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## KPAC Draws Revenue

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

The construction of the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex (KPAC) was announced in a 2011 Houghton College press release after Kim (Kerr) Pegula '91 and her husband Terry Pegula, owner of the Buffalo Sabres and Rochester Americans hockey teams, donated \$12 million to its construction. By its grand opening in October 2014, the grand total cost of the facility had reached \$23 million, according to a Houghton College press release. Now, two years since the KPAC's grand opening, the question remains as to the kind of impact that 23 million dollar investment is having on the college.

See **KPAC** page 3



MICHAEL SIEVERS

## Praxis Week Cancelled



MICHAEL SIEVERS

Praxis week has been cancelled after running annually since 2009, due to low student interest.

ANNA SHILKE

For this first time since 2009, the spring semester will not feature Praxis, an emphasis week similar to

Christian Life Emphasis Week (CLEW). The cancellation is in effect until further notice.

Although Praxis has been a staple of the Houghton for a number of years, in-

terest in the event had been slowly flagging. "Praxis has been a good time of community focus," stated dean of the chapel, Michael Jordan. "In recent years it had been crowded out by other

events." After consultation with other faculty, Jordan decided not to include it in the spring schedule.

Praxis was originally initiated by president of the college, Shirley Mullen. During a faculty picnic in 2007, she talked about what she termed the "sinews of our life together." According to Mullen, there was a need for greater emphasis on practical theology, taking concepts and working to apply them to life in tangible ways. Professor of philosophy, Benjamin Lipscomb, recalled, "She was interested in starting conversations about theology, believing the practice to be essential to our life together."

Intrigued by the idea, Lipscomb and several other faculty members began to brainstorm on how to accomplish this. "We were very interested in CLEW" he said. "We asked ourselves: what are the features of CLEW

See **PRAXIS** page 2

## Faculty Art Exhibit To Open

SARAH VANDEBRAKE

The Ortlip Gallery at the Center For the Arts will feature a new installation by art professors Ryann Cooley and Alicia Taylor-Austin. An opening reception will be held for the installation at the gallery tonight from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Both Cooley and Taylor-Austin said they sought to create art that is engaging. Cooley said he thinks of people who will see the art in this exhibition as "participants" rather than "viewers." He said, "I'd like people to think about their relationship to the art as their relationship to the

See **ART** page 3



# Republicans Propose ACA Replacement



ANTHONY BURDO

MICAH CRONIN

Two Republican Senators have introduced The Patient Freedom Act which would allow states to opt out of former President

Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA), according to the New York Times.

Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Susan Collins of Maine are co-sponsoring the bill. "Republicans believe that if you like your insurance, you should keep it," Cassidy said. "And we mean that."

States that opt out of the ACA would be able to provide "basic coverage" for their citizens on their own. The New York Times reported that under the bill such states would contract with one or more insurers to accomplish this.

Under former President Obama's ACA, 20 million previously uninsured individuals obtained health insurance. Senator Collins has

stated repeatedly that Republicans in the House and Senate should not vote to repeal the ACA until they have a clear plan for replacement, according to CNN. CNN also reported that among Democrats and moderate Republicans, there is fear that repeal of the law would create "deep instability" in insurance markets which could threaten millions of people's healthcare.

The bill may have a difficult time gathering support across both major parties. Senate Minority Leader Charles "Chuck" Schumer (D-NY) stated the bill would endanger individuals in states that opted out. "Millions of Americans would be kicked off their plans, out-of-pock-

et costs and deductibles for consumers would skyrocket, and protections for people with pre-existing conditions, such as cancer, would be gutted," the New York Times reported.

On the other hand, the New York Times reported Representative Mark Meadows of North Carolina and Chairman of the House Freedom Caucus stating "Obamacare is flawed, failing, and not fixable, and needs to be fully repealed."

The Trump administration has proposed its own ideas for addressing the ACA. Kellyanne Conway, an advisor to President Trump stated the administration is considering moving Medicaid funding to a block grant system, rather

than the current open ended funding stream, which pays for all care which beneficiaries are entitled to under law, according to NPR.

Critics of block grants argue the grants will threaten coverage to millions of low income families, and will not keep up with the rate of inflation in health care costs. ★

Micah is a senior theology major.

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PRAXIS from page 1

that make it work? Why is it effective?" They identified two key points "a period of sustained reflection" and "multi sided engagement." Then they turned to merging those ideas with practical theology.

At the time, CLEW took place twice a year, once in the fall semester and again in the spring. The group quickly realized that in order to have the sort of intensive, holistic approach they were envisioning, the practical theology event would

need to replace one round of CLEW. "We needed to clear the decks, so to speak," Lipscomb said. "There was no way that night classes and events could be cancelled twice in a semester." After consultations with various people on campus, including Wes Oden of the Houghton Wesleyan Church; Benjamin Brittain, the current dean of the chapel; and Mike Walters, a former professor of theology and Houghton Church pastor, the idea for a practical emphasis week began to take shape.

By spring of 2008, a committee had formed and poten-

tial topics for the first year were discussed. "We eventually landed on hospitality for our first topic. We did a variety of different things.... and it seemed reasonably successful...we were able to make people pretty well aware of it," Lipscomb stated. "We even had upperclassman host underclassman in their rooms and invite them over for meals. We had sign-ups and set them all up so they could practice hospitality with strangers. It was delightful." The committee was composed as a mixture of students, faculty, and community members. Eventually

the arrangement became too complicated, and Jordan took over the majority of responsibility as part of his job as Dean of the Chapel.

Out of this first year, a tradition emerged. According to Lipscomb, the staples of Praxis were a variety of speakers instead of just one, multiple opportunities to engage with the subject material and an emphasis on the practical. Like CLEW, it included chapel talks, coffeehouses, presentations, and additional lectures. Alternative chapel credit was given for events outside of the chapel time. Other topic cov-

ered throughout the years included food and the church, Christian methods of speaking, and mental illness.

As the years went by, Praxis garnered less and less student interest, leading to the decision to cancel it this year. "Student involvement in planning and interest in helping dried up" said Jordan, who added the college has expanded its spiritual life programming since Praxis was founded. "If we hear about the desire to bring it back and desire to help with planning and execution I'd certainly be willing to bring it back, but I'm also OK if that doesn't happen." ★



## ART from page 1

world.” To create a heightened sense of awareness and engagement, Cooley said there will be multiple elements of this exhibition to make it immersive, such as donning cleanroom suits before entering.

Cooley, associate professor in digital media and photography, is an award-winning artist. His work has been exhibited internationally, as well as published

widely, according to the college’s website. He works in the media of photography, video, sculpture and installation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Brook Institute of Photography and a Master of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts.

Cooley’s work for the exhibition is photography exploring the effects of light, particularly the lack of light. He said his intention was to create art that could not be viewed online, but required personal connection. “There is value in being able to share art online, and photography is 2-dimensional and works

well for this,” he said. However, according to Cooley, the purpose of his art is distinctly tied to the physical exhibition and the experience of participants’ reactions to the art.

Taylor-Austin, assistant professor of art in print media is, according to the college website, “a visual artist whose studio practice engages material as metaphor, transforming materials by hand through processes in print media, book arts, painting, drawing and sculpture.” She holds a Bachelor of Science in studio art from Roberts Wesleyan College and a

Master of Fine Arts in visual studies from Visual Studies Workshop, in association with State University of New York (SUNY) at Brockport, according to the college’s website.

Taylor-Austin’s work “features sculpture composed of fiber and hand printed textiles,” according to Houghton’s website. According to Taylor-Austin, her focus is on building an ecologically responsible practice, using natural and renewable materials in all of her fiber based work. “I gather ideas and material from the natural world and its diverse spectrum of

pigments, using color extracted from leaves, insects, trees and seeds,” she said. Cooley said that while he and Taylor-Austin initially saw their installations as quite different works of art, once they began setting up the exhibition they realized that their works are “two sides of the same conversation.” Taylor-Austin also said her goal in every exhibition design is to “create a space that invites conversation and contemplation.”

The showing is free and all are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided.★

# Highlanders Push For Playoffs



COURTESY OF AHTLETICS.HOUGHTON.EDU

Senior captain Phil Pellegrino brings up the ball against the Elmira press. Both the men's and women's basketball teams must pull off strong rallies to make the Empire 8 postseason.

## QUINN HULL

It has been a season of ups and downs for the Highlander men’s basketball team. Behind guard, Dylan Lambert’s (‘19), nineteen points per game, and captain

Jonathan Stowe’s (‘17) nineteen total blocks, the team looked capable of advancing in the Empire 8 tournament. However, the team has stumbled in conference play, managing a record of only 2-5 against Empire 8 teams. The Highlanders currently sit

three spots outside of a playoff berth behind Hartwick, Nazareth, and Utica. With the remainder of the schedule consisting of only conference opponents, the Highlanders have their work cut out for them. “We have proven that we can compete at a high

level with all of the Empire 8 teams the first time around. For the second time, we play them this season we are expecting to win a lot more,” said captain, Phil Pellegrino ‘17.

The one thing the Highlanders have yet to do this season is maintain a winning streak beyond five games. Stowe emphasized taking it one game at a time and stated, “We need to get back on track to playing our game, working together as a team to set each other up to score, and then play defense consistently and stick to the scouting report.” If the team can manage to put together a streak of conference wins to end the season, the Highlanders may have the opportunity to be a competitive force in the conference playoffs.

The women’s basketball team is in a similar situation as they hit the halfway point in the season. Led in scoring by captains Elle Reed ‘17 and Hannah Manwaring ‘17, the Highlanders have earned their way to an 8-8 overall record while also posting a 2-5 in conference record. Much like the men’s team, the women

have a remaining schedule consisting of only Empire 8 opponents. They, too have the chance to make their way into the conference tournament if they can put together a sizable run to end the season. “At this point we have come so far; we need a strong finish, which I know we are capable of. Our team cohesiveness is a huge factor. We all get along so well on and off the floor giving us an advantage going into the games coming up,” said Reed.

With team chemistry already one of their major strengths, the only thing left to fix is executing late in games. Manwaring stated “Our team is known to fight back and be resilient when faced with a challenge... We have lost a few games by only a few points so with a few changes for the second round of playing [conference teams], we should come out with wins.” If the Highlanders do learn how to better execute their game plan late in games, the team has the potential to advance in the Empire 8 postseason.★

**Want to write? Email us at [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)**

## KPAC from page 1

financial well-being of the college as a whole.” According to Green, the events and projects include regular track meets between the months of December and March, “concerts, expos, elite athletic clinics, sport camps and private engagements.”

As popular as these events are currently, Green expressed the hope that they will come to have even more of an impact in coming years. “Many projects that we currently have planned we see as future investments as these event grow in popularity and engagement.” He continued, and added that already there has been an increase in the impact of the Kerr-Pegula Center. “For perspective, in 2016 we hosted about 30,000

outside visitors to the KPAC (not including collegiate sports or the Houghton College community). For 2017 we are anticipating doubling that to 60,000.”

Already, the college has benefited from the influence the center has had on its visitors. Ryan Spear, Director of Admissions, explained, “On the road and sometimes on campus, students are saying that their first exposure to Houghton was through attending an event at the KPFH [Kerr-Pegula Field House].” The introduction is intentional. Green explained, “All athletic clinics are targeted towards high school or middle school ages. We are always keeping in mind marketing opportunities for

events we develop and how we can best leverage that event to engage a prospective student.” An example he names is the event Regeneration. It is a youth event aimed, according to its website, at students from sixth to twelfth grade. The introduction occurs early enough to influence any college decisions.

Betsy Rutledge, Assistant Director of Admissions Events, observed the difference it makes. She said, “The events that have been held at the KPAC have brought people to Houghton’s campus that otherwise might never have visited.” She went on to explain, “We do often have students mention it. Sometimes when we

meet students at college fairs and we ask if they have heard of Houghton, they will mention the facilities as a reason why they know Houghton.”

However, Rutledge is careful to maintain a perspective on the matter. “I think it’s difficult to pinpoint the one thing that makes a student choose Houghton as their college,” she decided “It’s almost always a combination of things: they like the community atmosphere, the faculty are outstanding, they know they will grow spiritually here, they connected with current students during their visit, we have the major they are looking for, they want to study abroad, etc. The KPAC is just one feature in a long list.”★



# “The World is Our Classroom”

Best Semester and Go-Ed Programs Take Houghton Students Outside the Bubble

BETHANY KUIKEN

outside of my comfort zone to be teaching, but learning from the teachers there, getting to know my students and taking it day by day was a powerful experience for me.”

Studying abroad provides students with the opportunity to discover new gifts and abilities unknown to them before. These programs also challenge students academically to push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of. Jonan Pilet ’17, a writing major, studied abroad in Oxford through Best Semester’s Scholar’s Semester in Oxford program in Fall 2016. “The most rewarding part of my experience was getting to the end of the program and recognizing the academic confidence I built in myself,” said Pilet. “This program forces you to grow as a student. You don’t really have an option.”

Judith Marklin ’17, an international development major with minors in linguistics and world religions, had two opportunities to study abroad last year. She began in New Zealand in the Spring of 2016 through the Creation Care Study Program, and last semester studied in India through Alliance for Global Education. Her time abroad in these various places allowed her to gain new perspectives

through experiencing a different way of life. Her experiences gave her vision for direction in the future.

“My time in New Zealand was important for me to intentionally take a semester and slow down a little,” she said. “This different pace of life gave me time to think about what I want out of my experience at Houghton and the rest of my life.”

Houghton emphasizes the importance in valuing others in an intercultural setting. Marklin carried this lesson with her in her experiences abroad. “I learned that to love is to risk,” she said. “I traveled abroad to learn, listen, see, and try to understand another way of seeing the world and another way of living.” She added, “I learned the importance of interacting with people as people and seeing them as children of God.”

Barry, Pilet, and Marklin all highly recommended their study abroad programs to other students. Through these opportunities, they all say they developed lasting change in their lives that they will carry with them throughout the rest of their time at Houghton and beyond.★

Every semester, Houghton students extend the classroom to a cross-cultural setting. With a variety of programs to choose from, students have the opportunity to engage their education in a new context through study abroad opportunities. These programs are intended to instill each student with a new sense of purpose and an ignited imagination.

Emily Barry ’17, a double major in international development and political science, studied abroad in Rwanda through the Go-ED program in Spring 2016. Her experience challenged her in many ways as she further developed her gifts.

“My favorite part was going on practicum,” she said. “I was on a fish farm teaching English at the private school on the premises.” She continued, “It was



COURTESY OF JONAN PILET

The Radcliffe Camera at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, where Houghton students attended the Best Semester program.

## Photo of the Week Best of Break

Sarah Hoag ‘20





# Women’s March on Washington Draws Houghtonites to D.C.



The Women's March on Washington took place in D.C., and in several other cities across the world.

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

On Saturday, January 21, approximately 500,000 citizens from across the United States flooded the streets of the nation’s capital city to participate in the Women’s March on Washington. Among the marchers were Houghton’s own Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, professor of Religion, and Nancy Murphy, Title IX Coordinator and Counselor, and several other Houghton alumni and current students.

According to NPR, the march, which began at 1:15 p.m. on Independence Avenue near the U.S. Capitol building, was organized by a national committee of women with the intention of promoting social justice for all. Their official website says that their mission is to “stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families – recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.” In regards to the march, they wrote, “This march is the first step towards

unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up...we work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all.” The march attracted citizens from at least 40 states, including New York. LaCelle-Peterson found out about the march through the newspaper, Facebook, and a number of environmental and other justice oriented groups. When asked why she decided to attend, she said, “I wanted to march to raise my voice against the hatefulness of the rhetoric of the administration that came to power.” She added, “As a Christian person I am saddened that millions of people have been insulted, as if they are not human beings made in the image of God and worthy of respect.” LaCelle-Peterson also marched to push for stronger environmental policies, and to stand against wage suppressions, the removal of worker protections, and the reduction of social programs that will affect women and children living in poverty. She emphasized Martin Luther King Jr.’s framework for nonviolence. She stat-

ed, “The organizers make clear that this is not a movement against specific politicians but against policies that would make it hard for the vulnerable in society to thrive.” Murphy also found out about the Women’s March via Facebook, and was immediately responsive to the event. She commented, “I felt deep down that I must go.” Women’s issues have always been important to Murphy, especially in her professional life. Her job often involves working with those who are vulnerable. She mentioned a feeling of helplessness when seeing the injustices that affect many people, especially women, and knew that she must do something. In this case, she wanted to stand in solidarity with those who are vulnerable. She chose to march for the safety and welfare of women, and for the healthy treatment of everyone. Additionally, she expressed her sadness over the support of an insensitive man to vulnerable people, “Christians are called to reconciliation and healing.” Murphy also added that she hoped the march would not be a reflection on the divided and angry feelings of the people, but a show of positivity and

solidarity. According to their website, the Women’s March on Washington is a branch of Women’s March Global (WVG), a larger organization committed to women’s rights priorities in health, economic security, representation, and safety. WVG states, “Women’s March Global seeks to build local coalitions of grassroots organizers and empower them as part of a sustainable global network.” In addition to the marching in Washington on Saturday, about 300 sister marches took place in other cities in the U.S. and around the world, on all 7 continents. Locally, there were marches in Buffalo, Seneca Falls, and Rochester. Kimberly Eclipse, Administrative Assistant in the Counseling Center, attended the march in Buffalo. She commented, “It was a positive, peaceful, empowering, family-friendly event. We demanded that our new political leaders maintain, not dismantle, the progress our country has made in granting increased equality and justice for all groups of people.”★

## Film Review: *Manchester By The Sea*

JACKSON WHEELER

One of the best things about the recent film *Manchester By The Sea* is the way that its plot meanders so patiently. It is in no rush to jump to hasty conclusions or unnatural climaxes – which, unfortunately, is likely what many audience members will hate about it. But to fully appreciate what director Kenneth Lonergan is doing, to experience the portrait of grief he is painting, and to feel its depth and breadth so fully, to do so in any way other than the painstaking, reserved, and measured approach it takes would have done the film a major injustice. *Manchester By The Sea* is another creation from the Damonoffleck vault (Matt Damon is producer on the project), evidenced by the depiction of Massachusetts blue-collar life, and, of course, the inevitable exploitation of words that have r’s in them. Mentions of “StAH Trek” and

“ShAHk attacks” abound, but more than the superficial in-jokes audience members love to hear in movies about New England, Lonergan has created a film designed to move beyond clichés and skin-deep relatability. This one you can feel down in your bones if you let it. It doesn’t follow the conventional story beats for characters going through the grieving process. It doesn’t pull happy endings out of thin air. Coping mechanisms have to be discovered and there are no guarantees that everyone will. The story is concerned primarily with Lee, Casey Affleck’s character, his performance of which there is far too much to say than could feasibly be discussed in this review. Without giving too much away, Lee is called back to his hometown in Manchester-By-the-Sea after the death of his older brother Joe (played in flashbacks by Kyle Chandler) who had suffered a prolonged bout with congestive heart failure. Lee by extension then becomes the sole guardian of Patrick, Joe’s fifteen-year-old son. Basically, everything is a mess and no one wants any part of the situation. That

much is obvious and easy to understand on paper. But the beauty of *Manchester*’s story is in its revelation of details. Information tumbles out slowly and always at the peak of tension, much the same way as it would in a taut crime thriller. We can only infer the baggage that Lee carries with him. We know that it’s there. We can see it in his eyes, in the way he moves, and speaks. But we’re only told when the director decides to let us in on the horrible secret. Everyone has seen bad movies (and even good movies) that rely on communicating plots and storylines through clunky exposition and forced dialogue. Lonergan knows that his audience is not too dumb to fill in the gaps. When Lee gets a phone call from a doctor to tell him of his brother’s passing there is no cringey “What?? My brothAH’s dead?!?!?” There is no scene like that. That is not who Lee is. That is not how Lee reacts to things. It is brilliant moments of subdued acting and characterization that add so effortlessly to *Manchester*’s tortured but grounded aesthetic. No one creates more of these mo-



The Kenneth Lonergan film stars Casey Affleck (left) as Lee Chandler and Lucas Hedges (right) as his nephew Patrick.

ments than Casey Affleck. He is just as incredible as every critic has claimed. It’s rare to see any character in a film communicate such immense pain with such minute gestures and minimal dialogue. If Casey Affleck is top Oscar priority as far as awards go, the screenplay is a close number two, and maybe shouldn’t even be that low. To be clear, *Manchester By the Sea* is not a sadistic two-hour tearfest. Far from it. It has great moments of levity; scenarios where you can relax your shoulders and just inhabit the world that Lee and his nephew live in. Both actors play off one another

as only family members do when they are young enough to laugh at the same jokes. Their relationship is more than just the cornerstone of the movie, but of each other’s lives. They need each other so clearly, but, like everything else in *Manchester*, this too is temporary; a Band-Aid to be torn off after the scar tissue has closed up and hardened again, never truly getting the time or care to heal. These are working-class Boston men, after all.★



# More Than An Abortion: Women's Health



MICHAEL SIEVERS

CARINA MARTIN

In protesting a new political establishment, plenty of women brought memorable signs (and some red flags) to nationwide marches this weekend. Diverse groups gathered across the country, in part to protest the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its protections for women's health. Yet last week *The Atlantic* reported that "New Wave Feminists," a radical organization that disavows contraceptives, had been quietly dropped by march

organizers.

While many will protest that contraceptives and abortion rights are crucial elements of public policy regarding women's health, I often worry that feminists, myself included, have disproportionately elevated these issues. If you search the internet for the phrase "women's health united states," nearly every news article focuses on one of these topics. Most are full of harsh, divisive rhetoric.

Borne along on the embittered battle cry of "My body, my choice," feminists have forgotten that our choices affect bodies other than our own, and that private choices have public consequences. We're quick to protest that female bodies aren't sex objects and to argue that we're "more than a (insert reproductive organ here)," but fill our Internet spaces with articles about our right to

"But when we frame the women's health issue exclusively in terms of contraception and abortion rights...we ensure that our advocacy for women's healthcare will never progress beyond those two incredibly volatile topics."

have whatever kind of sex we prefer. And we're quick to slap a derogatory label on anyone who raises an objection. No uterus? No opinion.

This makes some sense. Humans have an appetite for the salacious, and if we can reduce an issue to sex, then we will. But when we choose to frame the women's health issue exclusively in terms of contraception and abortion rights and deny the other side's right to any opinion, we ensure that our advocacy for

women's healthcare will never progress beyond those two incredibly volatile topics.

Did you know that the Affordable Care Act requires insurers to cover domestic violence counseling and cervical cancer screenings? That it prohibits insurers from denying coverage based on preexisting mental health problems like depression, which disproportionately affect women? That it provides prenatal care to low-income mothers? These issues need as much publicity as their more provocative counterparts.

Defaulting to anger over perceived bigotry or promiscuousness is a familiar, enjoyable conflict in which everyone knows their place. But finding civil common ground about the value of the non-sexualized female body is essential

for helping the minimum-wage salaried moms whose insurance policies don't cover breast pumps and the elderly women who can't afford mammograms. Our grandstanding perpetuates a circuitous modern irony: the argument becomes its own end, and one side's victory becomes the defeat of both.

Solving the complex issue of women's health access will require discussions with people who disagree widely. In the past few years I've had some thought-provoking dialogues with people whose opinions are not my own, and whose questions have forced me to examine my own convictions about culture and consent. As we enter an uncharted political scene, let's resolve to prioritize these kinds of conversations, to value the whole female body, and to never prioritize vindication over advocacy.★

*Carina is a junior majoring in writing and communication with a minor in art.*

"As we enter an uncharted political scene, let's resolve to prioritize these kinds of conversations, to value the whole female body, and to never prioritize vindication over advocacy."

# Listening Generously: The Women's March On Washington



MICHAEL SIEVERS

GENEVIEVE HARTMAN

January 21 saw a great deal of protesters. Cities across America and across the globe blocked off their streets for huge crowds to march in peaceful protest. People from all walks of life, with countless different views, joined together to seek equality and justice for women, and for the world.

A march such as this one should cause us to take a step back and examine ourselves. It should help us to look at

the people protesting, and listen to the voices that speak peacefully, but insistently. We should ask ourselves why so many thousands of people feel the need to leave their homes and participate in a peaceful protest. Rather than immediate dismissal of the march as a whole, we should listen with open minds that seek to understand the messages being conveyed.

Photos of the march show numerous people, many of whom are holding signs with a variety of slogans on them. Some supported women's health, some sought equal pay, some protested the language used by the newly-inaugurated President. The people walking side by side were championing a variety of different causes, but they were standing together, and were stronger for it. This march is a powerful display of people uniting for justice and equality, and I think they

"Rather than immediate dismissal of the march as a whole, we should listen with open minds that seek to understand the messages being conveyed."

have a strong case backing them up. For all the protests of the past, there is still a great deal of injustice in our world. I might not agree with every voice that rises from the crowd of protesters, but I certainly agree with some. I won't ignore all of the voices because I disagree with some of the people who participated in the Women's March.

What will the world do in response to this global show of solidarity? I often feel that no matter how many people protest, nothing will change. Maybe some will listen, but this protest has the potential

to be superficially noticed and handily ignored. Yet no matter how hard it is to remember on some occasions, history shows us that change is slow, but still possible. It is the small steps of change that eventually bring us miles from where we were. We can make the small step of listening a little more closely. We can be a part of the change that can occur in the world, in America, and in our own college.

This is not a perfect place, and it is not enough for us to go blindly on, failing to notice the hurts that exist where we are. What we can do, and are called to do as Christians, is hear the words of the people around us, who have voiced their concerns and fears. We can be more willing to show grace to each other, and more willing to listen to the

worries of those around us. Houghton may not have had a Women's March on the quad, but nevertheless, the voices protesting injustice will become clearer when, instead of ignoring them, we choose to listen.

This isn't a solution, of course. Listening will not magically solve the many problems that are being faced. This is simply a reminder to have minds and hearts that are willing to look at things from different points of view. It would be arrogant to imagine that we can fix everything ourselves. What we can do is to think a little harder about the social justice questions that are being raised, and care a little more deeply for the people around us.★

*Genevieve is a sophomore majoring in English and adolescence education.*

"What will the world do in response to this global show of solidarity?"



# The Sum Of An Identity



NATE MOORE

DANI EATON

A few days before Christmas, I sat in my apartment scrolling through my Facebook newsfeed as status' were updated and GPAs were posted. Friends and family boasted of 4.0's and 3.87's. My sister even posted her own GPA in our family chat. When I finally summed up the courage to check my grades, I was disappointed. I'd only

managed to pull off a 3.489, only .011 short of The Dean's List goal I'd set for myself at the beginning of the academic year. I felt inferior and inadequate.

My self-esteem plummeted, and despite having one of the best semesters of my academic career, I started questioning my intelligence. "You could have gotten higher grades. Why didn't you work harder? How have you survived at Houghton? Everyone here is so smart. If I can't do well in school, how can I survive after college?" I moped around for a few days, throwing myself a pity party, before self-reflection brought me to my senses.

No, I hadn't made The Dean's List. However, I'd

worked three on-campus jobs, managed the newspaper, never missed a homework deadline, and showed up for nearly every class period. In addition to working harder than I ever had before, I'd finally mastered organization, formed a great work ethic, and grown as an individual. Looking back, the fall semester not only began preparing me for life after graduation, but for the person God wants me to be for the rest of my life. This semester was invaluable, despite my grades not being as great as some of my peers.

As students, it's easy to wrap our identity and our GPA into one amorphous blob. We spend most of our lives striving to earn a letter on a piece of paper, so it makes sense

“Looking back, the fall semester not only began preparing me for life after graduation, but for the person God wants me to be for the rest of my life.”

that if that letter is less than perfect we feel inadequate. We're told these letters are our golden ticket into life, without them you absolutely cannot succeed. The problem with this, however, is that schools are geared towards a linear way of thinking that only caters to a specific audience of students.

We reflected on this recently in my senior seminar for communication while discussing Daniel Pink's book *A Whole New Mind*. In the book Pink discusses the societal shift from a very linear, logical way of thinking (left brained thinking) to a broader, more emotional way of thinking (right brained thinking). Reading this book helped me refine my previous self-reflection, gain insight to who I was at my very core, and aided in my understanding of the people who surround me on a daily basis. If you can't tell by now, I'm incredibly right brained.

So no, my GPA wasn't a 4.0. No, I can't always follow a train of logic until it reaches the station and departs. But I'm passionate about what

I believe in, I can look at a project in the beginning phases and see how I want it to look at the end, and I feel so deeply that I sobbed the first time I ran over an animal even though it was still alive.

Having a great GPA isn't a bad thing, in fact I admire people that excel easily in academics. However, we need to learn to value ourselves beyond our GPA, even if that's what we're great at. Even if you're logical and linear in your thinking, you probably have activities you excel in beyond your school work. I have incredibly intelligent, left-brained friends who are compassionate teachers, loyal friends, talented artists, and even wonderful activists. So go on, get that A, but remember: the sum of your grades does not equal your identity.★

*Dani is a senior majoring in writing and communication.*



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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2016

The Houghton  
STAR

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# Artist of the Week



MICHAEL SIEVERS

## Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Basement Chapel, *watercolor*

Amber, Honey, Rosin 2, *watercolor*

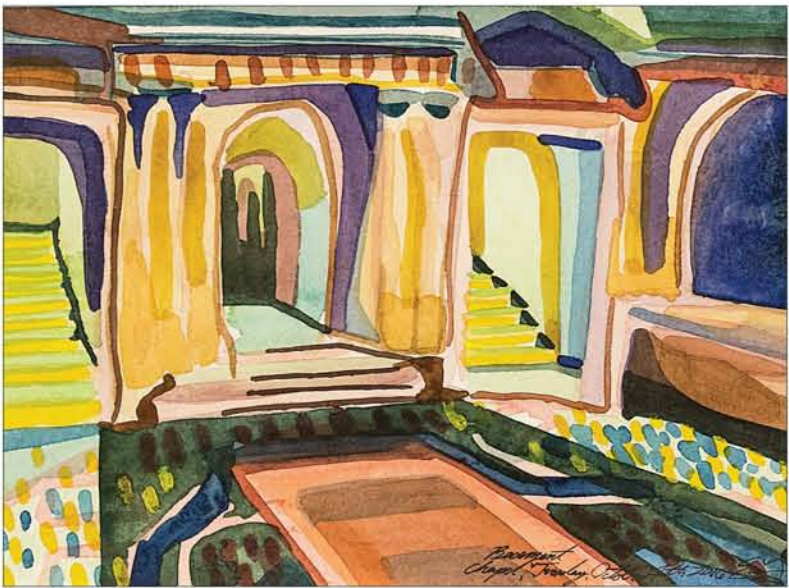
Rupe, 'Gilead', *watercolor*

Surge Illuminare, *colored pencil*

Cows at the Tate Britain, *watercolor*

# Emily Friesen

//senior studio art and English double major



“Golden days, bronze days, iron days, watery days, foggy days. Turkish delight sunsets. Nights drawing in.”

- David Mitchell, *Cloud Atlas*

