

Timpe Talk Back Promotes Inclusion of Neurodiversity

PHOEBE MULLEN
Regular Contributor

Dr. Kevin Timpe spoke in chapel on September 30th, engaged with students at a post-chapel lunch, talked with philosophy students and professors, and did a Talk Back in the Mosaic Center that evening. Dr. Timpe is a professor of philosophy at Calvin University (formally Calvin College) and the author of nine books. He is also a disability and inclusion advocate, working specifically for autism inclusion in local schools.

Dr. Timpe's chapel talk focused on the issue of autism in American culture and in the church. Dr. Timpe began his talk by acknowledging that our culture, including the church, does not engage well with people with most disabilities. Autism was Dr. Timpe's chosen example; it is the disability with which he is most familiar because his son is autistic.



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Timpe with his daughter, originally captioned "Philosopher Kevin Timpe, with scientist Emaline Timpe, pondering some bugs."

While autism worked well as an illustration of how the church and American culture, Timpe warned that the specifics of autism don't apply to all disabilities and that it is the individual's homework to figure out

how far the parallels go.

As with all off campus chapel speakers, Dean Jordan invited students to a lunch afterward in the Alumni Dining Room. According to Dean Jordan, in the lunch after Timpe's chapel

talk, "We just dug deeper into several aspects of the talk—we talked about how churches can be more welcoming, and also dug deeper into the justice issue at hand here."

What, then, does an extra

★ Correction ★

The STAR issue distributed last week on October 4, 2019, was labeled "Volume 116, Number 3." This is inaccurate, as the prior issue on September 27, 2019 was Volume 116, Number 3. October 4's issue number will be updated to 4 in online and archived versions of the paper.

session with a speaker in the Mosaic Center contribute? "The lunches have been going on for years and are just an informal way to check in with speakers," said Dean Jordan. "The talk back sessions in [the] Mosaic [Center] are when we have a speaker whose message touches specifically on issues related to diversity and inclusion, and the speakers have a chance to go a little more in-depth with

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Global Christian Fellowship Implements Changes to New Vision Week



COURTESY OF TATIANA DEZA

International students took part in a flag ceremony to recognize the church's global reach.

ALEX DEARMORE
Regular Contributor

Global Christian Fellowship this week hosted its annual New Vision Week. According to Sydney Jameson ('20), a co-coordinator of the program, New Vision Week is a "time in which we focus on the global outreach of the church." David Bowers ('21), the other co-coordinator of New Vision Week, described the program as a "mission emphasis week." Bowers went on to say that

New Vision Week is a way to "shine a spotlight on what the Church looks like [internationally] and how God is working outside of the U.S.... and get people involved in Global Missions." Bowers additionally stated that one of the goals of New Vision Week is to "advance a Biblical vision for what advancing the Kingdom looks like."

It is important that students get involved, Bowers asserted, because "it is critical that we be aware of the work that God is doing through the Gospel around

the world, and that we be taking part in it... being involved in the Great Commission is something that every Christian is called to." Professor Marcus Dean, the faculty advisor for New Vision Week, echoed this sentiment, commenting that "you should know something about [global missions]. It is part of what the Church needs to do."

Jameson commented that not only is the program "a lot of fun," it is also "not just for intercultural studies majors, missions majors, theology majors,

See **NVW** page 2

Panel Promotes Awareness of Alzheimer's

MOLLY BRIZZELL
Regular Contributor

It is the growing epidemic in the elderly that has created fear in many and held loved ones captive in its relentless grasp. Researchers have been creating hypotheses about how it works for years. The strategies as to how to approach this issue and find a working treatment have been continuously tweaked and improved. Yet, it has still not found its remedy. Alzheimer's is still a medical mystery that has everyone seeking answers—quickly.

On October 4th, Houghton had a panel discussing Alzheimer's disease in order to inform students on the crisis and how it is being approached currently in the medical world. Dr. Paul Martino, one of the panel members, first shared what the largest danger is behind the Alzheimer's crisis. "One of the key problems with Alzheimer's disease is that these peptides form and begin to amplify in our brain to form the plaques," he explained. "This whole process takes many years in some cases before the short term memory loss, the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, show up. ... Some might have Alzheimer's and not express any symp-

toms for at least ten years." According to Dr. Martino, this is the danger: Alzheimer's starts developing years before the patient presents with symptoms. Researchers are now attempting to find ways to catch Alzheimer's earlier in order to better treat it.

Katie Badeau, social worker and panel member, argued that everyone should take part in the search for a treatment. "I would say it applies to everyone," she said, "whether you're in the healthcare community, whether you're a medical provider yourself, whether you're a Houghton College student, faculty, community member: the current theme you're hearing is research. We could raise all the money in the world to find us a cure ... but if no one participates in that research, what good does it do us?"

This crisis, according to Badeau, then becomes something which affects people who don't even realize it, and the possibility of finding a cure rests in their hands. One of the latest techniques in getting people to uphold this responsibility

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About That Volume Number...

JOHANNA FLOREZ

Attentive readers will notice the banner at the top of every single issue of the STAR: below the issue date and volume and issue number, it says, “Houghton College’s Student Newspaper Since 1909.” Great, right? All true facts—if you search through the archives you’ll find Volume 1, Issue 1, from February 1909.

As the editorial staff updated the paper template with our volume number, 116, we realized that we had gained some numbers somewhere. 1909 was 110 years ago. Even if we recognize the fact that the volume number starts over midway through the calendar year to align with the academic year—Fall 1909 introduced Volume 2 of the STAR—we still should not have reached Volume 116 until the year 2023. If the volumes align with the academic years, we should be on Volume 112 right now. So where did those extra four volume numbers come from?

The first discrepancy occurred in the spring of 1993. The 1992-1993 staff had numbered their first issue Volume 85.1 in October 1992. They counted up to 85.9 in February 1993—but at that point the volume number reset to 86.1 in March 1993. That paper

contains no acknowledgement of why the volume number increased within the same academic year and under the same staff, when each of the past 84 volumes of the STAR had aligned with a single academic year.

Following that, the 1993-1994 staff maintained the same pattern, counting up a volume number whenever they reached issue 9—first in November 1993 (when they reset to Volume 87.0) and again late in the spring, when March’s Volume 87.9 was followed by April’s 88.0. Had these years followed the volume-numbering precedent set by 84 previous STAR staffs, April 1994 would have been towards the end of Volume 86, rather than introducing Volume 88.

But the mystery of volume numbers doesn’t end there. The 1994-1995 staff decided to go back on the unusual numbering system. September 5, 1994 saw the publication of Volume 87.0B. This continued up to Volume 87.6B on December 8, 1994. Then, the new year jumped to Volume 89.0 on January 19, 1995. This change came with an acknowledgement in the paper: “There are several inconsistencies in past issue numbering of the Houghton STAR. Issues published in the fall 1994 semester were numbered 87.B to distinguish them. This has confused the system even more, therefore the current issue has been numbered 89.0 to restore the numbering system.”

Volume 89 continued through the end of the spring 1995 semester. But the fall 1995 staff went back to the “Volume 89.B” model! They reached Volume 89.6B on December 15, 1995. Then, once again, the new year called for a new system: January 26, 1996’s issue is “Volume 90.1A.” Volume 90.A continued until Volume 90.6A in March 1996. (April 1996’s sole issue is listed as 90.6B in the Houghton College Digital Archives, but the PDF shows that it was published with 90.6A printed at the top—most likely a simple failure to update the file from the issue before, a mistake we made last week. Handwritten notes at the top of the scanned PDF indicate that it might be either 90.6B or 90.7A.)

After all the confusion of lettered volume numbers, some normalcy returned in September 1996 with Volume 91.1 opening a new academic year. The 1996-1997 staff preserved the pattern set in November 1993: 91.9 is followed by 92.0 ten days later (on February 14

and February 24, 1997). While the 1996-1997 staff stopped with Volume 92.4 in May 1997, the first issue of the new semester was Volume 93.1 on September 2, 1997. It’s the 1997-1998 staff who realized that an issue could be numbered Volume 93.10 to come after 93.9. From that year onwards, the STAR returned to its pre-1993 roots by counting up one (and only one) volume number every single academic year and allowing the issue number to start at 1 and go above 10. But since then we’ve been stuck with those few extra volume numbers.

This does leave one extra volume number unaccounted for. The final volume numbering quirk came about in the spring of 2007. Through the fall of 2006 and the beginning of 2007, STARs were numbered from 102.1 (on September 19, 2006) to 102.7 (on January 31, 2007). But the February 14, 2007 issue is listed as 103.8. There is no acknowledgement of the change in 102.7, 103.8, or 103.9 (March 14, 2007). From there the pattern remains consistent. Fall 2007 and spring 2008 are volume 104. This continues up to the present day with volume 116 for fall 2019 and spring 2020.

There is no record I can find in the STAR records themselves explaining why issue numbers stopped counting past ten in the first place. My speculation is that they may have been using digital file storage in 1993 and found that “Volume 10” comes before “Volume 2” in an alphabetized listing. We get this around by labeling single-digit issues as 01, 02, etc. in our digital storage, but people unaware of this workaround may have resigned themselves to never counting past 9.

Going forward, we expect it to be even more confusing than the corrections attempted in the later 1990s to attempt several years of lettered volumes in order to make the math between founding date and volume number make sense again. Future staffs might receive that system and not realize when it’s time to go back to plain numbers. Our plan is to just explain this quirk in STAR history to those who take our places next year and to instruct them to do likewise. If anyone forgets that instruction and someone becomes curious, hopefully they will search the STAR archives and find this explanation to know it has been noticed and accounted for. ★

TIMPE *from page 1*

a particularly interested group. I was very glad Nuk [Kongkaw] suggested having Kevin in the Mosaic Center, as I think it’s really good for us to realize that this is an issue of diversity as well.”

Bethany Cousins (‘21), who attended both the chapel and the Talk Back, was appreciative of the opportunity to further wrestle with the issues at hand. “I think the most important part for Houghton as a whole to pay attention to is that we need to think more about disabled people and how they feel about certain things,” she said. For example, Dr. Timpe addressed the issue of person-first language versus identity-first language addressing people with various types of disabilities. Many people today are taught to use person-first language: for example, educators teach their students to say “person with a hearing impairment” rather than “deaf person.” Dr. Timpe said he would use identity-first language in his talk and subsequent discussions because eighty percent of autistic adults prefer identity-

first language. He continued, “In general, use the language people prefer. It’s a way of being hospitable.”

In reference to the use of identity-first language, Cousins said, “We don’t know that because we don’t ask them... This applies not only to Houghton, but to our society as a whole. There are three million autistic children in this country, but we barely notice them, and that is wrong.” Cousins commented that the diversity of abilities among autistic people is a reason that the language surrounding autism should become more positive, “the same way that we now use language that celebrates races. Disabilities are a part of diversity, and we need to remember that.” ★

NVW *from page 1*

or people who think they are going to go into [missions].” She went on to say that “all of us at Houghton really want to help people and change the world, and there [are] a lot of ways that you can do that in missions. You don’t have to go to Africa, South America, or

China in order to do some good in your community.” Prof. Dean noted that New Vision Week is a program that “happens because students want it to happen... the only reason [New Vision Week] is here is because students want it to be here.”

Students were able to get involved in New Vision Week by attending a number of events centered on raising awareness for global missions. On Monday, the chapel speaker was James [Editor’s note: last name omitted for security], who addressed the need for the Church to funnel more resources into reaching unreached people groups, those with little to no access to the Gospel. That chapel also included the annual flag ceremony, where students from countries all over the world walked into chapel waving their home country’s flag. That evening, a panel with representatives from different missions organizations addressed questions raised by students. The panel, Bowers stated, focused on student concerns, such as ethnocentrism and neocolonialism in missions, and aimed to see “to what extent those concerns are legitimate, and to what extent [those concerns] might be outdated.” Many of the topic ideas and changes that were made this year for New Vision Week came from surveys that were sent out to students about what they thought about New Vision Week and missions in general.

On Tuesday, organizers and mission organization representatives put together a culture fest, where students could experience unique elements of other cultures. Abigail Wilkerson (‘21), who was the representatives coordinator, said of the culture fest, “I’m thrilled with the turnout; it’s a really nice mix of international students and American students. It’s a great time for people to interact with students with whom they wouldn’t interact on a daily basis.”

Representatives from the missions organizations were set up in the Campus Center all three days, available to answer any and all questions students had about missions or to provide information on how to get involved in missions. The organizations that were present included Wycliffe and Global Partners. Bowers reported that representatives from two other organizations usually present had to call off at the last minute for personal reasons.

New Vision Week concluded with James’s second chapel talk on Wednesday. ★

PANEL *from page 1*

ity is Alzheimer’s Association TrialMatch. Badeau shared, “It lists every single study going on in the country that has to do with memory loss, any type of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease. You create your own ... little profile that’s confidential: where you live, your age, your history, lifestyle factors.” This, in turn, will let the users know if they match for research, and this can be anything from filling out surveys to becoming a part of a clinical trial for a new drug.

Dr. Martino agreed with Badeau’s point of the importance of participation. “I think there’s a little bit of hope,” he said. “We’re close to having a blood test [for Alzheimer’s].

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Spring 2020 Financial Validation Checklist

Which Step Are You On?

Questions? Contact the Student Financial Services Office at sfso@houghton.edu

STEP 1: Meet with your advisor and **register for Spring courses** as soon as possible

Seniors: October 29th

Juniors: October 31st

Sophomores: November 5th

First-Year Students: November 7th

STEP 2: Log in at Houghton.afford.com to **view bill** by November 20th.

STEP 3: **Cover total balance** by December 9th with payment in full, approved loan application, and/or official payment plan through Houghton.afford.com

STEP 4: CONGRATULATIONS! You’re Financially Validated! Watch for an email from Student Financial Services with your Spring 2020 **Financial Validation Confirmation**

Local Attractions

“There’s nothing to do in Houghton”

CASSIDY RICHARDSON

“There’s nothing to do in Houghton”: A phrase we often hear and one we may even be guilty of uttering a time or two, especially on those quiet weekends when everyone seems to have gone into hibernation...

But I implore you not to reveal such a lack of creativity so voluntarily! Sure, you have to work a little harder to have a good time here but that is what makes our lives different from that of the typical college student. If good times were always handed to us, we would never know the joy of creativity and feeling as though we have earned our fun!

I know that not all of my suggestions will appeal to everyone, but perhaps there is someone out there who needs to hear this. Someone who is looking for a little nudge of encouragement to get out beyond the four walls of their dorm room, or perhaps beyond the four ends of our campus. To the person who is finally ready for a new adventure, this is for you.

First you can begin your day with a walk or a short drive to the top of a nearby hill (I will not specify any in particular, there are so many to choose from). Here, I welcome you into the well-kept secret of a morning sunrise as it comes up over trees that are just beginning to don their brilliant array of fall colors. If you are not a morning person, head west, because the sunsets this time of year are equally as stunning. Additionally, if you are struggling to find a hill that will suffice, Letchworth State Park is just a short drive away and has countless trails offering splendid views of the sun as it rises or falls over the gorge and waterfalls of the “Grand Canyon of the East”. Even better is the fact that you can get into the park for free after 5pm and following Columbus Day, the gates remain open all day every day, free of charge!

At this point you may be getting hungry or perhaps could use some coffee or a pot of tea. If this is the case, the Union Tea Cafe in downtown Olean is a lovely choice. This cafe puts a spin on British Tradition, serving high tea (a meal of assorted snacks and sandwiches), over 100 blends of tea from all around the world, homemade bread and scones, coffee, and of course a full menu of food options. If you’re feeling especially adventurous, I would highly recommend the biscuit topped with jam and clotted cream which practically

transports you to London in just one bite.

While you’re in Olean you can also stop by the Olean Recreation Center and do a lap or two around the ice rink, or you can spend an evening at Good Times of Olean which offers bowling, mini golf, and even an arcade.

If you’re looking at these activities and think they sound a little too out there or require money you would rather not spend, I shall point you again towards the great outdoors. I know this is nothing new, but in the spirit of wilderness exploration I find it amusing to branch out beyond the clearly marked Houghton trails and down into the woods surrounding the field of dreams and cross country trail. Here, you will find woods perfect for a leisurely nap in a hammock or you may stumble upon the mysterious Houghton Beach that is rarely advertised but which can be quite a fun time for a group of friends who are looking to use their imagination or are scoping out locations for their next camping adventure.

I am well aware that many of these suggestions require transportation and this might not be available to you, but I hope you will not let this get in your way. This too is just one more opportunity for adventure if you are willing to reach out to a friend who does have a car, perhaps a new one or one you haven’t spent time with in a while, and invite them on your journey! What better way to build a friendship than through the common bond of shared experience and memory making. ★

International Voices

Emmanuella Osuzoka

Emannuella Osuzoka is a first year student; the STAR reached out to her to share a bit about her experience growing up overseas in Nigeria.

Q: How much of your life have you spent abroad and where were you living?

A: I was born in the east part of Nigeria, and I grew up on the west part of Nigeria.

I started travelling to the US with my family in 2016, and since then I’ve lived for a little bit in Arizona, Baltimore and Houston.

Q: In what key ways would you say that place was culturally different from Houghton or the United States in general?

A: Back home the environment, food, and language were all different. We had breakfast later on in the day and had our morning devotions in the car while waiting in traffic. I lived in a busy city where my parents had to be up by 5:00 to get ready for work, and we had to be up by 6:00 for school. The way of living was generally different. For examples in terms of language, there are over 300 languages spoken in Nigeria but there are 3 major ones. I speak Igbo but I lived among people who spoke Yoruba and Hausa. This made everyday different and interesting.

Q: What was the adjustment experience like between there and here?

A: I had to get used to eating the

food here which doesn’t have as much spicing as I’m used to. I also had to get used to writing so many papers and essays. The amount of papers I’ve written this past 3 weeks is probably the most I’ve written in my entire life.

Q: How would you say the overall experience has affected the different areas of your life, such as your faith or the way you relate to the Houghton community?

A: I am grateful for being here at Houghton because I have grown so much in my spiritual life and I have learnt to trust and hand it all to God. I was stuck for so long spiritually and I feel so much lighter here just after 3 weeks; I’m excited to see how I will feel after 4 years.

Q: Is there one part of your life experience in that other culture you wish every student at Houghton could have a chance to experience?

A: Everybody should experience a little bit of other people’s culture, language and way of living. They need to understand how Nigeria or Africa in general is a rich continent and greatly blessed by God. Before this experience, when people said there’s no place like home, I never really understood that until now. There’s no place like home to me although this comes really close to it. ★

PANEL from page 2

Just get on board with ... submitting to these surveys, to these different databases.” Attendee Dr. Carolyn Miller, who teaches in the linguistics department, also agreed on the helpfulness of knowing what’s going on and playing a role in it. “It was good to know ... where we are now,” Dr. Miller shared. “Discouraging in a way, because the upshot was ‘we don’t know a lot about what causes it or what to do about it,’ [there’s] no way to cure it. At the same time, it was helpful to know ... things that are being tried.”

With this knowledge, according to the panel, much more can be done to help solve the Alzheimer’s crisis. Though it is still without a cure and is being researched more and more each day, anyone can be a help in helping that research go more quickly. ★



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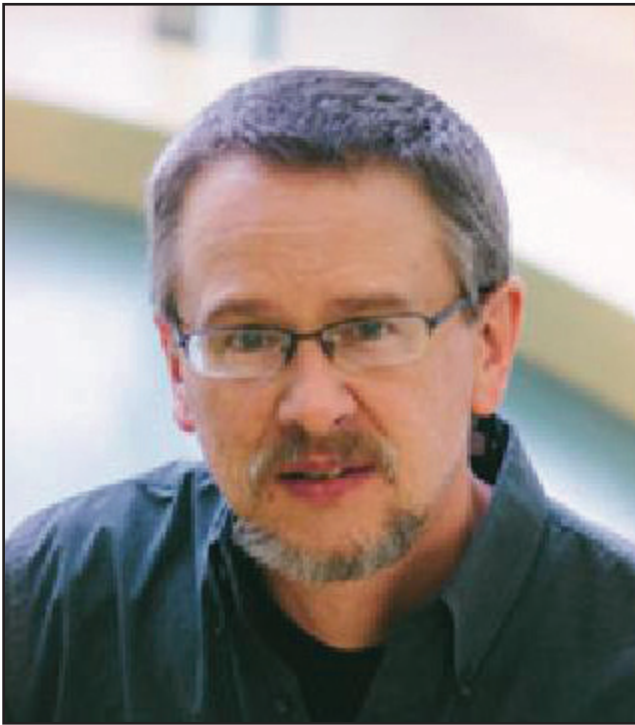
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Professor Jonathan Case Releases New Book

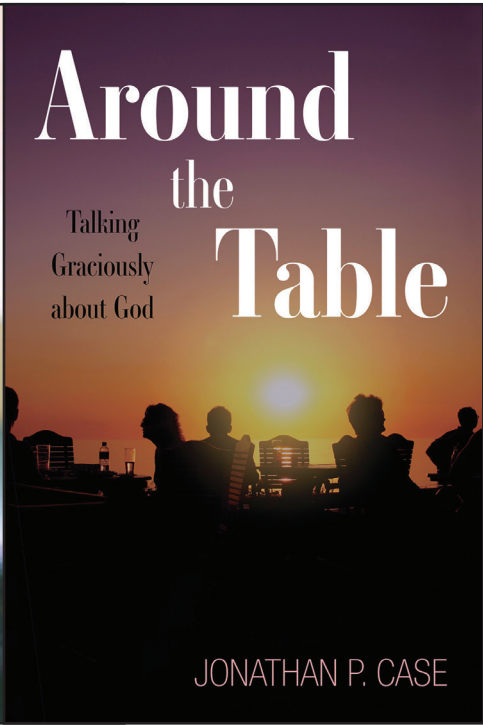
EMILY ALLEN

“Is it possible for Christians to become more thoughtful and gracious conversation partners as we talk through our theological disagreements?” This is the question that Houghton theology professor Dr. Jonathan Case’s newly released book, *Around the Table: Talking Graciously about God* seeks to address. Faced with a culture that increasingly struggles to disagree or even converse in a civil manner, *Around the Table* encourages Christians “to listen carefully to each other [and] to receive valid criticism,” according to Dr. Case.

The framing metaphor of the book is a family conversation around a table. Thomas Hallman (‘21), who has read the book, says, “Each member of the family at the table represents a kind of dialogue partner in the world of faith, including fellow Christian believers, members of other faiths, and atheists and agnostics.” For Dr. Case, the analogy just made sense: “we tend to have super intense disagreements with close family members, but also with... cousins and then with people hanging



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Jonathan Case’s book *Around the Table* was published in June 2019.

over the fence wondering what the commotion is about.”

Part of the inspiration behind the book is Dr. Case’s extensive time spent reading the works of John Wesley. While we typically hear about Wesley’s writings on sanctification or small groups, Dr. Case says that writings such as Wesley’s “Catholic Spirit” (catholic here meaning “universal”) are often overlooked: “There is a lot in the Wesleyan theological

tradition that can help us learn how to navigate theological disagreements in a way that is actually productive and helpful.” Drawing on these elements, as well as his personal experiences with both interdenominational and interfaith dialogues, Dr. Case masterfully depicts what healthy conversation could look like across belief barriers.

One of the things that Dr. Case says he learned most

about throughout the process of writing the book comes from his chapter on atheism and agnosticism. “The debate that is going on between the new atheists... and the newer atheists... the fighting within the house of atheism that’s going on... that’s been the biggest surprise to me.” We often imagine that Christians and atheists are the only ones in conflict, but in reality, there are divisions of belief within

atheism in the same way that there are between Christians. This only heightens the necessity for listening well to dialogue partners.

When asked if he has another book in the works, Dr. Case says, “I’m devoting my spare time right now to some research on the transhumanist movement,” which encompasses those scientists and futurologists pushing the boundaries of human transformation through the use of technology.

For those interested in reading *Around the Table*, Dr. Case recommends, “Rush out and buy it!” adding, “I hope whoever reads it enjoys it. I’m sure I got a lot of things wrong in it, but there are some things in the book that have helped me, and if nothing else hopefully other people can at least learn from my mistakes.” Hallman comments, “even the reader who lacks any form of official teaching in theology can feel at home; it marries humor and thoughtfulness in a wonderfully pleasant way... I would recommend reading slowly; reflect on the issues - sit down, chew on them for a bit, and find yourself in the dialogue.” ★

Jenna Bittinger Aces Athletics and Education

RODNEY SHEPARD
Sports Writer

A scholar athlete is someone who excels both in the classroom and also in their field of play. It requires time management, discipline, and perseverance. These are all qualities of this week’s scholar athlete of the week, Jenna Bittinger (‘22). Jenna, an Education and Spanish major, is a member of the women’s volleyball team, which is currently 12-3 and first in the Empire 8. She currently has 47 sets played, 92 Kills and 5 aces. When asked about how the season is going, Jenna said, “It’s truly a blessing from God that I am able to play on such a fantastic team. There becomes a point where volleyball is less about athletic achievement and more about glorifying the one you play for, which I love”.

Jenna not only contributes to her team with her individual play, but also as a teammate. Head Women’s Volleyball coach Josh Tompkins described Jenna as a teammate by saying, “Jenna does a really good job of keeping everyone positive. She has had a positive attitude no matter what and that really has an affect on others. Not only that, but she is one of our team chaplains and she leads our team in a strong way spiritually.”

Jenna is joined on the court by her older sister Ally Bittinger (‘20) as well.

Ally and Jenna were also once high school teammates, eventually finding their way to play together once again at Houghton. During their high school years at Northern York High School in Dillsburg, PA, their team went 14-6 during Ally’s senior year. Ally commented about what it’s like playing with her sister by saying, “Jenna and I play very well together, which isn’t usually the case with sibling athletes. During our high school season we truly found our groove of functioning as a power team, and that has carried into our college play as well. Surprisingly enough, I didn’t have any influence over Jenna as she was making her college decision. She was looking for a school with strong academics, a Christian community, and a volleyball program that functions as a family.”

Jenna’s success doesn’t stop on the volleyball court. Though only a sophomore Jenna works as a Spanish teacher at Houghton Academy, a job not commonly held among active college students. When asked what it’s like to work as a teacher, a full time student, and a college athlete, Jenna said “Coming into this year I was really nervous that I would be taking on too much. The day I got to campus for preseason was the day I interviewed and got the Spanish teaching position at Houghton Academy. I questioned a lot as to if all of this is what God wanted me to do and let me tell you... it took a lot of prayer to keep myself in



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Bittinger balances the the rigors of the court with those of the classroom, both as a student and a teacher.

check. I wouldn’t say everyone strives to be a full time college student and athlete alongside becoming a teacher with no actual classroom teaching experience. Being a sophomore in college it’s obvious that I haven’t taught a class by myself before, so it’s been taking a lot to get used to. However I’m not doing it on my own; my professors, fellow colleagues, teammates and coach have been helping me a lot. My students are amazing as well, which makes my job a lot easier.” This shows Jenna’s work ethic, something that those close to her would say has always been a part of who she is. Her sister Ally said, “Jenna is one of the hardest workers I know and

has inspired me so much! In high school Jenna took on one of the heaviest loads I can remember during her senior year. She was a dedicated student during the day, a star athlete at the peak of her club volleyball season, worked three jobs at the same time, was enrolled in two online college courses and was diligently researching countless scholarships to prepare for Houghton.”

With all that Jenna has going for herself, when asked about her future plans, she said, “After college, right now my plan is to find a Spanish teaching job in an inner city school or impoverished community. Utilizing my ability to speak Spanish, I feel called to reach communities in need...

so whatever God has in store, I’ll go with it!” As far as moving forward on the volleyball court, Head Coach Josh Tompkins said about Jenna, “I am looking forward to seeing her take a more prominent role as a leader on our team in the years to come. She is a wonderful person and I just can’t wait to see what she is capable of!”

Jenna exemplifies what it means to be a scholar athlete here at Houghton. Fans can catch Jenna next in action on the volleyball court on October 12th here at Houghton College at the Nielsen Center as they take on conference rival Nazareth at 1:00 PM. ★

Annual Scarf Ceremony Welcomes New Students

ERIN MAGGIO
Regular Contributor

This year’s first year students, the class of 2023 and transfer students, were formally welcomed into the larger Houghton community at the annual scarf ceremony, on the morning of Thursday October 3, 2019.

This tradition began in 2009, in commemoration of six Houghton students who were killed in a car accident on October 2, 1981. After the first ceremony in 2009, Daniel Noyes (’93), the executive director of alumni relations at the time, said, “It is our hope that this tradition will help the memories of the six Houghton students...and for us to continue to foster the type of community described following the tragedy in 1981.”

This year’s event, held in the Wesley Chapel, kicked off with words from Phyllis Gaerte, the Senior Director of Alumni and Community Engagement. She explained the scarf as being like the Houghton community as a whole and each thread being each individual person making up the whole; “we welcome you as one more thread of this community,” she said. This community included both the past, present, and future members of the community.

So that the students were aware of the school’s past and those that thread it into being what it is today, into which they are being welcomed, several speakers were introduced to highlight important members throughout Houghton’s history.



COURTESY OF ERIN MAGGIO

The 2019 Scarf Ceremony was held in the chapel rather than by the eagles statue commemorating the six students who died in 1981.

Noyes (’93), now the Regional Director of Development, talked about Willard J. Houghton, who was integral in the establishment of Houghton College. Noyes emphasized his importance in embodying the Christian aspect of what Houghton strives to be.

Next, Robert Luckey (’00) spoke about his great grandfather, James S. Luckey, the first president of the college. Luckey represented the emphasis of liberal arts for the college, as he helped to transform Houghton from a tiny religious high school into an accredited liberal arts Christian College.

After Luckey, Carolyn Paine

Miller (’60) talked about her father, Stephen W. Paine, and how he personified excellence. Under his reign for 35 years as president, Paine guided Houghton through great change and growth. In this time, there were many new buildings erected, growing academic excellence with expanded faculty, and a huge growth in the number of students.

Douglas Gaerte, Professor of Communication, introduced Daniel R. Chamberlain under the principle of reputation. As the President of the college for 30 years, he strengthened the college’s connections across the state, country, and world; made

dramatic campus changes; and was a steady leader.

After Gaerte spoke, Dr. Jordan (’99), the Dean of the Chapel, spoke about current President Shirley A. Mullen (’76) and her emphasis on community. Mullen has aimed for Houghton to be a place of courage and compassion for all in the community.

Next, Mullen herself spoke. In this ceremony “we are inviting you to become even more formally a part of the Houghton College Community,” she said. She said that this meant not only the students and faculty on campus, but also on the other campuses, and the thousands of

alumni. Phyllis (Fleming ’65) Farver, who won the Alumni of the Year Award this year with her husband Thomas (’64), also emphasized how strong this overall Houghton Community is. She said that every time she meets a Houghton grad, no matter the age, she feels an instant connection, unlike any other. This event formally invited the freshman and transfer students into this special connection.

Two freshmen, after the event, acknowledged the rich history of the school, which they learned of at the ceremony. Sarah Potocki (’23) said “I enjoyed learning about the long history of the school,” and Grace Armstrong, president of the class of 2023, said, “The fact that I can look up to someone and aspire to become like them, if not then more than greater than them really helps me to give my all into the community.” With the ceremony, freshmen not only were invited to be in the community but were inspired to make a positive impact on the community as well.

The event concluded with the students each receiving a scarf and a bookmark from President Mullen. They are invited to, when they graduate, identify someone in their lives and gift the scarf to them as a thank you for making Houghton College part of their lives.

By adding another class through this event, the Houghton College community has gained many more threads in its scarf. ★

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Taken by Lisbeth Crompton (’21): the sunset over Paine on 10/7/19



Send your favorite picture from this week to editor@houghtonstar.com for a chance to be featured next week!

Aligning Feminism with Scripture



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

KATIE-LYN FLITCROFT

“I would never associate myself as a feminist.” This short line came out of my mouth last weekend as a simple argument to a friend who supports the feminist movement. Though simple, this sentence carried the potential to start World War III. Let’s talk about why, because looking at me on the outside, you see a young adult woman from New York and you’d expect me to side with a more democratic or liberal point of view—but exterior appearances can be deceiving. I don’t agree with feminism because I believe that God creat-

ed social order between sexes, and the general consensus of feminists would not agree with this belief.

Merriam-Webster gives a solid definition of feminism as: “the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes”—so then a feminist is generally anyone who supports this theory. I do whole-heartedly believe that God created men and women equally. I support this claim with Genesis 1:27, when we’re told that both men and women were created in His image, and even in Genesis 5:2 where God blesses both male and female. Equality is also expressed in Galatians 3:28, when Paul tells

created men and women equally, giving us no excuse to assume the power of one gender over another.

Based on the definition we looked at by Merriam-Webster, it seems that I could classify myself as a feminist, though we haven’t discussed the previously mentioned topic of gender roles. Let me take you to Ephesians 5:21-33. In case you’re not familiar with this passage, it brings up the topic of submission. We are all called to submit to Christ. Regardless of any role you might play socially, we are still commanded as Christians to submit to Christ. This commandment is then followed by wives be-

Peter 3:7 or 1 Corinthians 11:3, we see what is often summed up in a single phrase: gender roles.

Simply put, one of the biggest reasons I choose not to associate with feminism is because I genuinely believe in the importance of gender roles. I believe that men and women are given different hormones that drive them to do things differently. Men and women are vastly different biologically. Additionally, the way men and women think differs and this is often seen in the way we react. Oxytocin is a hormone in both men and women that causes humans form bonds. The oxytocin count increases in mothers when they cuddle or nurse their children. For fathers, oxytocin count increases through roughhousing. Men and women were created in a way that causes us to act differently from one another. This is part of what creates the aforementioned gender roles. Gender roles are not meant to be indicative of who has power over who, they are simply what God put in place to create a house of order. This difference has nothing to do with any debate of equality, that is simply the way God formed us. God wants us to know where we are

supposed to go in life and He gives us guidelines to help us find this place.

Overall, my issue with feminism is not feminism within itself. My problem is with the feminists who take it much too far. I genuinely don’t understand what women think they are going to gain when marching around Washington, D.C., with hats and t-shirts that are covered with images of female genitalia. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie says, “Teach her that the idea of ‘gender roles’ is absolute nonsense,” in her book *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*. Statements like these are the reason I choose to distance myself from the feminist movement. To summarize briefly, I choose not to associate myself with feminism because I believe that God’s created order dictates gender roles. Arguably, feminist views are generally unwilling to accept that, therefore putting their own thoughts and feelings above the authority of scripture. ★

Katie-Lyn is a junior majoring in education and English, with a minor in theology.

“Simply put, one of the biggest reasons I choose not to associate with feminism is because I genuinely believe in the importance of gender roles.”

us that, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor there is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Evidently, God

ing instructed to submit to their husbands, and husbands then to the church. Along with this reference in Galatians, if you take a look at Colossians 3:18-19, 1

Why Everyone Needs a Robin



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

ZACHARY PARIS

Perhaps one of the more famous Batman stories, and a personal favorite of mine, is *Batman: A Death in the Family*. In this story, the main arc is that Jason Todd, who is Robin at this point, dies. The Joker beats him badly and leaves him for dead in a warehouse. The Joker then detonates a bomb in the warehouse, and Batman does not get there in time to save Robin. Robin dies and Batman fails. This is how *A Death in the Family* ends. We are left with a Batman who was not the hero in the end, but someone whose closest ally was just murdered by his greatest adversary. He was too

late. This is a failure that not just Batman as a superhero but also Bruce Wayne as a person has to live with.

Fast-forward six months to *Batman: A Lonely Place of Dying*. It has been six months since Jason was killed by The Joker and six months of a Robin-less Batman. During this time Batman has become noticeably reckless and more violent in his work. A thirteen year old Batman fan named Tim Drake notices. Through having an eagle eye and being a fan of The Flying Graysons, Tim figured out that Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson (now Nightwing) were Batman and Robin. Seeing Batman’s sloppy behavior, Tim attempts to convince Dick to become Robin again. Dick refuses because he has moved on to become the leader of the Teen Titans, protecting the city of Blüdhaven. Dick’s refusal upsets Tim because he knows that Batman needs a Robin.

Because Batman feels like a failure, he refuses to let anyone

“If Batman can’t do everything alone, then we most definitely can’t.”

else in. Not until his run-in with Two-Face does this become a problem. Because of his nature, Two-Face does everything in twos. Batman cannot be at two different places once to save the day, so he is unsuccessful in taking down Two-Face. Batman’s fear of failure and of losing another Robin is costing him. As much as he tries, Batman can’t do everything alone. In the end Nightwing goes to help him and they end up in trouble. Tim dons the Robin suit (without Batman’s knowledge) and saves Batman and Nightwing from peril. After witnessing his heroics (and some convincing from Dick), Bruce decides that he will let Tim in and train him to be the next Robin. Tim would continue to be Robin for the next several years.

If Batman can’t do everything alone, then we most definitely can’t. We all try to get by on our own, but we really can’t. We all need a Robin. For Batman, Robin keeps him in check, more focused, and more human. The Robin in your life does the same for you too, or may help you in other areas of life. Because we fail does not mean that is the end or that we now all of the sudden have to be alone. If we lose and learn nothing from it, only then have we truly lost. Batman felt that his failure was too great to try again. We all feel this is the case at some point in our life, but we have to realize that we are not alone. No matter how alone and devastated you feel, there is always someone around to help you get back on your feet. You just have to let them in. Our failure or letting down someone else does not define us, but how we react to it does.

Everybody needs somebody. It was no coincidence that Tim came into Bruce’s life right

when he needed him. If you know anything about Batman, you know that one thing he does not believe in is fate. Sometimes I do believe that fate brings certain people together for better or worse. To me, these relationships shape the lives of both involved, like Bruce and his “Bat Family.” They show you and others involved something you thought would never be possible again—like having another Robin, or maybe just personally trusting someone again.

Before I came to Houghton, I tried doing it on my own. It did not work. I realized that I need someone by my side, people to be able to talk to, and to not keep everything in. For me, like Batman, fear was a defining factor in being alone. I not only feared failure but also trusting someone I really couldn’t. You have to have faith and take risks on people. It might not always work out, but some people always stick. We have all had a Jason Todd experience that scars us for a while, but in the end a Tim Drake comes along to pick us back up, get us back on track, and let us know that they are there for us always. ★

Zachary is a senior majoring in Communications and Business Administration.

“I do believe that fate brings certain people together for better or worse.”

Beyond Open Hours: The Case for Coed Cooking



COURTESY OF MICHAEL SIEVERS

MELISSA HODDE

If you're a Gillette or a Lambein resident, you've probably been there. Your friend, significant other, or reluctant nemesis is hungry, and you've got the best chili recipe on campus, or maybe an extra-large box of mac and cheese you're looking to get rid of. You want to eat with them in a more intentional setting than the dining hall: you don't get to spend much time together, and meals are one of the only breaks scheduled into everyone's day. You are thwarted, however: open hours don't start until 7, and your person is banned from the kitchen until then.

There are ways to get around this—the classic “dinner in the main lounge, I'm cooking” scenario, for instance, in which your friend, foe, or fiancé waits awkwardly in the very public lounge area while you desperately stare down a pot of water that refuses to boil. I don't love this one myself, but I've done it more than once. It gets the job done, and eventually everyone eats, even if it does involve an involuntary audience and the necessity that you do all the cooking alone or with fellow residents.

Of course, you can complicate the picture and get rid of some of the unbalanced-relationship problems by splitting the labor—maybe your non-resident friend does the dishes, or cooks part of the meal in their own residence hall or bustling townhouse. This can occasionally work out, but it

does involve the prospect of hauling either cooked food or dirty dishes across campus.

The other problem, though, is much worse. Consider Roth and Shen, the dorms where all the hungriest people live. Do you know why they're hungry? They can't really cook—talents and motivation aside, there's only one oven per building. If you've never shared an oven with an entire building, you might imagine that it's possible. I am here to tell you that it's not. Cooking, of course, requires things like pots and pans and flour and spices, and these things are difficult to carry up and down

“I think a coed cooking space would... teach us how to live and work together.”

stairs, require careful looking after, and offer the enormous temptation of temporary theft for other residents. Sharing a kitchen with two dozen people is doable with thoughts and prayers, but upwards of three hundred is just too many. You might as well give up and cook over the Shen campfire.

This is a good time to point out that one or more people cooking in isolation is all well and good, but doesn't really fulfill the original goal you had when you made plans with your friend. The point is to spend time together, and as an added benefit you both get a break from all the screentime, book-time, and sitting-time that academia demands. Cooking can be a little messy and challenging, but it's a lot more forgiving than writing an essay or a lab report. It can also be a grounding activity, if you're having a rough day and need something like cold water or a nice smell to bring you out of your mental haze. Sharing all of these benefits with someone else gives you a chance to chill out and enjoy one another's company.

If you value these things a lot, you can adjust your schedule to make beginning to cook at 7 and actually eating around 7:45 acceptable. I've seen lots

“Sharing a kitchen with two dozen people is doable with thoughts and prayers, but upwards of three hundred is just too many.”

of couples do this, or possibly pairs of friends. This method is one I've rarely pulled off with success, as Metz has trained my internal clock to believe that dinnertime is between 5:30 and 7:15 or so, when the food is guaranteed to be out on all days of the week. Plus, it defeats the

At this point, the situation may look impossible. How are people supposed to cook together when they don't live in compatible buildings and there isn't a space that actually encourages coed cooking? The truth is, there isn't a great solution right now. A few power couples have notably taken over the stir fry station for this purpose, which is admirable, but most of us don't know how to make good food out of a small selection of raw vegetables and rice. Over the years, I've eyed the faculty lounges with a covetous spirit—but those are important spaces for them, and don't usually feature a full oven. A simple takeover is not the answer.

However, with a little forethought, I think the campus

could create a solution. As much as class gifts like the swing circle and the hammock village have improved our social lives, I think a coed cooking space would do even more to teach us how to live and work together. Perhaps constructing a new staff lounge in an accessible building like Chamberlain and revamping the old space as a coed kitchen would do the trick—or remodeling one of the rooms connected to a main lounge in the residence hall. Even allowing the Roth and Shen kitchens to be considered part of the main lounge area and accessible to everyone during main lounge hours would be a good start. More importantly, I hope a few people start thinking about the problem and in true Houghton fashion, begin a dialogue. We might achieve community in weird ways, but that just reveals our stubborn desire as a school to talk, serve, and exist together, even if it's just over a mac and cheese. ★

Melissa is a senior majoring in writing and environmental biology.

Letter to the Editor:

“You are welcome,” was the refrain at last Friday's concert. And we believed, until confronted with the jarring warning plastered across the entrance to SPOT, the community tradition that is Homecoming's finale.

“ATTENTION!! EPILEPSY WARNING - STROBE LIGHTS May Be Used At This Event. A few people may experience epileptic seizures when viewing flashing lights. FIRST 5 MINUTES (INTRO) OF SPOT WILL USE FLASHING LIGHTS.”

We dress up, make our plans, follow our friends, then we read, and panic. We get hurt, shocked, angry, and confused. Should we stay in the unsafe environment? How far outside is still unsafe? Can we trust you to have made the rest safe? Maybe we truly weren't worth including. We sit outside and only the disabled ask why. We walk home alone, vulnerable, embarrassed, and crying. Maybe we'll get pictures and proper good-byes with our friends next year when we plan in advance not to bother trying this part.

“I think it's over, but I don't want to risk it,” she says. “Instant headache,” he says. “Sat in the middle where you could see everything, but that's where the strong light was,” they say, not needing to explain the rest to me, for I sat outside, folded in half with my hood up, head between my knees, one eye shut, and crying.

Informing us that you've decided to create a hostile environment is not an adequate invitation. As Kristen Savastano said in Houghton's Lack of Accessibility, you are either accessible or you are not. We spend years asking whether a night of art and entertainment with our friends is worth risking our health, mental stability, work, finances, emotional comfort, and life. You must ask what you gain by excluding an image bearer of God. The answer, by the way, is flashing lights. ★

Lydia (Snouffer) Bush, class of 2014

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO: editor@houghtonstar.com



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

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Artist of the Week

Jessica Witter

// Senior Art & History Major



I have enjoyed art for as long as I can remember. In seventh grade, my mother signed me up for a drawing class (against my will), and after I stopped pouting, I found that I loved it. I had some natural ability, but most of my skill comes from years of practice.

I didn't actually intend to study art in college, though. My first major is in history. I was convinced like so many others that art wasn't a valid career choice. Yet, through a series of encouraging professors and LOTS of prayer, I still ended up here.

I continue to create art because I enjoy it, but recently I have also found it to be a form of worship. I particularly enjoy creating scenes from the world around me, which allows my work to draw attention to God's creation. He created me with these talents, and my goal is to hone them in order to give praise back to Him.

