a great way to back up our testimonies that Houghton College is an amazing place filled with generous people who want to help meet each student's needs. For more information, go to [www.houghton.edu/ambassador](http://www.houghton.edu/ambassador)



Second, the Alumni Board is working to develop an official Alumni Connection Plan in which students who have committed to Houghton by sending in their initial deposits can receive personal, handwritten notes of encouragement from Houghton alumni who have graduated in the fields in which the students have shown interest. This is a meaningful approach that can deliver to students a strong message that Houghton is a place where they will be cared for and appreciated.

Finally, the Alumni Board is in the initial stages of planning an Alumni Prayer Process by which we encourage and empower as many alumni and friends as possible to intentionally lift up the needs of Houghton College as it ministers to students, faculty, staff and alumni. When we pray, God joyfully sends the Holy Spirit to empower and build up the Kingdom of God. We believe that God's continued plan is to use Houghton College in the building of that Kingdom. Let us boldly seek God's will for Houghton!

## **Rev. Dr. Bill Allen '89**

*Houghton College Alumni Board President*

President Lewis with some of the members of the Alumni Board. Left to right: Bill Allen '89, Janet (Dill '69) Stowell, President Lewis, Judith Rapley '92







## SAVE THE DATES

### AUGUST 4–7, 2022 | SUMMER ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

- » The gathering will include classes that had postponed reunions:
  - 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62, 65, 66, 67, 70, 71, 75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 90, 91, 95, 96, 00, 01, 05, 06, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 20.
- » Classes of 1970 and 1971 begin on August 4 to celebrate their 50th reunions. All other classes will begin on August 5.

### OCTOBER 7–8, 2022 | HOMECOMING

- » Reunions for Classes of 87, 92, 97, 02, 07, 12, 17



## HIGHLANDERS SUPPORTING HIGHLANDERS



## SUPPORT HOUGHTON COLLEGE ALUMNI BUSINESSES!

To celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative efforts of our graduates and encourage networking among our alumni, the Office of Alumni Engagement has created the online Alumni Business Directory.

Alumni, we invite you to share your businesses and services to this public, searchable website:

[www.houghton.edu/Alumni-Business-Directory](http://www.houghton.edu/Alumni-Business-Directory)



# BUILDING COMMUNITY

Karl Sisson and Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

“Houghton taught me to fix things wherever I go. Just as Jesus was sent, we’re sent from Houghton into places that have ‘leaky faucets.’ The Lord is with us always, and he puts little things in our path which require attention; he uses us to build community.”

It is a common feeling expressed by almost every person experiencing a major life transition: the need for deep connection with other human beings. In many ways, leaving Houghton amplifies this feeling because of the profound and life-changing relationships that develop here. The close-knit nature and the authenticity of the Houghton community are difficult to find anywhere else, and settling in a new place can feel like having the rug pulled out from under you.

In those times of missing interpersonal connections, we often find we have two choices: wait for community to find us or set out to build it ourselves.

**Ryan Ozzello '21** is a builder.

“Leaving the connection of Houghton was hard, but I prayed about how I could bring what Houghton taught me about community and build that where I am now. There are ways we can improve things wherever we go. I decided to take the good things I learned at Houghton and build on them.”

He uses metaphors like repairing leaky faucets and securing creaky stairs to describe the small tasks he is taking on to build an authentic community of Christ-followers, even when he feels disconnected.



Ryan graduated from Houghton in May 2021, facing a strange job market in the midst of the pandemic. He had just completed dual degrees in data science and computer science with a minor in mathematics. Ryan knew he loved analytics, but the complicating factors of the job market and the high barriers of entry to data science work caused him to question if God was calling him into something else.

After a semester in Houghton's distinctive Emmanuel Scholars program, Ryan was deeply committed to seeking out not just a job but God's vocational calling on his life. He spent time asking himself, "What do I see about God's world that is beautiful that others don't see?"

Emmanuel Scholars is designed to cultivate students like Ryan who are uniquely equipped for spiritual leadership by first developing in them a sense of calling and a firm foundation of spiritual disciplines. It also provides them with the tools necessary to serve their brothers and sisters both on campus and through their future vocations. In the context of a supportive cohort, students grow in their understanding of God's vocational calling on their lives and the ways in which they can serve as spiritual leaders wherever God places them. Students pursuing either formal ministry or personal ministry are fully equipped to have a Kingdom impact on their communities and spheres of influence.

Through the vocational searching built into Emmanuel Scholars and a keenly developed habit of prayer, Ryan came to see that God had gifted him with the ability to interpret, analyze and understand data that allow him to serve the world in a unique way.

When Ryan was offered two positions outside of data science—one in business analytics and one in performance engineering—at Rochester-based Paychex, Inc., the largest HR company for small to medium-sized businesses, he was courageous enough to be patient and respectfully turn them down.

It was a bold move, one that most career advisors wouldn't suggest. When declining the job offers, Ryan spoke—as he often does—with humble confidence. He told the team at Paychex he felt he was best suited to data science and analytics and that he could bring the greatest value to this Fortune 500 company in that type of role.

Ryan's outstanding résumé—complete with internships with the City of Rochester and Land O'Lakes—and the incredible communication and interpersonal skills he'd developed through Houghton's liberal arts education left an impression on the Paychex team. When a data science position opened up, they called Ryan to ask him to apply.

Although, on paper, Ryan wasn't qualified for the position because of experience, Paychex hired him anyway. The courage to pursue God's vocational calling led Ryan to his dream job as a data scientist in his preferred city.

As he's settling into Rochester, he's building community—just as Houghton taught him to do. He created a group chat called "Hungry for More," a faithful gathering of Jesus followers who meet regularly to encourage each other. Through Hungry for More, Ryan brings Houghton's lessons of intentional investment in others and personal connections with people to his new community.

Ryan has a heart for mentoring others who are getting ready to graduate from college and head for the job market. He possesses the gift of a shepherd, an encourager and a truth-speaker. "Don't act out of fear; I wouldn't be where I am if I had acted out of fear. It's much better to move forward with fearlessness. Fear doesn't control you, so you can live in the will of God."

**Katie Widmer '24** chose Houghton for the outstanding opportunities for training, equestrian performance and internships. Being surrounded by so many people growing in their Christian faith has helped her to realize that God is always by her side and inspired her to fully pursue her God-given potential. It has empowered Katie to make plans to one day open an inclusive barn offering lessons and equine-assisted therapy.

Discover your fearless potential in one of Houghton's majors and areas of study.

[www.houghton.edu/Majors](http://www.houghton.edu/Majors)



# PLANS TO PROSPER YOU

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

**Ella Smith '25** is bright, energetic and inspiring. She's the sort of student who immediately impresses. These aren't the sort of qualities one always finds in first-year students; often at the beginning of something new, we humans take time to warm up, to acclimate, to find our space. Not Ella.

Perhaps it's Ella's family legacy here at Houghton. Ella's dad, **Ryan Smith '94**, is a Houghton graduate, and so are her great-uncle, **Rolland "Rolly" Kidder '62**, uncle **Joel Worden '99** and aunt **Erin (Kidder '99) Worden**. Ella may not know it, but the legacy goes back even farther: Rolly's aunt **Eunice Kidder** graduated in 1938.

So, when Ella first visited campus, with her father's helpful insight that "Houghton students know how to make their own fun," she knew immediately Houghton was the place for her. Other pieces fell into place when she was recruited to play volleyball by coach **Josh Tompkins '05**.

Ella has not declared a major yet, but she is planning to pursue a degree in Communication, focusing on visual and digital communication. She may add a major in Business as well.

Beyond being a hard-working scholar and student-athlete, Ella fills her spare time with other co-curricular activities. She has immersed herself in the spiritual life of campus—something she loves for the personal growth it affords and for the shared faith background she has with those around her. She also records basketball games, officiates intramural volleyball matches and helps to promote intramurals via social media. Recently, Ella began serving as a Phonathon caller for the Office of Advancement. This has afforded her the opportunity to connect with and share her Houghton experience with alumni and friends. Ella has already formed a strong bond with her Communication professors, Douglas Gaerte and **Madison Murphy '11**.

As Ella energetically seizes the opportunities Houghton offers, she has faced the many changes in her life this year by meditating on Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future." This verse helps Ella remember to trust God with her present and her future and inspires her to dedicate her life to serving Him.



# MBA: SUCCESS & CONFIDENCE

Elianna (Chroniger '18) McHenry MBA '20

Ontario native **Sandra (Hodgins '07) Hussin MBA '21** fondly remembers having a creative mind and a love for design from a very early age. Throughout high school and during her undergraduate time at Houghton, she cultivated that passion for design with a double-major in Art and Business. Shortly after receiving her Houghton degree, she was severely injured in a car accident, leaving her totally disabled for an entire year and with long-lasting chronic pain. This traumatic event led Sandra to realize a new view of work: It is a blessing to not only be able to work but to do something that you love.

With this realization in mind, Sandra left the position she had been in for almost a decade and launched her own design business, Sandra Hussin Interiors. Of this fearless beginning, she says, "Any new venture involves some level of risk. Leaving what is successful and comfortable to try something new—it will always involve some anxiety."

This new venture has led to many new experiences for Sandra. After being in an environment that always required work, even on vacation, she has come to recognize that slower days are a blessing in disguise. These days provide the time that she needs to rest and continue her entrepreneurial pursuits in a healthier manner. Sandra has an even greater appreciation for Isaiah 41:10; Sandra remarked, "God doesn't promise that we won't face difficult circumstances, but he promises to faithfully walk with us through those times that we are fearful."

Sandra recently completed her MBA through Houghton College's innovative online program. She shared that both the education and the people were critical in inspiring and supporting her to be fearless in her new adventure. Sandra found support in many of her professors and classes as she built a foundational business plan, which gave her the courage to launch her new business. She is grateful for the confidence Houghton's MBA instilled in her, enabling her to be successful in her fearless new beginning. She remains successful in her business launch and believes her education through Houghton's MBA is unparalleled as it prepared her to fulfill her vocational calling as a business owner.



## HOUGHTON COLLEGE ONLINE

### UNDERGRADUATE

- » Organizational Management
- » Psychology

### GRADUATE

- » Master of Business Administration
- » Master of Science in Education

Like Sandra, **Jerbrel Bowens '16** recognized the value of his Houghton education and chose to advance his career by pursuing his Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.) fully online. Personalized coursework and hands-on learning allow him to enrich the learning experience for students in his classroom and give him the confidence to begin the process toward educational leadership.

You can join Sandra and Jerbrel and take the next step in your pursuit of God's calling through one of Houghton's online degrees.

[www.houghton.edu/Online](http://www.houghton.edu/Online)



# FEARLESS GRATITUDE

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano



Where does generosity begin? For Bryan and Robin Gerard, as for many of us, it begins with gratitude. **Adam Gerard '19** (pictured at left with Dr. Richard Eckley) graduated from Houghton with a degree in theology. He moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to begin his career in ministry at Amplify Church while also working for Riverside Center for Innovation, a non-profit organization focused on economic development with minority-owned businesses. Adam plans to utilize his

education and life experience to bring restoration and the Gospel to the city and people of Pittsburgh.

Adam, and his parents Bryan and Robin, are profoundly grateful for his transformational Houghton experience, particularly the mentorship of Richard Eckley, Professor Emeritus of Theology.

A student in a number of Dr. Eckley's classes, Adam kept finding his way to the professor's office where he encountered genuine interest, concern and friendly advice. "Rich went above and beyond to mentor Adam in his academic pursuits, his vocational pursuits and his spiritual life," explains Bryan Gerard.

The Gerards are passionate about Biblical education and firmly believe in the mission of Houghton College. Because of these motivators and the impact of Professor Eckley on

Adam's life, they were inspired to begin a conversation with **Ben Colter '82**, Donor Engagement Coordinator, about benefitting future theology students to help make Houghton even more affordable. That ongoing conversation eventually included Karl Sisson, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement. Karl discussed the lasting power of an endowed scholarship with the Gerards. He shared how it could effectively be utilized to meet their personal goals while also paying tribute to Dr. Eckley.

Bryan and Robin made a verbal commitment to create the Professor Richard Eckley Scholarship and, in September 2021, developed the criteria for the award. The scholarship is offered to a student studying theology and planning to pursue a career in full-time ministry as either a missionary or a pastor.

This sort of fearless generosity inspires others. As others have learned about the way in which the Gerards have honored Dr. Eckley, they've chosen to create endowed scholarships as well. Shortly before the passing of his wife, **Mary (Sell '56) Kingdon**, retired theology professor Rev. **Harold Kingdon '57** created the Harold and Mary (Sell) Kingdon Scholarship. This fund inspired others to give in memory of Mary after her passing. When college friend Rev. **Charles Williamson '58** learned of the fund honoring the Kingdons, he and his wife Edna decided to give sooner than planned to experience the joy of helping Houghton students access a high-quality, Christ-centered education.

Dr. Eckley's investment in Adam Gerard inspired Bryan and Robin Gerard. The Gerards' generosity inspired Harold and Mary Kingdon, which, in turn, inspired Charles and Edna Williamson. There are future chapters of gratitude yet to be written. What chapter will you write?

## MEET THE SCHOLAR-SERVANT:

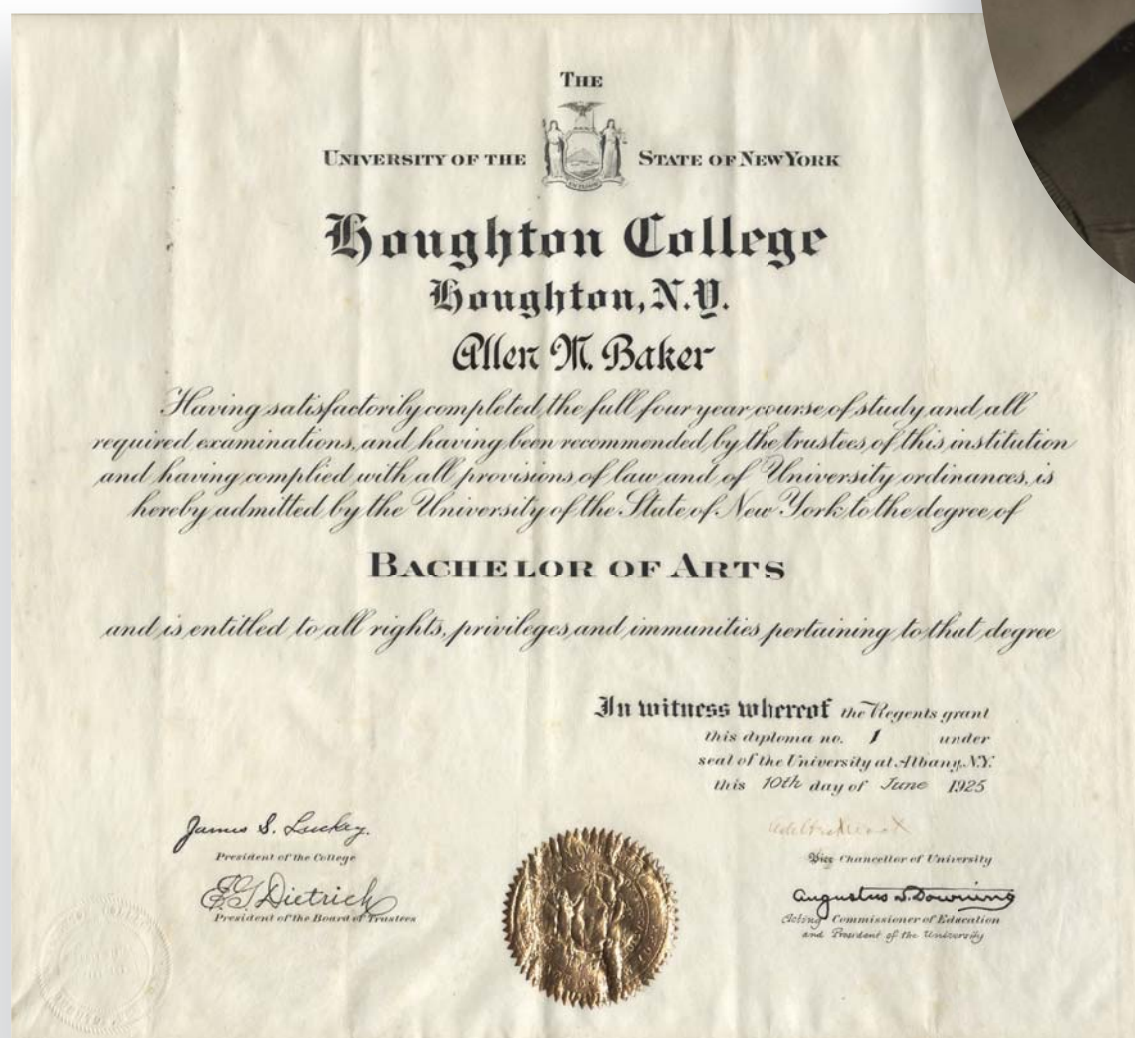
The first recipient of the Professor Richard Eckley Scholarship is Joshua Morris '24 from Watertown, New York. Joshua is a theology major with a minor in family studies. He hopes to become a family pastor or children's pastor and provide counseling to young couples, children and families. Of his time at Houghton so far, Joshua says, "I've had the opportunity to see what true community looks like here at Houghton. I've grown closer to God in my spiritual life and have met some amazing mentors. Houghton has made it possible for me to have the education I need to pursue the call God has placed on my life."





# FROM THE ARCHIVES

In 1923, President James S. Luckey began the process of transitioning Houghton from a seminary to a full college with New York State Regents accreditation to grant B.A. and B.S. degrees. "With all in readiness, application was filed and on April 7, 1923, the New York State Education Department granted accreditation. The first degrees were awarded by a quietly jubilant President to the twenty members of the Class of 1925."<sup>1</sup>



Allen M. Baker '25

The very first diploma (left) was granted to **Allen M. Baker '25**, who went on to serve Houghton as a Professor of French for nine years. Baker also "surveyed the old alumni field, today the tennis courts and parking area."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>And You Shall Remember...A Pictorial History of Houghton College; Gillette, Lindley; pp. 94-96

<sup>2</sup>A Vine of God's Own Planting; Wing; p. 106.

## FEARLESS BEGINNINGS



# CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2022!



Move in day, August 2018



Men's Soccer Senior Night



Volleyball Senior Night





First Year Student Tradition Event,  
Fall 2018



Senior Art Students  
after the Senior Art Exhibition



Field Hockey Senior Night



Equestrian  
Major Danielle  
Jennings at a  
recent clinic at the  
Equestrian Center  
Indoor Arena



Senior Leadership  
Award Winners





## Fearlessly approaching a new beginning doesn't mean being unprepared.

If the next chapter of your journey includes a significant life change such as retirement, a new job or welcoming a newborn, now is the perfect time to update your estate documents.

As you prayerfully consider these important decisions, this is also the ideal opportunity for you to consider your giving legacy. Naming Houghton College as a beneficiary of your will, trust or an assignable asset (such as an IRA) is an incredibly powerful way to support future scholar-servants and perpetuate your legacy through Houghton College.

Contact the Office of Advancement today so we can help you meet your personal philanthropic objectives, and fill us in on your fearless new beginning!

**585.567.9340 | [advancement@houghton.edu](mailto:advancement@houghton.edu)**



# ONE DAY GIVING CHALLENGE

ONE DAY GIVING  
CHALLENGE UPDATE



## THANK YOU!

- » April 8, 2022
- » 2,124 Donors
- » \$1,840,436 Raised
- » Congratulations to the Class of 1977 for winning the class challenge for the second year in a row and growing their endowed class scholarship - the Nick Bohall Scholarship.



#IAmHoughton



# HIGHLANDER ATHLETICS News

## Athletics Inducts Four into Hall of Honor

**Dr. Robb Moses '62, Wendy (Ivey '01) Rose, Angela (Layne '03) Meabon and Alicia (Campbell '02) Mucher** were inducted into the Houghton Athletics Hall of Honor on April 1. All of these illustrious student-athletes made their marks on the basketball court and have continued to serve Christ's kingdom in their chosen fields since leaving Houghton. Moses starred during the Purple & Gold era while Rose, Meabon and Mucher were teammates during the women's basketball program's most successful seasons in the NAIA. The 2022 Induction Class brings the Hall of Honor roster to 60 student-athletes, coaches, teams and contributors.

## KPAC Brings Visitors to Campus

The Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex, particularly the Kerr-Pegula Field House, continued to be a center of activity for the athletic department, student body, and visiting student-athletes and schools in the region over the past year. In addition to team practices, competitions, fitness and wellness activities, and intramurals, the facility draws in thousands of visitors for high school tennis and track practices and for major track and field competitions. The college hosted more than 30 meets over 23 dates through the winter, bringing in close to 2,500 unique visitors each weekend.

## Three Head Coaches Added for 2021-2022

Three new head coaches joined the athletics department during the 2021-2022 academic year. **Chad Muise '15** (softball), **Zach Shilvock '19** (men's and women's tennis) and **Esther Webb '16** (women's soccer) are the latest additions to the head coaching ranks for the Highlanders. Muise came to Houghton from Messiah College where he had been serving as the top assistant coach for the baseball program for the past three seasons. He also was working in Messiah's office of admission. Shilvock was an assistant for the tennis program in 2020-2021 before being named interim head coach during the summer. The "interim" tag was removed from his title in December. Webb became the sixth coach for women's soccer since the program began in 1981. She came to Houghton after coaching for one season at Empire 8 institution Elmira College.

## Nielsen Court Dedicated to Dix Family

Houghton alumni **Dan '75** and **Brenda (Cummings '76) Dix** were celebrated at a basketball double-header in January as the Department of Athletics dedicated the Nielsen Center court in their honor. The dedication ceremony included the reveal of "Dix Family Court" graphics painted on the court.

Dix Family Court recognizes the family's unwavering support for Houghton College and Highlander Athletics. They have been faithful supporters of the NCAA's student-athlete model, and their engagement and generosity have been evident in a variety of academic and athletic initiatives through the years. Most recently, they significantly grew the Athletics endowment fund and created/funded endowments for Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer, Men's Basketball and Biology/Chemistry while also underwriting new bleachers in the Nielsen Center and paving around the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex.

Along with supporting Highlander Athletics, the Dices contributed to the Professor Robert Cummings Scholarship, a gift with deep personal significance to the couple. This endowed scholarship fund provides financial aid to students who demonstrate significant financial need and is named in honor of Brenda's father, a Houghton alumnus of the Class of 1950 and a longtime Houghton professor of foreign languages. In addition to support of student scholarships, the Dices have also contributed to renovations to the Paine Center for Science and created an endowed fund to support the acquisition of equipment for Houghton's program in biochemistry, Dan's college major.

The Cummings and Dix family have a long legacy in athletics. Brenda's mother, **Marion (Thornton '47) Cummings**, was a star athlete in the Purple/Gold era. Brenda's brother, **Stephen Cummings '71**, played on Houghton's first intercollegiate basketball team. All three Dix children, **Rebecca '09** (Women's Soccer), **David '11** (Men's Basketball) and **Michael '13** (Men's Soccer), were intercollegiate athletes. Brenda, too, played varsity volleyball and basketball. Dan served as the Chair of the Athletics Advisory Board and was the 2016 Alumnus of the Year.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Dan and Brenda Dix and the entire family. The impact they have had in our community is evidenced in both our athletic and academic facilities, which have been home to both Dan and Brenda as well as their children," said Houghton Director of Athletics Matthew Webb. "The facilities are wonderful, but the relationships with





their ability to commit 100 percent to their academics while balancing the demands required by intercollegiate athletics."

In addition to the conference honors, several winter student-athletes and teams were recognized by the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) for academic performance. Women's soccer (3.59) and women's cross country (3.66) were named Scholar Teams for maintaining fall team GPAs above 3.40.

24 Highlanders were named NCCAA Fall and Winter All-America Scholar-Athletes for maintaining a cumulative career GPA above 3.40.

### Fall NCCAA All-America Scholar-Athletes

Seth Greene '23  
David Russo '22  
Amanda Burrichter '23  
Rachel Domaracki '23  
Elisabeth Kettinger '22

### Winter NCCAA All-America Scholar-Athletes

Seth Greene '23  
Jack Howard '22  
Gavin Luckey '22  
David Russo '22  
Malachai Yaeger '22  
Marilynn Amborski '23  
Tessa Brown '22  
Amanda Burrichter '23  
Haley DeJager '22  
Rachel Domaracki '23  
Elisabeth Kettinger '22  
Mary Shaker '23  
Chloe Styn '22  
Katherine Widmer '24  
Alexandria Wisniewski '23  
Andrew Wright '24  
Dawson Dean '24  
Michaela Roth '23  
Hannah Roeske '24

the family are priceless. Having had the opportunity to coach Mike in the soccer program, I had the pleasure of getting to know the Dixes better, and then even more so when Dan served on the Athletic Advisory Board in recent years. Dan and Brenda have been instrumental in helping us all strive toward excellence for the Glory of God, and naming the court in their honor is just one way we can publicly express our gratitude."

### Houghton Third in E8 Commissioner's Cup Standings After Fall Season

Houghton Athletics ranked third after the fall season in the 2021-2022 Empire 8 Commissioner's Cup standings. The Highlanders finished the fall with a percentage total of 0.566 after a runner-up finish in men's soccer and third-place finishes in men's and women's cross country.

Commissioner's Cup points are awarded based on each team's finish in the Empire 8 conference standings at the completion of the regular season and post-season.

The final standings will be released in May after the completion of the spring sports campaign.

### Academic Accolades

A total of 62 Houghton student-athletes were recognized by the Empire 8 Athletic Conference for their classroom performance during the fall 2021 semester. These student-athletes maintained a 3.75 GPA or higher during the semester while participating in an NCAA-sponsored sport to earn a spot on the E8 Presidents' List. The total represents 28 percent of Houghton's student-athletes.

Houghton's 224 student-athletes maintained a 3.27 average GPA in the fall semester. Twenty-nine Houghton student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA during the fall, 107 had a GPA over 3.5, and 157 exceeded a GPA of 3.0. Additionally, 11 Houghton teams earned a team GPA of 3.2 or higher for the spring semester.

"I'm so proud of our student-athletes and their achievements in the classroom," said Houghton Director of Athletics Matthew Webb. "It's a true testament to

# ALUMNI News & Notes

## 1942

### Janice (Crowley '42) Weitz

celebrated her 100th birthday on August 13, 2021, with a 20-minute flight over Jamestown, New York, in a Cessna Skyhawk. A student pilot



in the 1960s, Janice had both a father and husband who were airplane buffs, making this a wonderful way for Janice to mark a special day.

## 1954

### Martha (Baldwin '54) Everhart

celebrated her 90th birthday on February 28, 2022, with residents



and staff at The Homestead, Heritage Village, in Gerry, New York.

## 1968

**Jack Burnam '68** will retire in June of 2022 after 12 years of service as

Choirmaster and Organist of Immanuel Church on the Green in New Castle, Delaware.

Previously, Jack was Choirmaster and Organist of



Immanuel Church, Highlands, for 35 years and Music Director of Immanuel Baptist Church. Other positions in which he served include Director of Choral Activities at Tower Hill School, Music Director and Organist at Congregation Beth Emeth and Artistic Director of the chamber chorus CoroAllegro.

## 1970

**Lynn (Tucci '70) Zucher** retired from her position of 15 years serving as a Christian preschool director in Hawaii. Lynn and her husband now continue to serve the Lord in their new home church, Blackrock Baptist of Yulee, Florida.

## 1974

**Susan (Thurber '74) Paine Fisher** retired at age 70 after many rewarding years using her Business Administration degree to work as a credit analyst, investment advisor, trust officer and financial planner

specializing in charitable and retirement planning. She plans to continue her volunteer work on the boards of the YMCA, the church Vestry, and the investment and planned giving committees of the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She also plans to continue enjoying gathering virtually with former Houghton



classmates and hiking, biking and traveling with her husband.

## 1976

**Daniel Sastic '76** recently retired from his medical practice after 40 years of residency. His ventures included family medicine, urgent care and medical mission efforts to Alaska.

## 1978

**Susan (Denton '78) Thurber** retired after 38 years as a school psychologist in Pennsylvania and Nevada. Susan and her husband, Mark, moved to Maui, Hawaii, where she continues to work as a school psychologist for the Hawaii Department of Education while simultaneously helping with Mark's photography business.



**1987**

**John '87 and Susan (Emerson '87) Edwards** are moving to Obanazawa Japan, a remote city home to 14,000 people who are without a church. The Edwards will be assisting a Japanese church in a neighboring town to spread the gospel and minister



to the residents in Obanazawa. They will also continue the D (discipleship) House internship for English speakers exploring the possibility of getting involved in cross-cultural ministry, especially in Japan.

**Carmen McKell '87** accepted the position of Associate Professor of Data Science at Houghton College. She is also the Co-Founder and CFO of MVPProspect, a sports mindset analytics tool helping teams find their most valuable prospects.

**1988**

**Brigadier General Diane (Meserve '88) Dunn**, retired from service at the end of 2021 after a lengthy career with the Maine Army National Guard. She has since taken up a position as Special Advisor to the President at the University of Maine. In April, Diane was named Houghton College's 2022 Alumna of the Year. (See pp. 4-5 for Diane's story.)

**Dr. Myron Glick '88** and his wife, Joyce, founders of Jericho Road Community Health Center, were recognized for their decades of generous work in the underserved communities in Buffalo with the Liberty Medal, the highest honor given to a civilian by the New York State Senate.

**1990**

**Pamela (Schulz '90) Trowbridge** recently completed her M.Ed. in Higher Education Student Affairs from the University of South Florida. Post-masters, she accepted a position with Liberty University as Student Development Coordinator for LU Serve and LU Serve Now. Her responsibilities include developing programs, training students for cross-cultural competency and coordinating teams of students for response to disasters or humanitarian crises.

**1992**

**Richard Whitehead '92** was recently elected mayor of Helotes, Texas, a city of 13,000 people outside San Antonio. He continues to work as a 17-year veteran of the San Antonio Fire Department as a captain and is celebrating 8 years of owning and running Investment Solutions, which provides tax-free retirement products and financial investments. Richard also volunteers with several area churches to unite ministry efforts to have a greater impact on their community.

**1993**

**Darren Berkley '93** was recently named the Commonwealth Conference (VA) Coach of the Year after leading his Massoponax men's

high school basketball team to a Conference championship and a 20-3 record overall.

**1995**

**Greg Bish '95** returned to Houghton College in January of 2021 and now serves as Chief of Staff to President Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.

**1997**

**Jason Towers '97** was promoted to Vice President for Enrollment Management at Houghton College.

**1998**

**Dr. Christian Esh '98** was granted tenure as Professor of History at Houghton College.

**1999**

**Dr. Jill (Brautigam '99) Jordan** was promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics at Houghton College. She also currently serves as STEM Director.

**2001**

**Dr. Eli Knapp '01** was promoted to Professor of Intercultural Studies, Biology and Earth Science at Houghton College.

**Dr. Laura (Alexeichik '01) Thayer** was granted tenure as Associate Professor of Sport, Recreation and Wellness at Houghton College. She also serves as the chair of her department and the director of EPIC Adventures.

**2003**

**Dr. John Rowley '03** was promoted to Professor of Chemistry at Houghton College.

### Dr. Jonathan Sands Wise '03

was named Provost and Executive Vice President of Georgetown College, in Georgetown, Kentucky.

### 2004

**Dr. Brandon Bate '04** was granted tenure as Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Houghton College.

**Dr. Laura (Clark '04) Hopkins** and **Walter Hopkins '04** settled in Madrid, Spain, in early 2022, where they are serving with the Christian and Missionary Alliance at LIFE International School. Walter serves as Director of LIFE International School and Laura works with curriculum and teacher training. Together, the Hopkins will play an integral role in furthering the vision of Christian Schools in Spain to establish 20 Christian schools in Spain in the next 20 years.

### 2005

**Dr. David Clem '05** was named Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College. He also continues to engage with students as Assistant Professor of Music History and Literature.

**Elaine Tooley '05** was recently named assistant vice president for advancement communications at Wake Forest University. In this role, she focuses on storytelling and developing communication for the advancement of Wake Forest's mission and strategic plans. Elaine has been at Wake Forest since 2011.



### 2006

**Lisa (Furr '06) Poore** was nominated by her colleagues as Teacher of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year at Pickens High School of Pickens, South Carolina. Furthermore, she was awarded a spot as a Top 4 finalist for District Teacher of the Year in Pickens County.



### 2007

**Sandra (Hodgins '07) Hussin MBA '21** recently launched her own business, Sandra Hussin Interiors. (See pg. 13 for Sandra's story.)

**Dr. Alex Wright '07** returned to Houghton to serve as Assistant Professor of Management and Business Administration.

**Rachel (Paashaus '07) Wright** also returned to Houghton in the position of Director of the Office of Vocation and Calling and Associate Director of the Center for Student Success.

**Dr. Alison Young Reusser '07** was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology at Houghton College.

### 2008

**Marc Smithers '08** was promoted to Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at Houghton College on January 1, 2022.

### 2016

**Nathaniel Efthimiou '14 MM '16** now holds positions as the founding music director of Orchestra

Contempo, cover conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic, assistant conductor of the Boston Civic Symphony and an assistant professor at the Berklee College of Music. In 2021, he was awarded the Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award for conducting.

**Marcella (Wheeler '16) Hughes** and **James Hughes '16** were each granted the rank of Corps Officer (Pastor), assigned to the Tiffin, Ohio, branch of the Salvation Army. Their duties include ministering and meeting needs in Jesus's name without discrimination.



**Emma Webb '16** was named Coach of the Year by Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference in the Spring of 2021.

**Esther Webb '16** was appointed head women's soccer coach at Houghton College and looks forward to her first season in the fall of 2022.

### 2011

**Katrina Koehler '11** accepted a position as Associate Professor of Physics at Houghton College after a successful time in research at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico. (See pp. 6-7 for Katrina's story)

**Gretchen Hull '11** completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance at Temple University in May, 2019.



**2014**

**Deanna Montgomery '14** now serves as the manager of the EECS Communication Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**2015**

**Chad Muise '15** was appointed head softball coach and facilities marketing and scheduler at Houghton College.

**2021**

**Ryan Ozzello '21** accepted a job as a data scientist with Paychex, Inc., shortly after graduation. (See pp. 10-11 for Ryan's story.)



**Lytasha Jones '23** had pursued a college degree twice before when her daughter's principal recommended Houghton Buffalo for the way the program allows many to earn their first college degree debt-free. After meeting the staff at the East Side location, Lytasha knew that this time would be different and agreed to go to school together with her daughter. The experience has been a joy for her as she has received a new level of support from her professors and enjoys sharing her own experience with her classmates. As her daughter studies business, Lytasha is earning her Associate degree in Psychology with a goal of becoming a guidance counselor.

[www.houghton.edu/Buffalo](http://www.houghton.edu/Buffalo)

# BOOK SHELF



New reads from faculty and alumni authors:

**Dr. Eli Knapp '00, Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies, Biology and Earth Science**

*Dead Serious: Wild Hope Amid the Sixth Extinction*  
*Torrey House Press, September 2021*

**Dr. Benjamin J.B. Lipscomb, Professor of Philosophy**

*The Women Are Up to Something: How Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley, and Irish Murdoch Revolutionized Ethics*  
*Oxford University Press, November 1, 2021*

**Karen (Greer '65) Lynip**

*Living Between the Lions*  
*Independently Published, July 20, 2020*

*Unmask! Faces of Lament Revealed*  
*Independently Published, February 22, 2021*

**Jonan Pilet '17**

*Nomad, Nomad*  
*Bound to Brew, June 2021*

**Dr. Ransom Poythress, Professor of Biology**

*Has Science Made God Unnecessary?*  
*Christian Focus, March 11, 2022*

**Gordon "Don" Purdy '89 & Billy Klun**

*Thunder Snow of Buffalo: The October Surprise Storm*  
*Archway Publishing, June 4, 2021*



MARCH 12, 2022  
**INAUGURATION  
DAY OF SERVICE**



Fillmore Wesleyan Church



Fillmore Wesleyan Church



Fillmore Wesleyan Church



Houghton Wesleyan Church



Valley Bread & Bounty

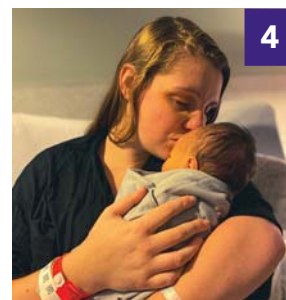


# DOWN<sup>the</sup> AISLE

- 1 **Jordan (Smith '20)** married **Jonah Williams** on July 4, 2021.
- 2 **Michaela (Aliperti '19)** married **Daniel Bussey '20** on July 9, 2021. Fellow alumni **Andrew Bussey '19**, **Lynnea (Gallagher '19) Bussey** and **Christian Aliperti '20** helped them celebrate their special day.
- 3 **Nuk (Kongkaw '11)** married **Andrew Oden '11** on May 22, 2021. The couple were married at the Field of Dreams amidst family and friends, including fellow alumni **Shirley Mullen '76**, **Paul Mills '61**, **Meaghan (Vanderkruk '14) Taylor**, **AC Taylor '14**, **Emily (Tullar '10) Barringer**, **Zina Teague '12**, **Constance (Foster '10) Lloyd**, **Martha Manikas-Foster '82**, **David Foster '80**, **Bjorn Webb '18**, **David Jones '11**, **Andrew Jones '13**, **John Oden '18** and **Heléna (Tyler '09) Oden**. The ceremony was officiated by Andrew's father, Pastor Wes Oden of Houghton Wesleyan Church, and the reception was emceed by Houghton Professor Doug Gaerte.
- 4 **Kristina (Van Dyk '05)** married **Cory Reese** on December 12, 2021.



# Future Highlanders



8.29.15 | **Azure Joy (1)**  
Carole and **Dustin Gervais '05**

1.15.20 | **Arthur Anthony (2)**  
Tori (Bachman '15) and **Clayton Danner '15**

9.13.21 | **Lucy Claire (3)**  
**Sheridan (McAllister '17)** and **Christopher Knecht '16**

9.5.21 | **Elijah Winter James (4)**  
**Victoria (Walker '17)** and **Michael Gawne**

6.26.21 | **Isaac Michael (5)**  
**Bethany (Hackett '14)** and **Michael Wrigglesworth '08**

4.9.21 | **Kailani Rose (6)** 🍼  
**Kathleen (Hartzell '93)** and **Christopher Rupp**

🍼 Welcomed via adoption

# In MEMORIAM

## 1939

**Velma (Stroud '39) Bates** died June 13, 2020, at her home. She was 101 years old.

## 1941

**Velma (Smith '41) Charlesworth** passed away peacefully at her home on the morning of November 1, 2021, at the young age of 102.

## 1945

**Mary Nocera '45**, age 95, passed away April 22, 2020, at Tarrytown Hall Care Center in Tarrytown, New York.

## 1947

**Dr. John DeBrine '47** passed away peacefully during the night on March 3, 2021, at the age of 96. He was the founder of Songtime, a resource ministry that teaches the Word of God in a Christ-centered way with a gospel focus. Songtime Radio was established in 1963 and grew to a fulltime ministry under Dr. DeBrine. In addition to 45 New England radio stations, Songtime also encompasses print and video media, all designed to bring the gospel to residents of New England.

**Jeanette (Fortran '47) Harper** passed away November 20, 2020. She will be missed by her many loved ones and friends.

**Evelyn (Milbrandt '47) Heil**, educator, supportive wife, loving mother, grandmother and faithful believer, peacefully passed away in Houghton on September 3, 2021, at the age of 95.

**Dr. Leantha Humes '47** went to be with her Lord and Savior on January 2, 2021.

**Margaret (Fancher '47) Serley**, 95, died April 30, 2021, at Mary Immaculate Nursing Restorative Health Center in Lawrence, New York, after a period of declining health.

## 1948

**Alyce (Banker '48) Heyboer**, who touched hundreds of lives as a schoolteacher in Western Michigan, died July 21, 2021, at Green Acres Lowell. She was 94 and had been in declining health since late in the previous year.

## 1949

**Ethel (Kidman '49) Johnsen** passed away on February 14, 2021. She was 94 years old.

**Dr. Gordon Larson '49**, 96, entered the Lord's presence on August 7, 2021, at the Alliance Home in Deland, Florida.

**R. Burnett Thompson '49** passed away on April 17, 2020. He was 93 years old.

**Ramona (Elmer '49) Thompson** died on May 16, 2020, less than a month after her husband, at the age of 93.

## 1950

**Rev. Michael Schell '50**, age 93, died peacefully at Fox Run of Orchard Park on July 17, 2021, from complications of diabetes. He served as the pastor of Java Village Baptist Church from 1979 until his retirement in 2015.

**Dr. Jay Wenger '50** passed away August 11, 2021, at the Pine Run Health Center in Doylestown Twp., Pennsylvania. He was 92. Dr. Wenger is mourned by his family and friends, including wife Joan, daughter **Donna '78 (Stephen Sinclair '76)**, daughter **Linda '82** (Mark

Schoonover), and granddaughter **Ashleigh (Sinclair '05) (Steven Crozier '04)**.

## 1951

**Marian (Nicholas '51) VanFleet** went to be with the Lord in eternity on May 16, 2020, at StoneRidge Popular Run in Myerstown, Pennsylvania. She was 91.

## 1952

**Alton Bennett '52** went to be with the Lord at the age of 91 on August 9, 2021. He spent his life in service as a pastor, educator and public servant.

**Elizabeth "Betty" (Bjorkgren '52) Denny**, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister, passed away on August 1, 2021, at the age of 90.

**Ruth (Kupka '52) Merz**, age 90, passed away peacefully on November 23, 2021, at Messiah Village in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. After careers in education, Ruth and her husband, **Robert '52**, spent six years of their retirement as missionaries in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators. In addition to her husband, she leaves behind daughters Ann, Carol and **Lawrie '79**, and son **Bob '88**.

## 1954

**Sandra (Fisher '54) Gifford** went home to heaven on October 20, 2021. She was 88 years old.

**Helen (Banker '54) Syswerda** died peacefully on October 17, 2021, surrounded by her family. She was 88. Helen spent over 30 years as an elementary teacher and librarian in the Lansing Michigan Public School District.

## 1955

**Rev. Jack James '55**, 93, went to be with his Lord and Savior on February 6, 2020, when he passed away in his home in Wheelersburg, Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Robert Veitch '55** was called home to heaven on December 16, 2021, at the age of 89. He was a Presbyterian minister and an educator.

## 1956

**Gladys (Wakkinen '56) Andrews** passed away February 22, 2022, at Tender Touch Heart & Home in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.



**Donald Bagley '56**, a high school educator for 30 years, passed away on January 17, 2022, at the age of 87.

**Rev. Rolland Starr '56**, faithful pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Belmont, Massachusetts for 54 years, passed away on February 7, 2020, at the age of 94.

## 1957

**Delbert Boytar '57** passed away on November 5, 2021, at the age of 89.

**Samuel Paine, Jr. '57** passed from this life early November 5, 2020, at Indiana University Hospital at the age of 84.

## 1958

**Rev. LaVerne Howard '58**, a long-time minister for The United Methodist Church, passed away November 27, 2021, at Sweden Valley Manor in Coudersport, Pennsylvania. He was 92 years old.

**Rev. Dr. Edward "Ed" Stansfield '58**, 85, passed away on January 29, 2022. He served as a pastor since his ordination in 1961. Dr. Stansfield additionally taught high school and coached high school debate and tennis teams.

**Lyman "Woody" Wood '58** went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on August 21, 2021, surrounded by his three children. He was 84.

## 1959

**Richard Gardner '59**, a long-time missionary serving with SIL, went home to be with his Savior on March 10, 2021, at the age of 87.

**Dr. Gerald Lloyd '59**, 83, of Corry, Pennsylvania, went to be with his Lord and Savior on August 29, 2021, after a brief hospital stay.

**Sonja (Rimer '59) McCollum**, 84, passed away on February 5, 2022, in Millard Suburban Hospital after a brief illness and several years of declining health.

## 1960

**Rev. Nelson Owen**, 88, passed into the presence of his Heavenly Father on January 15, 2022. He was the long-time pastor of Willow Wesleyan Church.

## 1961

**Norva (Everts '61) McCracken** passed away on February 1, 2021. She was 81 years old.

## 1962

**John Ainsworth '62**, 81, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on August 30, 2021, due to complications associated with Parkinson's Disease, which he faced with courage, dignity and grace for 31 years.

**Phyllis (Kitchen '62) Trost**, 81, passed away unexpectedly on June 25, 2021, with her loving family by her side.

## 1963

**Sharon (Johnson '63) Konecne** left this world suddenly on August 13, 2021, just a few months shy of her 80th birthday. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother and friend as well as a dedicated and tireless physical therapist.

**Ezra Watkins '63**, 78, went to be with the Lord on January 3, 2021. He was a gifted pianist and organist who served his church as a musician and in children's ministry for over 50 years.

**Rev. Peter Whitten '63**, age 81, passed from this life on February 14, 2022, at OMC, West Plains, Missouri.

## 1964

**Linda Ann Jordal '64** passed away peacefully on February 8, 2021, at Central Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Syracuse, New York. She was 78 years old.

**Bruce Simmons '64** passed away on July 27, 2021, at the age of 78. He was a gifted choral director and passionate restorer of antique tractors.



### MARY BOOMHOWER

On October 28, 2021, Mary A. Boomhower, a much-loved, respected and valued member of the Houghton College staff for 45 years, died peacefully at 89 following a brief illness.

Mary served the college from 1952 to 1997. When she retired in 1997, President Emeritus Daniel Chamberlain established the Mary Boomhower Staff Excellence Award, which is still given annually to one staff member who exemplifies the characteristics for which Mary was known: strong work ethic, integrity, willing and loyal spirit, and dedication to serving others. She served for 25 years in food service management, then transitioned to serve as administrative support for several academic departments.

Born February 8, 1932, Mary was the youngest of four children born to Raymond and Edna (Clark) Boomhower. She loved domestic and wild birds and always had a parakeet to keep her company. Apart from her staff work, she was known for her exceptional and intricate

needlework, widely distributed Christmas batches of homemade peanut brittle, commitment to her women's Bible study, and committed prayer life for Houghton as well as her quiet, guileless demeanor.

Many lives in the community were touched by Mary's humble, gracious, kind way of living and loving those around her. Her many friends call her "blessed" for the godly, selfless and faithful example she has modeled for us.



## HAROLD ARTHUR GRANT

Longtime community resident and Houghton staff member **Harold "Hank" Grant** passed away on January 18, 2022, at 93. He worked at Houghton College from 1964 to 1994, first as a linotype operator for the Houghton Press and then as the college's Quick Print Operator. Hank had a long legacy of service in the community and the college.

Hank greatly enjoyed collaborating with students working to publish the college newspaper, The Houghton Star. He was voted Staff Member of the Year by students in 1970 and again in 1989.

Though unable to finish his education beyond 8th grade, leaving school to contribute to his large family of 15, Harold made sure all five of his children were afforded the opportunity to attend college by working at Houghton (**David '74, Vicki '78, Michael '82, Valerie '85 and Rebecca '86**). Enamored with his 19 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren, Hank often challenged them, "Make me proud."

With his wife of 70 years, Evangeline, Hank often opened their home to students and others in need; he considered them part of his family. Some lovingly referred to them as "Macho" and "Pacho."

Hank's influence extended into the Houghton community, which he loved. He was a lifetime member and leader in the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department. He also served in the Houghton Community Association for many years.

## 1965

**Daniel Roth '65** passed away February 26, 2022, at the age of 80. He was a long-time teacher at Iroquois Central School of Elma, New York.

**Kenneth Zweig '65**, 78, was called to his eternal resting place on November 26, 2021.

## 1966

**Robert Hughes '66** passed away July 10, 2021, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. He was 77.

**Marjorie Eila Shea '66**, passed away on January 9, 2022. She led a life dedicated to beauty and service in West Africa and in the U.S. as a nurse, teacher and artist. She combined these gifts with a nearly 20-year career teaching art and serving as school nurse for Houghton Academy.

## 1967

**Wilford Hutchinson '67**, 75, died August 13, 2021, at Saratoga Hospital with his family by his side after an ongoing battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He is survived by wife, Sandra; son, **Peter '04**; and daughter-in-law, **Rachel (Brask '06)**.

## 1968

**Patricia Murchison '68** passed away unexpectedly on June 1, 2021, at Bickford Cottage, Midland, at the age of 74.

## 1969

**Rev. Philip Turner '69**, 75, went to be with his Lord and Savior on the evening of August 27, 2021, at OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana, Illinois. He faithfully served the Lord as a pastor and teacher from 1974 until his retirement in 2011.

## 1970

**John Crandall '70**, age 79, died peacefully on February 1, 2022, in his home.

**Rev. Dr. Robert Friedrich, Jr. '70** passed away peacefully on January 18, 2022, at Kaplan House in Danvers, Massachusetts, surrounded by his family as well as the love and numerous prayers of dear friends.

**Calvin "Cal" Squires '70**, age 71, died unexpectedly on June 13, 2020, while visiting his son in Portsmouth, Virginia. Cal had been undergoing chemotherapy and passed away from heart failure. Cal spent his career as an engineer, specializing in design-build cost engineering, working on projects as diverse as Jurassic Park at Universal Studios, the Hersey Chocolate Crumb Packaging Plant and NASA launch complexes at Kennedy Space Center.

## 1971

**Robert Stout '71** passed away January 29, 2021, at Absolut of Allegany, at the age of 77.

## 1972

**Susan (Murray '72) Maurer** went to her heavenly home on August 21, 2021, after a long battle with dementia. She was 70 years old.

## 1977

**Rev. Raymond Force '77**, 69, passed away on January 14, 2022, having recently retired from service at the First Baptist Church of Lansdale. He is survived by his wife, **Catherine (Soergel '77)**; his 5 children; and 18 grandchildren.

## 1979

**Michael Allen '79**, 64, of Nassau, Bahamas, passed away on July 2, 2021. Michael was a noted leader in the aviation industry with a background in law that allowed him to support Bahamas's Minister



of Tourism and Aviation in developing a comprehensive set of aviation regulations as well as developing and passing the Civil Aviation Act of 2021. He was a faithful member of his church and a dedicated scholar-servant in his community.

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## 1981

**Rev. Ernest Kellner** passed away on September 27, 2021.

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## 1982

**Rev. Joseph Denitto '82**, former pastor of Church on the Rock, passed away on January 11, 2022, at Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, New York, at the age of 69.

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## 1984

**Scotty (Lin '84) Britton**, 72, went home to be with the Lord on September 23, 2021, in her home in Lansing, New York, after losing her battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family and friends in her final days.

**Dale P. Davis '84** passed away January 6, 2021, at the age of 58.

**Dianne (Robinson '84) Peschka**, 58, passed away June 26, 2021, surrounded by her children.

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## 1986

**Russell "Roscoe" Duttweiler**, 59, entered into the presence of the Lord on December 9, 2021, surrounded by

his family. He is survived by his wife Babette; children Victoria (Eric Clark), **Ashlee '16** (Tefahun Angasso), Naomi (Daniel Palmer), and Reuben; and siblings **Robert '82 (Grace Ann Godshall '82)**, Richard, **Ronald '85 (Sylvia Sprowl '83)**, Rodney (Kathleen), **Randall '88 (Jacqueline Christiana '88)**, Roger (Coralie), **Rolland '91 (Pamela Bigham '90)**, and **Melody '94 (Matthew) Weaver**.

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## 1987

**Gregory Chisholm-Howard '87** passed away on February 7, 2022, in Bluffton, South Carolina, after a long battle with cancer. He was 58 years old.

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## 1995

**Major A. Robert Joubert '95**, 77, was Promoted to Glory on October 9, 2021, with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife, Janice; his three children, **Joy '93 (Marcus Jugenheimer)**, **Tammy '01 (Steve Dunmire '01)**, and **Robert '04 (Victoria Claybourn '06)**; and nine grandchildren.

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## 1997

**Ian Beam '97** passed into the presence of his Savior on October 9, 2021, at the age of 46. A 20-year public servant in the state of Maryland, he leaves behind his wife Stephanie and six young children.

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## 1999

**Kristin (Cook '99) Cushing** was suddenly called to her eternal home on October

18, 2021. She had a cerebral aneurysm on October 17th and peacefully passed with husband, **William Cushing '00**; her two children; and other family members by her side.

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## 2013

**Edward Linnecke '13**, J.D., passed away on December 13, 2021, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

**Hannah (Larson '13) Ngaihte** died tragically on December 30, 2021, after being hit by a car while jogging. Hannah served for six years on the mission field in Thailand and was pursuing a career in counseling with the intention of returning there to serve alongside her husband, Khup.

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## 2016

**Stephen Leslie MM '16** died on October 14, 2021, after contracting a breakthrough COVID-19 infection. After a life-long career as a pipe organ voicer and tonal finisher, he completed his master's degree in collaborative performance at Houghton's Greatbatch School of Music.

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## EMPLOYEES

**Phyllis Osgood** passed away on August 30, 2021, in the Houghton Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility. She was a long-time employee in dining services at the college who retired in 1991.

### TED NORTON

Edgar "Ted" Norton, Houghton College faculty emerita and former associate professor of music education, music education coordinator and Mabel Barnum Davidson professor of fine arts, passed away on December 2, 2021, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease; he was surrounded by his loving wife and family.

Professor Norton began his 37-year career at Houghton in 1956 at the request of then Dean Arthur Lynip. Both a teacher and practitioner, he played all of the woodwind instruments and was an early advocate for computer-assisted instruction as a way to help students of varying skill levels and learning speeds achieve proficiency and to allow instructors to personalize instruction. His love of music and of teaching music has been multiplied many times over through the lives and careers of his Houghton students and those they have impacted over the course of their careers in music education.

An avid vocalist as well, Ted was named Barber Shopper of the Year for the Seneca Land District in 1992, sang with the choir at the Olean First Baptist Church, and was a member of several area Barbershop Choruses and Chorduroy Quartet. He especially enjoyed coaching local high school quartets.

Ted is survived by his wife Nancy (Dickinson); children **David '75** and **LoraBeth (Stockin '75)**, **Daniel '82** and **Priscilla "Penny" (Smith '77)**, **Christine '80**, Philip and Tammy, and Janet; grandchildren Jonathan, **Timothy '04**, Joel, Steven, Kendra, Lathie, Saylor and Hudson; a brother, Arthur Norton; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.



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