

HOUGHTON

Milieu



“First and foremost

*alumni want to do something
for God's kingdom.
making the world a better place*

HOUGHTON COLLEGE • SUMMER 2006



Tim Nichols '81 is director of career services.

Finding God's will for your life, and other impossible things

"One can't believe impossible things" said Alice.

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

For many current students, members of the millennial generation, determining what God would have them to do with their lives feels like the seventh impossible thing to believe in before breakfast—like getting an "A" on a Paul Young paper.

Come to think of it, this conundrum isn't singularly a millennial problem; many of my classmates were struggling with the same issue (25 years ago this very spring)! Nor does the question magically disappear upon graduation. I have a 50-something friend who laments: "Someday, when I'm on my deathbed, I'll be asking you to give me a career inventory so I can decide how to spend the last 10 minutes of my life!"

As I meet with Houghton's students and come alongside them to grapple with questions of calling and vocation, I am always blessed by hearing how many of them—first and foremost—want to do something for God's kingdom by making the world a better place. If Willard J. Houghton, who dedicated his life to "fixing up this world," is able to look down from heaven, he must be gratified to see this quality in the students who head out to the ends of the earth bearing degrees with his name.

The good news, of course, is that finding God's will is not impossible at all. I had such misguided ideas about that during my formative years. I always assumed that God's will would have to be something onerous, out of my comfort zone, and probably involving Africa in some frightening way. As a career counselor I have come to understand calling and vocation so differently.

Like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, we begin our search with our heart's desire. What are our passions? Our gifts? What can be more rewarding than recognizing and understanding our God-given abilities and then using them for Him? Many Houghton graduates have, indeed, followed this path to the mission field, but God's path has taken thousands of others to the classroom, the marketplace, the laboratory and the concert hall. We're a varied bunch.

In so many ways, our Christian, liberal arts milieu is perfect for exploring the issues of calling and vocation. The people, the ideas, the readings, the co-curricular activities, the off-campus experiences: all expand students' window on the world and open their minds to opportunities and challenges they never dreamed of in high school. This setting doesn't lessen the stress of decision-making, but it does provide an ideal place for the process of exploration—and makes it seem a little less impossible.



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COVER: Jeff Arensen '02, Country Director of Samaritans Purse in Uganda, shaking hands with Ugandan children. Photo courtesy of Samaritan's Purse.

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The HOUGHTON Milieu, issued three times a year by Houghton's Office of Public Relations, is the primary print communication to connect the college with its various constituencies: alumni, faculty, staff, students and other friends. Milieu supports the mission of the college by providing information of interest and by developing and enhancing campus-audience relations and understanding through wide-ranging articles and timely reports of campus news. The magazine projects the college as a significant force for Christian liberal arts education in society.

www.houghton.edu

Houghton College *a higher purpose in mind*

By the numbers

Editor:

Thank you for the recent *Milieu* (Fall 2005 issue) showcasing the importance of numbers (math) in our everyday lives. As an accounting major at Houghton, I learned how valuable numbers can be in measuring and analyzing financial data. Numbers impose a discipline that aids us in staying consistent. Never would I have thought, though, how powerful math can be as a tool in analyzing other areas.

As a doctoral candidate in economics, one of my fields is mathematical economics/mechanism design. Who would think that mathematical models can be used to explain things as diverse as human behavior, or the way two people negotiate a contract? I am awed by the precise way our God has ordered all things. Isn't it amazing that our never-wavering Father's Creation is so precise? And He allows us to discover His tool chest and use some of His math tools to investigate the inner workings of His Creation?

Even amidst so much seeming inconsistency and irrationality, when we force ourselves to follow a consistent discipline (like the rules of math) we can discover more and more of the order God intended. How much more then, when we follow the consistent discipline of God's Word, will we discover more of the life God intended for us?

The *Milieu* reminded me how grateful I am to my business/economic professors at Houghton, who taught me, as Jake said in the opening, to "learn to

learn," and instilled in me a love of learning. Being able to pursue my education further and study more of the details of God's creation has been exciting.

Keep up the good work!

Karen Campbell '00

Brookhaven, PA

Confession

Editor:

I cheated during the 2000 Shenawana Olympics.

It wasn't pre-meditated, I assure you all. That Olympic match was one of the greatest in Shen history. It was a knock-'em-down, drag-'em-out, fight all night: when my second-floor Shen boys laid down the law in ping pong, first floor would strike back at ultimate frisbee; when basement won basketball, third followed with a dazzling display in rock climbing. Round after round we slugged it out, competing until the wee hours of the morning.

The competitions and the scores were marked on a poster in the entryway to the hall. As the event drew to a close and I realized that second's chances were slipping away, I noticed that one of the dorm council members had incorrectly given us a second-place finish in the 100-meter run, while giving first floor last place (our true placement).

I viewed this as providence and kept my mouth shut.

By 6 a.m., the events were tallied and second emerged victorious...by a margin this close, that would have gone entirely the other way had I pointed out the error. First floor graciously accepted its role as the second-place finisher. While everyone went to breakfast or to bed, I ripped the tally sheet from the wall and stowed it. If I were Moses, that sheet was a dead Egyptian and my closet was sand.

For the next two years I—and, indeed, all of second Shen—pointed to that Olympic effort as the Herculean hallmark of our halcyon days, the moment when we rose up, as underdogs, to strike down

"The Olympic match was one of the greatest in Shen history."

our competitors.

It was all a lie.

The true feat, the true Christ-like endeavor, would have been to acknowledge and remedy the error and praise the victorious floor rather than embroil my floor in a lie. As her resident assistant, I failed second Shen, all of Shenawana and all of the men who claim those bricks as their former home. As her student, I failed all of Houghton—from President Chamberlain, to Denise Bakerink, to Dr. Wardwell, to that cute girl with the freckles who lived on fourth old in East.

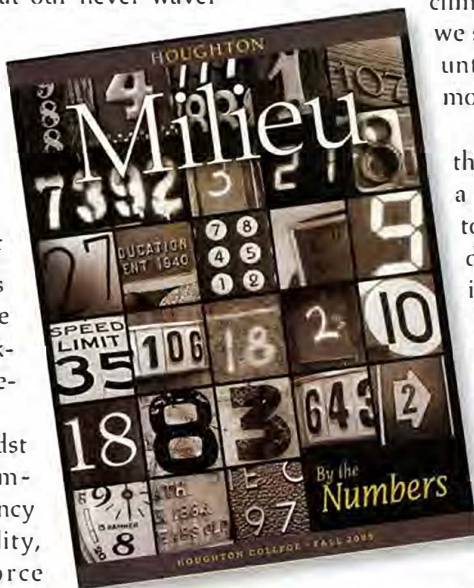
I failed you.

As the President prepares for retirement, as future generations of Shen men prepare to unleash themselves on an unsuspecting world and as I uncontrollably age and seek further to honor my Lord by adhering to the values my loving mother sought so diligently to instill in me...I come before you to admit that, yes, I cheated during the 2000 Shen Olympics and it is my greatest shame.

My greatest apology is not to first floor, but rather to second, whom I duped into association with my lie. Men, please forgive me. But stealing the flag pole from Burke Field? I know NOTHING about that.

Job Tate '02

Rutland, VT



A Soldier's Poem

by Brian Davidson '94

I go now
to defend the freedom
for which you died.
That "freedom is not free"
is plain to most;
you've shown that full well.
Yet the fight
lies near, not far;
here, not over there somewhere.
It is in the daily decision
to do one's best,
the rugged vigilance
to count the cost
and choose wisely.
Yes, some battles are won with weapons,
but the war is won
in mind and heart.
All is lost
when we fail to see
Victory
in the plainest of places:
the child well fed,
the student well taught,
the job well done.
Sword and shield
defend our freedom,
but cannot sustain it.
So much depends upon
a ballot cast,
a prayer lifted,
a service provided
a promise fulfilled.
These are the freedoms
for which we die.
Where Freedom fights
I'll follow.
The call has come,
I go.

Earlier this year, Bryan Davidson '94 visited the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Preparing to ship out to Afghanistan, Davidson wrote this poem and read it at a ceremony celebrating his promotion to major. Davidson and his wife Kerrie (Stockin '94) have three children.—Ed.



Waiting for the Rain

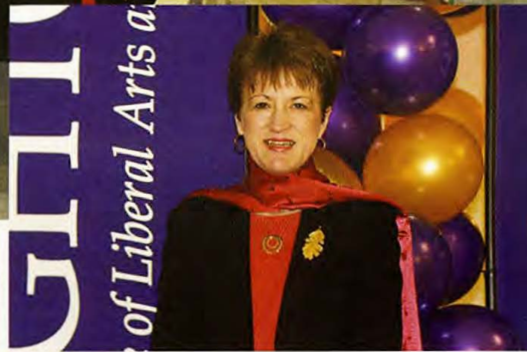
by Matthew Burden '05

It is quiet now,
But in the silence I hear a song—
A yearning, a waiting, a thirst for redemption.
The dry earth is weary but alive,
Finding peace in the promise,
The vibrant hope of resurrection.
This ancient cycle will turn once more
As the long vigil gives way to joy,
An echo of the laughter that fills the world to come.
The rains begin to fall like the fire of heaven,
Hurling down in joyous abandon
To impart again the fervent fullness of God's delight.
The ageless mountains burst into song,
The refrain of all the years, but never old—
The all-consuming celebration of life,
Of witness,
Of reflecting the Maker's joy.
The chorus of the rocky crags,
Awash in the golden light of dawn,
Breaks over the slumbering world
And wakes it to the coming of the rain.
The dance of silver droplets surrounds me now,
Turning the dusty trail into a living stage
For this glorious performance of heaven's grace.
I smile as I listen to the ancient, tireless song,
The music of redemption
Returning to the world.

Matt Burden '05 is in Menongue, Angola, working for the OM mission agency. "I like to write down my thoughts in poetry," he says, "So here's a poem I wrote just before leaving Namibia. The rainy season was about to begin, an event long looked-for by the people of that dry land. In the poem, I use it as a symbol of the yearning of creation for the redemption that comes through Christ."

Mullen Named Houghton's Fifth President

Welcome Dr. Shirley Mullen



ON MAY 19, THE HOUGHTON COLLEGE board of trustees elected **Shirley Mullen '76** as the fifth president of Houghton College. Mullen is the first woman president in the college's history. "Dr. Mullen has exemplified the scholar-servant ideals of Houghton College throughout the world of academe," said Board Chair **Ian Lennox '51**. "We look forward to her leadership at Houghton College."

Mullen, who took office on June 1, became only the sixth female president among the member schools of the Council for Christian College and Universities (CCCU). She succeeds Dr. Daniel Chamberlain who retired, after a 30-year tenure, in May 2006.

"The depth of Dr. Mullen's experience at Westmont, her reputation as a scholar-administrator *par excellence* and the support we discovered talking with those who know her best convinced us that she is exceptionally qualified to serve as the next president of Houghton College," said **Karl Eastlack '79**, chair of the presidential search committee and vice chair of the college's board.

Mullen has spent the last five years as provost at Westmont College in California, where she began in 1984 as a history professor. During her tenure she also served as interim

"Dr. Mullen has exemplified the scholar-servant ideals of Houghton College throughout the world of academe."

academic dean, vice-provost for curriculum and faculty development and department chair for history. After graduating from Houghton with a bachelor's degree in history, Mullen completed a master's in history from the University of Toronto, a doctorate in history from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Wales.

At Westmont, Mullen was known for her commitment to excellence in teaching in the context of the liberal arts philosophy of education. She was three times honored with Westmont's "Teacher of the Year Award" and was involved in developing Westmont's general education program and its Institute for the Liberal Arts.

Whiting Receives Staff Award

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS Coordinator Martha Whiting received the Mary Boomhower Staff Excellence Award at the college's annual recognition banquet in April. Her colleagues nominated Whiting because of her constant, shining example of Christ's love, noting that Whiting is always ready with a smile, caring words and encouraging comments to everyone she comes into contact with.

The college first presented the award in 1998 to honor Mary Boomhower's 45 years of service as a Houghton College staff member. Recipients are chosen based on their: commitment to God, servant's heart, exemplary perfor-



mance and commitment to Houghton. Past recipients of the award include: Lois Wing, Ina Newcomb, Mitch Liddick, Connie VanSlyke, Carla Wilson, Sharleen Holmes and Kathie Brenneman.

Massey Given Boon Award

CHARLES MASSEY, professor of education at Houghton College, received the 2006 Ken Boon Community Service Award at April's

recognition banquet. Massey was recognized for his service to the people of the city of Buffalo. His unceasing efforts, often along with his wife, Claity, have been directed at a variety of programs: the Pastoral and Church Ministries Program, the King Urban-Life Center, the service-learning program at Houghton, his well-known "Teaching in Urban America"

course, and, beginning in the fall, the Houghton College Center for Urban Programs in Buffalo.



The college established the Ken Boon Community Service Award three years ago, in memory of biology Professor Ken Boon. Its purpose is to recognize a Houghton College employee who has excelled in community service, external to the college. Boon's long (24 years) and distinguished service as Houghton's Fire Chief is the motivating example of such service.

The first award went to John Van Wicklin for his work with the Royal Family Kid's Camp and the second to Joyce Chamberlain for her 30 years of behind-the-scenes service to the Houghton community.

Faculty and Staff News

Associate Director of Admission **Jeff and Angela (Keppen '98) Babbitt '96** were profiled by the *Olean Times-Herald* newspaper in a three-part series on foster care in the Southern Tier.

Professor of Economics **Robert Black** and Professor of Business **Richard Halberg '71** both presented papers at the Association for Private Enterprise in Education's annual conference in Las Vegas, NV. Black's paper "What did Adam Smith Say about Self-Love?" will be published in the 2006 Volume of the *Journal of Markets and Morality*. Halberg's paper was on "Having Faith in Free Markets—Christian Responsibility in Society and the Economy."

Information Center Director **Kathie Brenneman '64** organized the annual turkey fund-raiser by Houghton students, faculty and staff, who donated almost \$3,000 this year. The money provided coupons for turkeys from the Fillmore Jubilee that were distributed to Allegany County residents. Without



John Brittain promised to dress as a pilgrim if the students reached their goal for the Turkey Drive. They did.

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Campus Visitors Inform, Impress



Emergency response leaders from western New York gathered on campus in April.

EACH SEMESTER, Houghton College hosts many visitors—for guest executive dinners, lectures, vocational journeys, festivals, symposia, conventions, forums, master classes, colloquia, and more. Space doesn't allow us to share all of their names or stories here, but we thought you might enjoy a sampling of the guests who come to campus:

- Astronomer Rebecca Koopman from Union College was a special guest speaker when Houghton hosted the 25th Annual Rochester Symposium for Physics Students (RSPS) in April. It was the first time in the symposium's 24-year history that it was held away from the University of Rochester.

- In April, the college hosted an Emergency Preparedness Forum for emergency response leaders in western New York. Several incident commanders who were involved in the response to the 9/11 attacks presented some of the lessons they learned and how to be better prepared.

- Adolph Herseth, world famous trumpeter, was the guest of The Houghton Brass Institute and taught master classes. Acclaimed during his career as "Quite possibly, the most dazzling performer on his instrument in the world today," by *The New York Times*, Herseth was principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 53 years.

- Houghton's Spring Writing Festival featured guest writers John Wilson, the founding editor of *Books & Culture*; Tim Stafford, senior writer for *Christianity Today*; Julia Kasdorf, who has

published two collections of poetry, a collection of essays, and a biography; and Justin Niati, who spent 11 years as a professional journalist in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Paris and London.

- The Chamberlain Lecture Series presented Philip Jenkins, distinguished professor of religious studies and history at Penn State University, who has written 20 books.

- The Spring Religion Colloquium featured guest speaker J. Richard Middleton, co-author of *Truth is Stranger Than It Used to Be: Biblical Faith in a Postmodern Age*, which received a Book-of-the-Year award from *Christianity Today*.



Adolph Herseth, world famous trumpeter

missing a beat, Brenneman helped students collect just over \$3,000 to buy gifts for Allegany County Children. The Christmas fundraiser provided toys and clothes for over 100 children. Special thanks to **Tiffany Shuman '09**, **Elyse Drum '08** and **Andrew Sonnekalb '06**, who played key roles in the Christmas joy.

Charles Bressler, professor of English, spoke at the Louisiana State University Literary Theory Conference in Baton Rouge, LA. His paper was entitled "The Many Faces of Laughter in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*." He also presented a paper, "The Moral Implications of J. R. R. Tolkien's Mythology and Cosmogony," at the C. S. Lewis and the Inklings conference at John Brown University (Arkansas). At the International Popular Culture/American Culture conference held in Atlanta, GA, Bressler presented his paper "The Religious and Spiritual Dimensions of J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*."

Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera **Shirley Close** appeared in a recital in the Artist Series at Taylor University. She was accompanied by Instructor of Piano **Virginia Halberg '71**. Close also presented a master class for the voice students at Taylor.

Judy Congdon, professor of organ, served as one of three judges for the national finals of the prestigious Arthur Poister Competition in Organ Performance held in Syracuse, NY.

Assistant Professor of Spanish and Intercultural Studies **Marcus Dean** presented a paper entitled "Friendship Through the Lens of Culture" in the mission track at the Wesleyan Theological Society in Kansas City.

Assistant Professor of Violin **Lin He** played two concerts with the Western New York Chamber Orches-

Peace Corps Director Gives Commencement Address



Gaddi Vasquez was the commencement speaker and Jo Anne Lyon delivered the baccalaureate address.



PRESIDENT DANIEL R. CHAMBERLAIN presided over his final commencement exercises at Houghton College Saturday, May 13, awarding 282 diplomas. The graduates included those completing their degrees in May, August and December

2006, eight who received associates degrees through Houghton's Pastoral and Church Ministries Program (PCMP), and five receiving master's of music degrees.

Chamberlain also awarded a distinguished service award to Jo Anne Lyon, director of World Hope International, who spoke at the baccalaureate service and an honorary doctor of humane letters to the commencement speaker, Gaddi Vasquez, director of the Peace Corps.

Vasquez urged the graduates to "make a personal commitment to service in some capacity. Reflect on what you can contribute to the nation and the world...the greatest title you can hold in life is that of peacemaker."

Almost two thirds of the graduates earned academic honors, capped by valedictorian Sarah A. Mingle of Havertown, PA, and salutatorian Marisa J. Roach of Spencerport, NY. The class included graduates from 11 foreign countries: Canada, Costa Rica, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, Somalia and South Korea.



tra in celebration of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 250th birthday.

Director of Choral Activities **Brandon Johnson** presented a conducting master-class at the 2005 New York State School Music Association Winter Conference. He is also a contributing author to the textbook *Teaching Music through Performance in Choir Volume 2*, now published.

Sharon Johnson, assistant professor of piano, was named to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. In January Johnson and her two-piano playing partner Nancy Davis gave an alumni recital at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, premiering Eric Ewazen's "Sonata for Two Pianos." In February, Johnson gave a guest recital at Canisius College, along with violinist Cindy Lin and cellist David Schmulde.

Assistant Professor of Horn and Conducting **Greg Magie** conducted a Christmas concert with the Redlands Symphony in California.

Assistant Professor of Piano **William John Newbrough** recently released his first sacred piano CD, "The Sacred Tradition." He performed the hymns featured on the CD in a solo recital at Houghton College, during The Eric Arnold Memorial Concert series at Randall Baptist Church in Williamsville, at the OASIS Center in Syracuse, at Shadow Hills Baptist Church in Las Vegas and at Millbrae Bible Church in San Francisco.

Professor of New Testament **Terence Paige** presented his paper, "Who Were the Corinthians?" at the 2006 Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society conference in Erie, PA.

David Perkins '88, assistant professor of mathematics, presented "An Immortal Monkey May Already

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Have Given This Talk," at the undergraduate mathematics colloquium at SUNY Geneseo.

Professor of Old Testament **Carl Schultz '53** and his wife, Annalee, led a group of 40 persons to Israel during the February break. The trip featured Jerusalem and Tiberius but also included stops on the West Bank at Jericho and Bethlehem. Among the 40 participants were 29 students who took this trip for academic credit in Bible.

Rich Stegen '69, professor of psychology, and **Daryl Stevenson '70**, professor of psychology, took a group of eight psychology students to the International Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) conference in Cincinnati, OH. Stevenson presented a paper, "Instantiating the Dialectic: Promoting Critical Thought and Reflection in an Explicit Integration Course," as part of a three-person panel on teaching the psychology-Christianity integration course at the undergraduate level.

Psychology Professor **Daryl Stevenson '70** co-presented a workshop on "Faith-based Meditation and Guided Imagery" at the Christian Association for Psychological Studies' (CAPS) Eastern Region conference in Chambersburg, PA. They also presented a similar workshop on breath-focused meditation, mindfulness meditation for weight management, and Old and New Testament-guided imageries at the International CAPS conference in March 2006, held in Cincinnati, OH.

Gary Stith, associate professor of music, was featured as the guest conductor of the Zone 2 (greater Rochester) Area All-State Concert Band at Fairport High School. Featured on the program was "For He is Glorious (Fanfare on 'Hyfrydol'),

Online Journal Stonework Debuts

THE WRITING DEPARTMENT has introduced an online journal, *Stonework*, to provide a professional venue for artists in the areas of music, writing and the visual arts. "*Stonework*, with its focus on the arts, is a logical extension of Houghton College's commitment to an outward-looking engagement with culture," said Houghton Professor of English John Leax who will edit the journal, with help from four students selected to participate in a class workshop in literary publishing.

The students will help screen manuscripts, participate in editorial discussions and decisions, and handle the production work on this journal. They also study the tradition of the literary magazine in

America and begin submitting their own work for publication in literary magazines. The first issue of *Stonework* can be found at stoneworkjournal.blogspot.com/ and includes work from writers such as poet Luci Shaw, novelist Hugh Cook and Eugene Peterson, author of *The Message*.

The second issue, due out shortly, will feature Canadian fiction writer Alison Gresik, poems from Thom Satterlee's new book *Burning Wyclif*, and an essay from poet Jeanne Murray Walker. Unsolicited material will be accepted starting with the third issue, scheduled to be up in September 2006. Send submissions and queries to StoneworkJournal@gmail.com.

College Choir Performs at Lincoln Center

THE HOUGHTON COLLEGE Choir performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City on Wednesday, March 1, at the invitation of the American Choral Director Association. The choir was part of "An Evening of Choral Artistry" at the Alice Tully Hall, joining the Temple University Concert Choir, the Queens College Vocal Ensemble and the Westminster Choir College of Rider University's Jubilee Singers.

The choir also has performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. As we go to press, the choir is making a trip to Europe to sing in Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Germany.

Several college students also earned individual honors for vocal performances at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), Finger Lakes Chapter's annual competition, held at Houghton.



Award winners included: **Robert Joubert M07**, first place in the Adult category; **Rebecca Hannum '06**, first place in the Senior Women; **Jessica Lowe '05**, second place in Advanced; **Matt Guerrasio '06**, second place in Senior Men; **Andrea O'Bryant '07**, first place in Junior Women; **Ashlee Miller '06**, second place in Senior Women; and **Chris Olsen '09**, third place among Freshmen Men.

History Channel shows Houghton Student

A RECENT EPISODE OF The History Channel's popular "Battlefield Detectives" series featured college student **Andrew Gaerte '08** as an American Revolutionary war re-enactor. Gaerte—the son of Doug and Phyllis Gaerte, who are professor of communication and director of the Campus Store at Houghton, respectively—has been involved in re-enacting since 2003.

He has done demonstrations at Fort Niagara, in local schools and for home school groups. Gaerte also has a speaking part in the new orientation video used at the Fort Stanwix Visitor Center in Rome, NY. "It is very rewarding to be able to give Americans a better understanding of this foundational point of their history," he said.

This summer, Gaerte and **Rich Strum '85** are working as educational interpreters for the America First Victory program at Fort Ticonderoga. Gaerte is also appearing in 12 episodes of a second series on The History Channel, which began airing June 4 and will continue throughout the summer on Sunday evenings at 10 p.m.

As an adolescent education and history major, Gaerte views his re-enacting experiences as invaluable. "It gives me a first-hand knowledge of history that a textbook or movie cannot. In order to perfect my impersonation I have had to do a great deal of primary documentation and research, which has increased



"It is very rewarding to be able to give Americans a better understanding of this foundational point of their history."

my historical knowledge and researching skills."

He's also used the re-enactments as a way to hone his teaching skills. "At every event I find myself interacting with the public and answering the questions they have about the colonial period. This is great preparation for teaching, because I am essentially giving a history lesson to the public at every event I go to."

written by Professor of Composition **Mark Hijleh**. Stith also presented a clinic entitled "The Care and Feeding of Your Percussions Section" at the Western New York Conference Day for Music Teachers. Finally, Stith presented a clinic entitled "Practical Score Preparation Strategies for the 'Harried' Band Director" at the 25th Annual New York State Band Directors Association Symposium in Syracuse, NY. Stith's was rated the best clinic at the symposium, based upon the conference evaluations completed by those in attendance.

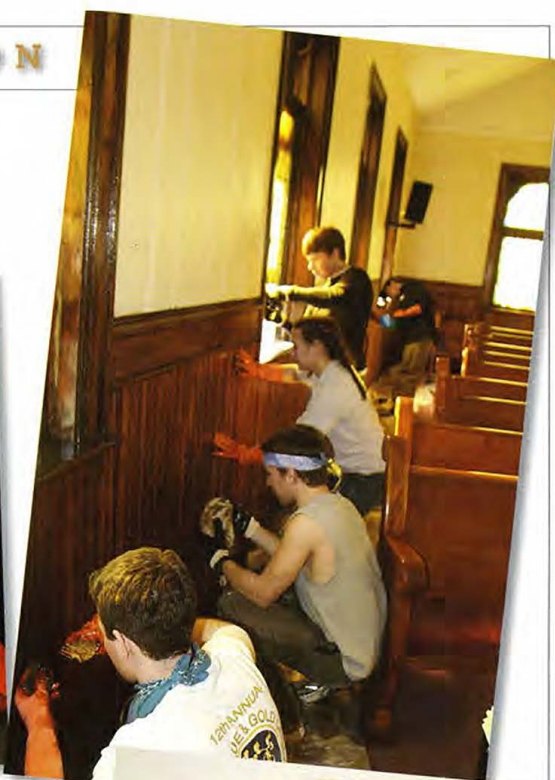
Assistant Professor of Art **Jillian Sokso** exhibited her work, along with 15 other members of the Midwives Collective, in a show called "Progression" at the Art Studio for Experiments (ASFE) in Philadelphia.

"The Methodist National Anthem: 'O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing' and the Development of American Methodism," by Professor of Theology **John Tyson**, was published as a chapter in the book, *Sing Them Over Again to Me*.

Professor of Christian ministries **Mike Walters' '86** book, *Can't Wait for Sunday*, was published in April.

Professor of English **Linda Mills Woolsey '74** presented her paper, "My Choice of Light Would Blind Thee: Female Gaze, Angelic Insight, and Maternal Vision in *Poems of 1844*," at a conference celebrating the 200th anniversary of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's birthday, held at Baylor University. **Stephen Woolsey '73**, professor of English, also presented his paper, "My Life Wonders: Jack Clemo's Quest for 'the Wimpole Street Miracle,'" at the same conference.

Over 300 Participate in Service Day



APPROXIMATELY 340 STUDENTS, faculty and staff spent a Saturday lending a helping hand during the college's seventh annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day this spring. The volunteers assisted churches, social service agencies, camps and other non-profit organizations throughout western New York. This year volunteers worked at 11 locations in Allegany County, 14 in Buffalo, and six in Rochester.

"Real-life service opportunities provide each person involved with the project the opportunity to test their faith, to experience their education and to impact the world in a real way," said Matthew Dougherty, who helped organize this event through his work with AmeriCorps. "The key to our service is developing relationships. Paint, walls, buildings are all temporary but the development of relationships can lead to permanent, life-changing opportunities."



Students Spend Break on Katrina Relief

FIFTEEN HOUGHTON COLLEGE students and three adult leaders traveled to Gulfport, MS, over February break to work with World Hope International and the Little Rock Missionary Baptist Church on relief efforts for Katrina victims. The group spent a week gutting houses, roofing, landscaping, yard clean-up and cleaning. "It was difficult, because we ended up having to throw away photo albums, clothes, toys and many things that I knew carried a lot of memories," said Aleshia Ellingson '07.

During times away from the work, the group drove around to view the area. "There were so many random objects lying around: phones, boats, chairs, etc.,"

said Alana Porter '08, "But the thing that got me was a picture that I found lying on the ground. It was a picture of a couple, it looked like they were at a wedding or anniversary. They were laughing, and they looked so happy. That's when it hit me....these people who were so happy at one point might have nothing now. They will probably never even see pictures of the happy days. That was truly shocking and moving to me."

"It seems only baby steps have been taken," said Hannah Bae '05, "but it was also very encouraging to see the beauty of the people, how grateful they were for the daily things. Not a single person I met down there was pleading for pity."

"It seems only baby steps have been taken, but it was also very encouraging to see the beauty of the people, how grateful they were for the daily things."

—Hannah Bae '05

Where IN THE World are Houghton students



They're everywhere. Over 40 percent of Houghton College undergraduates study abroad. Students with a major in Spanish, French, intercultural studies or international relations are required to spend a semester in an off-campus program. The Off-Campus Programs (OCP) office offers five programs of its own—in Tanzania, Australia, the Adirondacks and two in London—and is affiliated with 25 programs through various colleges, universities and organizations.

One such organization, the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCC), promotes study abroad from a spiritual perspective. The students will gain not only global experience, but the opportunity “to worship with and take communion with believers from very different walks of life,” says CCCC Vice President for Student Programs Ken Bussema.

In November 2005 Congress passed a resolution designating 2006 as the “Year of Study Abroad.” The goal is for America’s colleges and universities to send one million students abroad each year by 2017—up from approximately 191,000 last year. “This is a critical component of the country’s future,” says Peter McPherson, chair of Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program.

With one in six American jobs today tied to international trade, cross-cultural experience is an invaluable asset. “A student today is not fully educated if there is no global component,” says William DeLauder, the executive director of the Lincoln Commission.

Houghton’s OCP office provides students with the assistance they need when it comes to planning their study abroad. **Marcus Dean '75** has led the office since August 2003, helping students choose a program that fits their field of study and requirements. **Janine Spear '81** helps students compile applications and other necessary paperwork, collects deposits, makes travel arrangements and passes along information on visas, immunizations and more.

The off-campus experience offers students an opportunity to apply faith and learning to real-world situations, to serve the needs of others and to explore the world while interacting with other cultures.

“A student today is not fully educated if there is no global component”

—William DeLauder

..... Read on to learn of some of the programs Houghton offers

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

Adirondack Park

STARLAKE

The six million-acre Adirondack Park includes 43 mountain peaks, abundant wildlife and the largest old-growth forest east of the Mississippi. Students participating in Houghton's semester in Adirondack Park explore interactions between nature and culture from the perspectives of four academic disciplines: biology, philosophy, political science and recreation. A resident faculty member—aided by regular visits from other participating faculty—leads students in a discussion integrating the cultural sources of our ideas of nature, the consequences of those ideas and the multiple ethical and political strategies for living as Christian stewards of Creation—and each other's lives.



POST CARD



Tanzania

Houghton' program in Tanzania offers the opportunity to experience life as most Africans themselves do, to be exposed to Africa on a broad front that includes history, anthropology, environmental studies, languages, politics and religion. The intensive, 12-week semester includes extended trips away from the Iringa Houghton campus site to nearby game reserves and Wahehe and Maasai tribal villages.



"The overseas experience is an unparalleled joy which ought to be a requirement of every college's liberal arts program."

- Greg Hellings, '06

Milieu

PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

"I went on the Houghton Down Under program hoping to stretch and deepen my faith through interacting with Christians in a different cultural context."

✈️ -Paul Christensen, '07

Australia

In close collaboration with Kingsley College in Melbourne, "Houghton Down Under" is a one-semester exploration of faith and life in Australia. The program combines academic work (13-18 credit hours) with travel and cultural engagement. It runs from mid-August to early December—with a two-week, mid-semester break—allowing plenty of time for travel, studies and exploration.

London

The Houghton in London program is a full semester taught in London by both British and Houghton professors. It features students living and studying together in a metropolitan community added to London's rich historical and cultural resources to produce myriad opportunities for travel and service.

The First-Year honors program Meaning of the West involves the study of Western culture and ideas during students' second semester. FYHP students and two Houghton faculty members live in London and study integrated coursework in history, literature, philosophy and the fine arts.

The East Meets West program traces the development of Western culture from antiquity through the twentieth century by focusing on the West's relationship with Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Students learn the context of today's headlines and come to understand the degrees and contours of the East-West cultural divide.

NOT WANTED
FIRST CLASS
AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

"Being from a small town, London was a big change. It was amazing to live in a city setting and be a part of such a huge community."

✈️ -Betsy Rutledge, '07

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

POST CARD

Mayterm Opportunities

As an alternative to the semester-long programs, Mayterm opportunities give students a chance to travel without missing time on campus. The art department hosts *Mayterm in Europe* in which students and faculty travel throughout Europe visiting museums and historic spots to study well-known artists. The *Summer in Tanzania* program offers a three-month program similar to the semester-long program held during the year. Other Mayterm off-campus offerings include *Adventure Sports in Utah*, *Ecology in Alaska*, *Mayterm in Costa Rica* and *The Morocco Experience*.

"I went on the art Mayterm in France to see the art that I have studied, to know what it's like to stand in front of history."

-Mari Lamp, '06

"I grew spiritually, academically, in my cultural awareness, in language skills, in my ability to form my own opinions, and in my desire to work cross-culturally in the future."

-Laura Mann, '06

Travel in Comfort

ART PARKER LINE

Alumni Association to Host Trip to Greece: "In the Steps of St. Paul"

THE HOUGHTON COLLEGE Alumni Association is planning a trip to Greece in the spring of 2007 for alumni and interested friends. Highlights of the trip's proposed itinerary include:

Tuesday, March 13—Depart New York and fly overnight to Greece.

Wednesday, March 14—Arrive in Athens, take motor coach to hotel. Balance of day at leisure.

Thursday, March 15—Tour the city of Athens, including: the Royal Palace, the Stadium and Temple of Zeus, the Theatre of Dionysius, Mars Hill, the Acropolis with the Parthenon, the Agora and Socrates' prison. In the afternoon, the tour will drive along the Sacred Way of Elusinian Mysteries, passing the Island of Salamis and cross the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Arriving in Corinth, the tour will visit the ruins of the ancient city, the remains of first century shops, the agora where Paul's trial by Gallio took place, the Fountain of Peirene, the Temple of Apollo and the Bema. The tour will then return to Athens for the night.

Friday, March 16—The tour will drive to Piraeus and board a ship for a three-day Aegean Sea cruise. First stop will be Mykonos. Overnight, the ship will sail to Rhodes.

Saturday, March 17—There will be an optional tour to visit the Old Town, the Grand Master's Palace from Crusader times and the Street of Knights. The afternoon will be free before sailing on to Kusadasi.

Sunday, March 18—From Kusadasi, an optional excursion to the city of Ephesus is available. It will allow for walking the marble streets and seeing the Temple of Artemis (a Wonder of the Ancient World), the Stadium and the Library of Celsus. The optional cruise then continues to the island of Patmos. The tour then returns to the cruise ship.

Monday, March 19—The ship will arrive in Piraeus in the morning and

the tour will take the national highway to Delphi where one can visit the museum. In the afternoon the tour visits the Temple of Apollo, the Theatre, the Athenian Treasury, and the Castalian Spring before driving to Kalambaka for an overnight stay.

Tuesday, March 20—The tour visits Meteora to see the "Hanging Monasteries" atop unusual rock formations, then on to Veria to visit the tomb of Philip of Macedonia in Vergina before continuing to Thessaloniki to see the Ronda, Triumphal Arch of Galerius, and the seafront promenade with the White Tower and stay overnight.

Wednesday, March 21—The tour drives to Amphipolis to see the famous Lion Statue and then to Philippi, where Marc Anthony defeated Brutus and Paul first preached the Gospel in Europe. The group will see the archaeological site (Forum-Romanum), the ruins of two Basilicas, the theatre, the Prison of St.

Paul and St. Lydia's Baptistry. Then it's on to visit Kavala before returning to Thessaloniki for the night.

Thursday, March 22—In Thessaloniki, the tour will visit the museum before driving to the ancient Macedonian capital of Pella, birthplace of Alexander the Great. The group will see the excavation grounds, the famous mosaic floors and a collection of ancient relics of the fourth century B.C. before returning to Athens via the Valley of Tempi and Thermopylae.

Friday, March 23—Board return flight to New York.

Tentative cost of the trip is \$2,299, plus departure taxes, airline security charges, port charges, day excursions, airport taxes, etc., and is subject to change. For complete details and further information, call Jim Arthur, director of alumni relations, at 585.567.9626, or e-mail alumni@houghton.edu.



On the recent tour of Italy sponsored by the alumni association, attendees stopped to pose in the Piazzale Michelangelo, overlooking Florence. Pictured are: (from left) Esther Peters, tour guide; Ruth (Shaffer '50) Fender; Dixie Bodkin; Lucretia (Wurd '55) Watson; Dick Pocock '55; Mary Jane (Clifford '47) Gregory; Betty Jane (Goodwin '56) Pocock; Ruth (Kupka '52) Merz; Director of Alumni Relations Jim Arthur '67; and Bob Merz '52. (Kneeling in front is Luca, the bus driver.)

Online Community Re-launched

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU to "One Willard Ave," our re-launched Houghton College alumni online community, with a new name. We feel certain that this new online community will be more useful to you than our previous version, and we'd like to encourage you to sign on. For one thing, "One Willard Ave" features elements not available previously, such as: a news section, a career center, and classifieds ads (got something to sell or rent, or something you want to buy?).

In addition, you will find a much more robust online directory, as well as the features you've come to enjoy: class notes, events and message boards. Another added feature is the ability to form "sub-groups" of clubs or classes on the site. It's easy to do, too: just click on the "Clubs and Groups" link and follow

the instructions.

There is a one-time registration onto "One Willard Ave;" just go to www.one-willardave.org and click on "First Time Login" at the top of the page. You will need a login ID, which was sent in May to all alumni for whom we have a valid e-mail address. The e-mail with your new login was sent by our new service provider, iModules. (Your software may have inadvertently sent it into your spam folder!) If you lost that e-mail, or if you have never registered for Houghton's online community before, you can request a free login ID by sending an e-mail to alumni@houghton.edu. We will provide one quickly via return e-mail.

Check out "One Willard Ave," and continue making those important alumni connections.

Future Alumni Weekends

2007

ALUMNI WEEKEND I—JULY 13-15

- All Classes prior to 1957
- Class of '57 50-year reunion
- Class of '67 40-year reunion
- Classes of '71, '72, and '73 35-year cluster reunion

ALUMNI WEEKEND II—JULY 20-22

- Class of '82 25-year reunion
- Classes of '91, '92 and '93 15-year reunion
- Class of '97 10-year reunion
- Class of '02 – 5-year reunion

2008

ALUMNI WEEKEND I—JULY 11-13

- All Classes prior to 1958
- Class of '58 50-year reunion
- Class of '68 40-year reunion

ALUMNI WEEKEND II—JULY 18-20

- Class of '83 25-year reunion
- Classes of '77, '78 and '79 35-year reunion
- Class of '98 10-year reunion
- Class of '03 5-year reunion

2009

ALUMNI WEEKEND I—JULY 10-12

- All Classes prior to 1959
- Class of '59 50-year reunion
- Classes of '63, '64 and '65 45-year reunion
- Class of '69 40-year reunion

ALUMNI WEEKEND II—JULY 17-19

- Classes of '88, '89 and '90 20-year reunion
- Class of '84 25-year reunion
- Class of '99 10-year reunion
- Class of '04 5-year reunion

2010

ALUMNI WEEKEND I—JULY 9-11

- All Classes prior to 1960
- Class of '60 50-year reunion
- Class of '70 40-year reunion
- Classes of '74, '75 and '76 35 year reunion

ALUMNI WEEKEND II—JULY 16-18

- Class of '85 25-year reunion
- Classes of '94, '95 and '96 15-year reunion
- Class of '00 10-year reunion
- Class of '05 5-year reunion

Homecoming Schedule

The Homecoming Committee has set the schedule and the theme for this fall's Homecoming—plan now to attend. The students will be celebrating a Renaissance theme. The tentative schedule is listed below:

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

11 a.m. Chapel re-dedication

Thursday, October 5, 2006

World day of prayer for Houghton College

Friday, October 6, 2006

10 Founders' Day Convocation
 noon PAB luncheon (*by invitation*)
 noon Daniel R. Chamberlain Homecoming golf tournament
 6–7 p.m. Campus store fashion show and coronation of king and queen
 7 Alumni volleyball game
 8 College choir concert

Saturday, October 7, 2006

8 a.m. Alumni Association annual meeting
 9 Equestrian presentation
 10 Parade
 10:30 Equestrian presentation
 11 Campaign celebration
 11:30 Picnic lunch
 noon Field Hockey vs. SUNY Morrisville
 1 p.m. Volleyball vs. D'Youville
 1 Equestrian presentation
 2 Women's soccer vs. Milligan
 2 Equestrian stadium jumping competition
 4 Men's soccer vs. Milligan
 6 Alumni pizza and wings; Presidential reception
 7 Student banquet
 10 Spot

To Pause and Reflect by Eric Alcott

Taking the time to count the blessings bestowed on Houghton College during the capital campaign, which ends this month

WE ARE IN THE LAST MONTH (June) of *The Campaign for Christian Liberal Arts at Houghton College*. It has been an exhilarating seven years. As we near the end of the campaign it is altogether appropriate to pause and reflect on what has been accomplished and to thank our Lord for these blessings:

- Phase I of the Wesley Chapel restorations are underway. Over \$600,000 has been raised for this phase and we receive new gifts daily. We have asked the architects to begin conceptual work for Phase II.

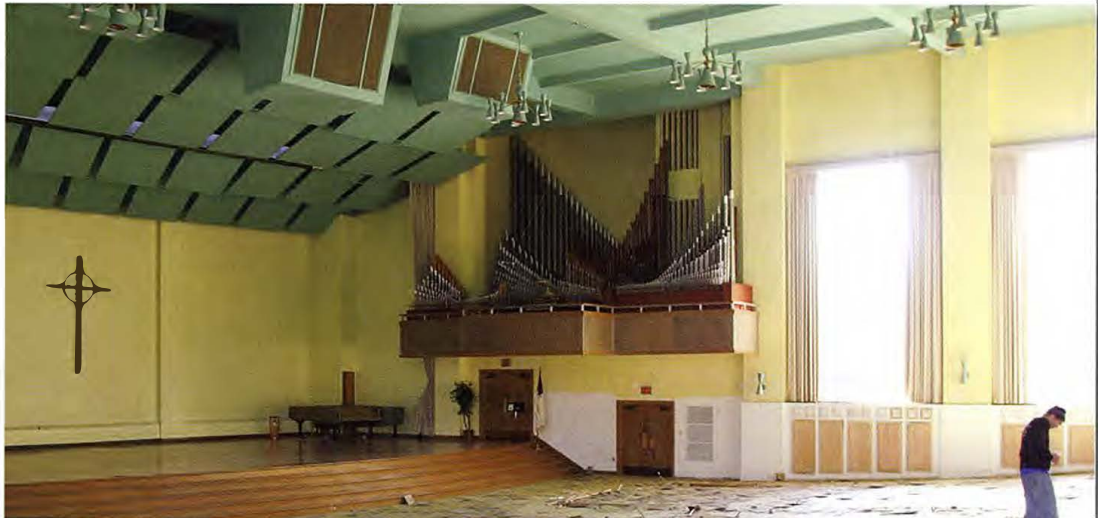
- Work on the Paine Science Center is also underway. The first \$300,000 raised went for new lab equipment. We have another \$1 million in commitments ready to go for additional lab and building improvements.

- The endowment has increased \$20 million since the beginning of the campaign. This spring we graduated the second class of music students to earn master's degrees. Plans are underway for a second master's program, in theology. The majority of the other funds generated from new endowment dollars are designated for financial aid. Another \$10 million in estate gifts that will come to the college in the future have been committed during the campaign years.

- Alumni and friends will have contributed over \$9 million through The

Houghton Fund. The majority of these gifts have gone into the operating budget of the college the last seven years.

To this end, we will celebrate the blessings received during this campaign in October, during Homecoming. Bruce



Renovation of Wesley Chapel is underway.

Those of us who have been intimately involved in the campaign have prayed often that at the end of the campaign we would see clearly the hand of the Lord guiding us and providing for us in ways we could not have imagined. The Lord has overwhelmed us in this campaign with His presence and His work. We praise Him for all that has been accomplished.

Brenneman is chairing this event; more details about it will follow in the months ahead.

Eric Alcott is vice president for advancement.

Life After Houghton— Small Town Big Results

by Tim Fuller '79

ONE OF THE MOST common questions asked by prospective students and their parents is “What will my Houghton education lead to?” In answering that question we talk about the intangible benefits of lifelong friends, development of a Christian worldview and the chance to be mentored by Christian faculty and staff as you wrestle with the big questions of life. All of those things are vital components of a well-rounded Houghton College education.

Eventually, though, students and parents want an answer that addresses a career-oriented bottom line: “What can I do when I leave Houghton? What about the return on my investment in a Houghton education?”

ACT Alumni Outcomes Survey (% of graduates achieving advanced degrees)

	Houghton College	Private Colleges	National Average
Master's Degree	47.2%	20.4%	12.5%
Specialist	4.4%	1.7%	0.9%
Professional (MD, JD)	5.5%	4.3%	2.6%
Doctorate (PhD, EdD)	8.2%	2.0%	1.2%
Total	65.3%	28.4%	17.2%

The evidence, gathered from a variety of sources, suggests that Houghton graduates do quite well in the post-Houghton world. For example, we surveyed our alumni several years ago using an ACT instrument which allowed us to benchmark our results against those of other private colleges, as well as against the national averages. As you can see from the chart, Houghton graduates are far more likely than those of other private colleges to earn advanced degrees, at every level.

Education majors must pass the New York State Teacher Certification Examination in order to teach in the state. Nearly

all of our students pass the exam; our rates exceed those of other private colleges and the statewide average by significant margins. (See chart.)

New York State Teacher Certification Examinations (% passing)

	Houghton College	New York Private Colleges	Statewide Overall
Liberal Arts & Sciences Test	97%	75%	70%
Teaching Skills - Elementary	99%	83%	79%
Teaching Skills - Secondary	99%	87%	82%

Houghton graduates have also fared well on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), a standardized entrance exam for many graduate programs. (See chart.) So it doesn't surprise us that many are admitted into prestigious graduate programs in a variety of fields.

For example, recent graduates are now or soon will be in Harvard Law School and Vanderbilt Medical School. (For a complete listing of graduate schools that have accepted members of our last few graduating classes, go to www.houghton.edu/acadmics/outcomes.htm and click on your favorite major or program. You'll be impressed by what you see there.)

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

	Houghton College Average	National Average
Verbal	539	476
Quantitative	591	572
Analytical	604	565
Total	1734	1613

Houghton graduates continue to bring the concept of “scholar-servant” to a variety of vocations and activities after commencement. They have successful careers, pursue higher degrees and find ways to follow Willard J. Houghton's ambition: to “fix up the world.” We will continue to gather and share evidence showing the variety of their achievements so that the next generation of prospective students will look to Houghton College to deliver solid preparation for *their* futures as well.

Tim Fuller '79 is vice president for enrollment management.

Reflections on Calling and Career

by Jim Hilliard '93

As HOUGHTON COLLEGE celebrates the 30-year Houghton career of President Chamberlain, it gives alumni an opportunity to consider our careers, as well as the notion of calling

in general. When we see what President Chamberlain has accomplished under the grace of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it is clear that his response to God's vocational calling has been blessed, and we are all richer for it.

The Alumni Association has been considering "calling" as well. A liberal arts education is primarily about learning to evaluate information and make reasoned decisions. Job training is not really its purpose. Yet most of us need jobs, whether right after we graduate or after we pursue higher degrees. Houghton College faculty and the Career Services Office work closely with students to help them clarify their calling; however, Houghton's location can make direct interaction with potential employers difficult.

Houghton's alumni can help. As practitioners in our fields, we can provide insight and ideas for students who are studying in the same areas we studied. We can answer questions like: "What can you do with a major like mine?" or "How much should

I expect to earn in the next five years?" Of course, informal career development opportunities have existed for some time, but over the past few years we have developed more systematic approaches to connecting alumni and students as well:

- **Vocational Journeys:** Hosted by the Alumni Association in cooperation with individual academic departments, these events bring alumni back to campus to share their stories and answer students' questions (like those posed above). Attendance at these receptions continues to grow as alumni have become more engaged and both students and faculty have

received them positively. If you would like to tell your story at a future Vocational Journey, please send an e-mail with your Houghton major and your background information to alumni@houghton.edu. (Due to the nature of the receptions and the current needs, we will not be able to invite every volunteer, but there may be other places where we can provide opportunities as well.)

- **Mentors:** The Alumni Association's online community provides an opportunity for alumni to volunteer as informal mentors to student prospects, current students and fellow alumni. Almost 80 alumni have made themselves available, and there is room for more. Go to www.houghton.edu/alumni,

click on "Alumni Community" and then click the "Mentoring" link on the side to sign up, or to see if someone who has already volunteered can assist you. If you haven't registered as an Online Community member, you can do so simply by clicking the "First Time User" tab at the top of



As practitioners in our fields, we can provide insight and ideas for students who are studying in the same areas we studied.

the page.

This is just one of the things that your Alumni Association is doing for you. If you believe that you are exactly where God has called you to be, thank Him for opening those doors for you. If you question whether your current occupation matches your calling, pray for guidance and see if the resources of the Alumni Association can help your search.

Jim Hilliard '93 is president of the Houghton College Alumni Association.

A Front Row Seat to Life

ABC News

Correspondent Barbara Pinto '86
talks about Houghton, high heels
and hurricanes



I first encountered Barbara Pinto '86 nearly 25 years ago—when she was a first-year student and I was the resident director of Shenawana. Today, I see her many evenings while watching ABC News. For the past three years, Pinto has served as an ABC News correspondent, based in Chicago. Barbara's journey from the Catskill Mountains to Houghton to ABC News is an intriguing one. Her pieces covering Hurricane Katrina last summer were particularly compelling, and that is where we began our conversation. —Tim Nichols '81

Nichols: I saw some of your pieces from Hurricane Katrina; that must have been an incredible story to cover.

Pinto: We tend to tell stories from 30,000 feet—but this story was so big, it seemed nearly impossible to convey the true picture. You had to tell the small, human stories in order to convey what it was like to go through this. There is trauma, and then there is trauma through the eyes of a child. Those were the pieces that made up the big story. It is one thing to see the images of destruction and another to see it in the faces of the people. Another thing the cameras couldn't convey was how *hot* it was, this story played itself out in nearly unbearable heat.

Down in Houston, I met so many people coming off the buses straight from the Super Dome. These were people who had stood in sewage for days on end, waiting for rescue. I remember one woman who arrived in her bathrobe. She'd waited to be rescued in water up to her neck and she got off the bus praising God! You know, you hear about the faith of Noah and the giant figures of the Bible, and you don't think it exists anymore until you meet people like that. That woman had Noah faith.

We cover a lot of heartbreaking stories, but also heart-lifting stories. We were able to help a woman in Houston find

her preemie baby she'd lost in the storm. She was wandering around the Astrodome showing the baby's picture to everyone she could find. We were able to get involved and help reunite them; that was amazing.

I remember seeing that! I noticed in this story that the line between journalism and rescue seemed to blur. I saw reporters in boats helping with rescues and deliveries.

Professional ethics tell you to draw the line, to maintain journalistic detachment, but in a setting like that, your heart is breaking and your first instinct is to help them and feed them. We found ourselves in situations where we gave away our own food and water. This was no normal story. The bottom line is that even though you are a journalist you're a human being first. I'm still not sure if I've processed it. You come home from a story like that and realize that you have never really had a bad day. I still wake up in the night dreaming about it.

Do you mind backing up and telling us about your career path? How did you come to Houghton?

I actually had received a scholarship at a secular school closer to my house, but my Dad was a pastor and wanted me to go to a Christian school—parental prodding, you know! At the time I was considering medicine and I knew that Houghton had a high acceptance rate to medical schools. I didn't know a lot about Houghton, but I'd heard that it was "Christian College Ivy League," so I decided to give it a try.

How was your Houghton experience?

What has stayed with me has been the relationships. I met some of my dearest, life-long friends there—people who still

stand in the gap for me, people who still pray for me. I learned great classroom lessons, too. I remember debate with Professor Rozendal, and Professor Wing's lessons on journalism.

You mentioned that you were interested in a career in medicine, so how did you land in journalism?

I did think about medicine, but I always knew I wanted to be a writer, for as long as I can remember. I wanted to be able to tell stories. One of my dearest friends from my Houghton years, **Tashna (Hendriks '86) Benjamin**, would tell you it is because I'm nosy! When I was growing up, my dad was in city government in New York, and so we'd have the mayor and other influential people over to our home for dinner. Later, Dad decided to go to seminary and become a pastor. So we ended up having homeless people at our home. That was unlike anything my friends were experiencing. No one even knew that these people existed. It became increasingly important to me to tell their stories.

How did you break into journalism?

I headed to New York City after graduation. I got a job on the foreign news desk of the Associated Press. My mom had cancer at the time; she hadn't even been able to make it to my graduation from Houghton. After only three days at AP, I had to move home to help care for her. I got a job at a local radio station doing the news. I stayed at home the next few months until my mom died.

Next I worked, for free, at a small cable station. I did everything there! I can remember covering the Tawana Brawley story by lugging around over 100 pounds of camera gear—writing, shooting and editing my own stories. Then I'd come back to the office, try to straighten out my hair and sit down at the desk to anchor the news. Oh, it was horrible! I had a bad '80s perm, and awful make-up and clothes. People must have tuned in just for the laughs!

Believe it or not, another station hired me. I moved on to a larger station in the Hudson Valley so I could be near my dad at a time when we really needed each other. I still needed a parent and he needed to know how to run the vacuum cleaner. I worked there for four years and then got hired by a CBS affiliate in Hartford, CT. I ran their New Haven bureau. From there, I went on to full-time freelance work at CNBC on the *Wall Street Journal Report*, and at MSNBC. In 2001, they laid off all their freelancers, so I was out of work on 9/11, but came back to CNBC that day because there was such a great need for coverage.

I had interviewed at ABC years earlier, and done some work for them as a freelancer, filling in for a correspondent who was on maternity leave. There's no straight line to anything in television—you bounce around.

I went through a real dry spell before ABC. I thought I'd never work again. But you can't see around the corner; you just have to trust. I was able to stay near my dad during those years and I was there when he collapsed and needed a triple bypass.

Nothing seemed to open up for me professionally during that time, but as soon as Dad was better and I was through caring for him, a door opened.

How's the travel and hotel life?

There's very little glamour involved in the news: when you get a hotel, that's good! Sometimes you end up sleeping in an RV and eating food out of vending machines. In a hurricane situation you often end up showering in cold water by flashlight—if you get to shower at all. Even still, you are so much better off than the people you are covering.

From a professional standpoint, traveling is great. You basically get a front row seat to life. You are always seeing the world through other people's lives. You're parachuted into a situation where you are dealing with other people in their worst moments. It softens your heart to the human condition and to people who are in trouble.

Do you have any reflections on your liberal arts education and the work you are doing?

Life is liberal arts—so much of what we do is about larger themes. What I do incorporates so many aspects. In this field you need to know a little bit about everything, which represents the heart of a liberal arts education—having both the wealth and breadth of information to draw from.

What advice would you have for a student who wants to go into journalism?

Three things: read, then read, and then read some more. Educate yourself about what is going on in your world. And then, of course, learn how to write well, and concisely. There's no sense in knowing the story if you can't tell it effectively.

I think of you in front of the camera, but does a lot of your work involve writing?

I really think of myself as a writer; I write all the time. I write my own scripts. The true power of the medium is to be able to transport people into the story you are covering. People need to not only know the story, but to feel it.

I did my first live report with Peter Jennings, during the war in Afghanistan. He was such an amazing man and a giant in the industry. I remember the first time I had to do a live broadcast with him. I was wearing high heels, and had to take them off because my knees were trembling. I was so nervous, I was sure I was going to fall off my heels onto the pavement! Peter made you want to work harder and do better.

Finally, Barbara, would you come back and speak to the student body in chapel?

I hate public speaking—makes me too nervous!—but, sure, I'd do it for Houghton. Not in high heels, though!

Like a **Box** of Chocolates..



“My MOMMA ALWAYS told me life was like a box of chocolates,” said the title character in the film *Forest Gump*, “you never know what you’re going to get.” The same could well be

said of Houghton College graduates—we never quite know what they’re going to do once they leave here. That’s the beauty of a liberal arts education, of course: it prepares students for many vocations and equips them to deal with changing careers throughout the course of their lives.

A year or so ago, when we first started considering the “outcomes” theme for this issue of *Milieu*, we thought it would be interesting to take a look at a few lives from among Houghton’s graduates, and so we started gathering names and stories. Like that box of chocolates, we didn’t know what we were going to get. We considered doing long profiles on a selected few, but in the end we chose a different approach.

Below, then, are short descriptions of the careers and interests of some of the names that we gathered. Rather than manipulating this sampling to include as many different careers as possible, we chose not to choose. We used as many as we could fit, and tried to get a cross-section of ages. (You will probably recognize that there are alumni from the ‘40s, ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s and ‘00s.) Other than that, they have just two things in common: 1.) they attended Houghton College and 2.) for some reason their stories crossed our desks or came to our e-mail boxes in the last year or so.

After earning a master’s degree from Syracuse University in 1970, **Carol (Gratrix ‘69) Brinneman** joined Wycliffe Bible Translators. In 1979 she married a fellow Wycliffe Translator, Neal Brinneman, and together they completed the Lama (Togo) translation of the New Testament in 1993. After suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome for over a decade, Brinneman

returned to the U.S., and today is a writer for Wycliffe Communications. She writes and edits brochures and magazine articles, missionaries’ letters sent to interested supporters, and inspirational articles.

Kristen Lloyd ‘93 teaches music at Johnstown Christian School—general music to preschool-eighth grade students, middle school choir, two high school choirs, a middle school handbell choir, a high school handbell choir, high school music theory class, and the student worship teams for high school and middle school chapels. She earned her master’s degree and permanent teaching certification in 1999 at Shenendoah University. Outside of school you might find her at the Berkey Church of the Brethren (Windber, PA), where she is a church pianist, directs the adult and children’s choirs, and leads a youth Bible study. In 2005, Lloyd was honored by the local YWCA’s “Tribute to Women,” in the area of education.

Oliver “Butch” Mousseau ‘98 is an executive with a financing company in Colorado, a husband, and the father of three children. In his “spare” time, Mousseau officiates ice hockey—an avocation that recently took him to the highest levels of international competition when he worked at the world championship tournament in Auckland, New Zealand for the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Oliver’s sister, **Francine Mousseau ‘96**, graduated from the University of South Dakota medical school this spring and has begun her family practice residence in Rapid City, SD.

Charles and Miriam (Snow ‘47) Priebe ‘47 went from Houghton to Gambier, OH, where Charles earned his master’s in theology at Bexley Hall and Miriam taught high school

English. After years as the rector of an Episcopal church in suburban Delaware, the Priebees moved to Venezuela in 1977. They stayed until retirement in 1985, when Charles was named honorary canon of the Anglican cathedral in Caracas. Since then, Miriam has enjoyed a career as a freelance writer for a number of church magazines and writes a weekly column for the *Norway, ME Advertiser-Democrat*.

Brenda (Reber '80) Ragonesi is an evaluation team coordinator for preschool psychological assessment and is a lay chaplain at the Ontario County (NY) jail. Her husband, **David Ragonesi '80**, recently became the medical director of the Pregnancy Care Center in Geneva, NY. Among other things, he reviews ultrasounds with women considering abortion and tries to "let the Spirit convict them towards choosing life." He continues as a pediatrician and medical director with the Canandaigua (NY) Medical Group. He was "deeply challenged" by a recent short-term missions trip to Tibet, where he and a small team of medical personnel screened children for high altitude congenital heart disease. They have three children, two of whom will be in college this fall.

David and Brenda's oldest daughter, **Deanna Ragonesi '05**, recently completed her first year teaching middle school math in Scio, NY.

Randy Singer '78, a veteran trial lawyer, has been the head of the trial section for a large law firm in Virginia as well as a law school professor. He serves on the board of legal advisors for the American Center for Law and Justice and as chief counsel for the North American Mission Board. Singer's hobby is writing books, such as *Directed Verdict*, which won the 2003 Christy Award for the best Christian suspense novel. Singer is married and has two children.

Harold C. Spooner '75 is executive vice president of Outreach Ministries, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence. The organization—which provides resources, expertise and support to those who have a vision for ministry—is an extension of local Evangelical Covenant churches and works to enable churches to offer programs and services that benefit their communities. Spooner, who has a master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, was recently honored by his high school alma mater, The Stony Brook School, with induction into its Interscholastic Hall of Fame. During the 1990s Spooner was the director of student diversity at Stony Brook, where he also taught Bible; coached football, basketball and volleyball; was the associate dean of students and advised the UDT Club, a group encouraging diversity.

Lane Ulrich '92, is an ophthalmologist in Augusta, GA. This is his license plate.



Mariel (Stearns '53) Ward grew up as a missionary kid in China—her family left as exchange prisoners of the Japanese during World War II. After attending Houghton, she and her husband Bob were in Seattle when they answered the call to become missionaries themselves and traveled to the Philippines. The Wards worked as translators for various sponsoring agencies through changing cultures and governments, wars, kidnappings, and raising four children, with occasional furloughs and one long stay in Dallas for linguistic training. In 2005 they enjoyed "a year of celebrations:" Bob turned 80 and the couple marked 50 years together.



Their biggest celebration, though, was to sail to Manila for the publication of the entire Bible (the New Testament was completed in 1981) in the Maranao language—marking the culmination of 45 years of work.

Glenn Young '82 sells oil and other energy products in the Albany, NY, area. His wife **Betty (Bowser '82)** is a school psychologist. They have three boys—ages 14, 15 and 16—who "love God, are good students and love sports," according to their dad.

After years of ministry as a youth pastor, **Robb and Sue (Sleigh '89) Zarges '89** joined the staff of Straight Ahead Ministries in 1994, directing the ministry in Connecticut. Straight Ahead Ministries trains Christian volunteers to be Bible discussion group facilitators in juvenile detention centers. In December 2002, Robb took the position of executive director and also directs the Network of Juvenile Justice Ministries, an association of individuals and organizations throughout the country that minister to juvenile offenders. Zarges received his master's in counseling from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and is working toward a doctorate in organizational leadership at Regent University. He has done extensive travel as a youth evangelist and retreat speaker.

Houghton's graduates are living thousands of wonderful stories like these—and like yours. Interested in sharing your career path and story with your Houghton College "family?" Drop us a letter or an e-mail (doug.roorbach@houghton.edu) and fill us in.

Feeding the Hungry...



Photo courtesy of Samaritan's Purse

Jeff Arensen '02, Country Director of Samaritan's Purse in Uganda, shaking hands with Ugandan children.

Not every Houghton graduate goes to work for overseas missions or relief agencies, but some do. The Arensen brothers bring aid to the victims of "the forgotten war" in Uganda.

The Samaritan's Purse worker sat in his SUV in northern Uganda behind a government truck filled with soldiers. Each camouflage-clad soldier held an AK-47, and one clutched a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. The SUV was one of 17 vehicles in a convoy preparing to embark for Aler, a refugee camp on the outskirts of Lira. In the convoy were several semis loaded with more than 200,000 pounds of food, trucks filled with laborers to unload it and more military vehicles.

Food distribution on this day in September would go as planned. The soldiers set up watch on the fringes of Aler, home to between 7,000 and 8,000 refugees. The people came in orderly lines to collect maize, beans, peas and cooking oil. Rebels wouldn't be seen on this day.

These are the pressures Samaritan's Purse faces working in northern Uganda, where the Lord's Resistance Army, a cult-like rebel group, has displaced 1.4 million people, creating a humanitarian crisis. The LRA, under its leader Joseph Kony,

murders civilians and kidnaps children, forcing them to serve as brutal killers and sex slaves. The group has attacked civilians and aid workers in Uganda and in southern Sudan, contributing to the unrest there. In northern Uganda, people have fled into camps, where they depend on the United Nations, their government and aid organizations for food and protection.

Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization based in Boone, North Carolina, has been operating in the Lira District since April 2004. The organization has never lost an employee, but a rash of attacks in October proved the risk is real. Two workers with the Christian Children's Fund were injured when rebels peppered their vehicle with bullets. Three attacks in the region resulted in the death of two aid workers and the injury of four others.

"This was the first attack directed at an NGO (non-governmental organization) in Lira District," said **Jeff Arensen '02**, Samaritan's Purse country director for Uganda, "but the

apparent targeting of a well-marked NGO vehicle has made the situation very serious for organizations operating in the area."

The crowded camps are a breeding ground for numerous problems, such as the spread of HIV/AIDS and poor sanitation. Thousands of mud huts with grass roofs are packed into each camp. After the October attacks, Samaritan's Purse temporarily suspended the HIV/AIDS, evangelism and education programs. By early November, the organization resumed those activities, but limited them to areas that the military cleared on a day-by-day basis.

"When we feel that the risks are too high and our employees' lives are in danger, we will suspend our program," Arensen said. "At this point in time, Lira town is very secure so we have been able to just put our programs on hold and not travel to camps." The food convoy was deemed an essential program and continued without interruption, but the convoy always has armed escorts, according to Arensen.

Distributing food in the Lira District is an enormous undertaking. As the convoy approached the Aler camp in September, thousands of refugees began to gather, waiting to help unload. The women, wearing long skirts, carried 100-pound bags of beans on their heads. Distribution was an orderly process. No one moved ahead in line, and no one took food before it was time. Thousands of bags of food and cans of oil were assembled into piles in an open field. Each family got a coupon and designated someone to come forward to collect the food.

Samaritan's Purse has hired about 60 Ugandans to help with distribution in 20 camps. The teams work six days a week, and an average distribution takes no more than three hours, despite the massive amounts of people and food. Each employee is paid 9,000 shillings, about \$5 a day, which is above standard, says **Mike Arensen '04**, who oversees the food program. "I have over 100 applications on my desk because we pay better."

The Arensen brothers were born and raised in Kenya, to missionary parents. Their father, Jon, is professor of anthropology at Houghton. He spends part of each year in Tanzania, leading Houghton's off-campus program there.

Jeff and Mike are trying to make a difference in Uganda. Before the attacks in October, refugees felt safe enough to travel during the day to their villages and homes, where they could cultivate gardens or small farms to supplement the food rations. Although the attacks targeted NGOs, it is the refugees who will ultimately suffer, Jeff says.

"Northern Uganda is already a forgotten conflict that receives much less aid and attention than it deserves," he says, "An environment where NGOs have limited access and are under constant threat will only exacerbate the problem and lead to less assistance and more suffering for the average IDP (internally displaced person)."

Written by Rebecca Cantley-Falk; adapted with permission from The Asheville (North Carolina) Citizen-Times.



Photo courtesy of Samaritan's Purse

Mike Arensen '04 has spent the past two years in northeastern Africa bringing food and water to internally displaced people.

Let Milieu help you share your important life experiences—employment, honors, graduate school, marriage and births. Your news and photos connect you with classmates. Contact: Christie Tanner, Advancement Office, 1 Willard Ave., Houghton College, Houghton, NY 14744, or e-mail: milieu@houghton.edu. When sending in photos for publication, please submit the highest resolution image available. (A minimum size of three by four inches at 300 dots per inch—which is equivalent to 900 x1200 pixels.) Visit the alumni online community at www.houghton.edu.

42 Evelyn Birkel Thompson Aye took a 12-day trip to Cairo for the Protestant Evangelical Denomination's 150th anniversary celebration. She went to represent her husband, her father-in-law and her husband's grandfather, all of whom were educational missionaries to Egypt. She is a retired Presbyterian minister living in a Quaker retirement home in Pennsylvania.

51 Corinne (Hong Sling) Wong has completed her doctorate in New Testament studies at the University of Pretoria in Pretoria, South Africa, and is teaching at Pacific Rim Bible College in Honolulu, HI. Her dissertation was titled "The Glory of Christ and His Followers in the Fourth Gospel: An Inquiry into the Meaning and Background of *Doxa* in John 17:22."

52 Richard J. Alderman was inducted into the St. Bonaventure University Seneca Battalion Army ROTC Hall of Fame in March. After graduation from Houghton College, Alderman earned a direct commission in the United States Air Force. He studied meteorology for a year at New York University and completed four years of service before pursuing his calling as an educator. He served in the Air Force Reserves and became the western New York liaison officer for the U.S. Air Force Academy, retiring as lieutenant colonel.

54 Lou and Carolyn (Makey) Eltscher of Brighton, NY have become fixtures at Oasis, a continuing education program for people 50 and older—as teachers, students and volunteers. Carolyn is a retired high school English teacher and breast cancer survivor; Lou retired from the Rochester

Institute of Technology after 31 years as a history and politics professor.

63 Ellen Clark retired on December 30, 2005, after working for nearly 35 years typing legal briefs for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, NY.

66 Clarence "Bud" Bence was named vice president for academic affairs at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU). Bence has been teaching church history courses at IWU for the past 12 years. His wife, **Carol (Backenstoe '68)**, is the director of nursing programs in the College of Adult and Professional Studies at IWU. She oversees nursing programs offered at 12 sites in three states, as well as the online curriculum.

69 Tom Hilgeman and his wife, **Mariellyn (Jones '71)**, have been serving Christian schools for nearly 33 years, of which 25 were spent in Bolivia, where Tom was the director of the Santa Cruz Christian Learning Center and Mariellyn taught kindergarten and fifth grade. Recently they have been educational consultants to schools in Europe with some service trips to schools in Africa and Asia as well. Both are with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), and Tom has been the office manager of the ACSI Europe office in Budapest, Hungary since 2001. They are moving to Guatemala to be educational consultants with the ACSI Latin America office, serving Christian schools throughout South and Central America, and the Caribbean. They can be reached at tmhilgeman@yahoo.com.

Future Alumni



Joshua David Lyons



Ethan
Andrew
Richardson



John Arlin Groefsema

71 Brad F. Mellon spoke at Stanford Law School on the subject "Christian Reflections on Radical Life Extension and Human Rights" in May, as a part of a conference on human enhancement technologies. Mellon has published extensively on the interface between Christian theology and bioethics, and authored a chapter in the book *The Scientific Conquest of Death: Essays on Infinite Lifespans*. Mellon is the director of advancement and pastoral care at the Frederick Mennonite Community, and ministry-based professor of New Testament at Bethel University Seminary of the East in Philadelphia and Washington D.C. He teaches for Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield, PA, chairs the ethics committee at Frederick, and is a contributing member of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity. He will be contributing a chapter in an upcoming book on religion and psychology published by Nova Science.

73 The Soledad Unified School District Leadership Team selected **Julie (Abdelaziz) Turner** as the 2005 Certificated Em-

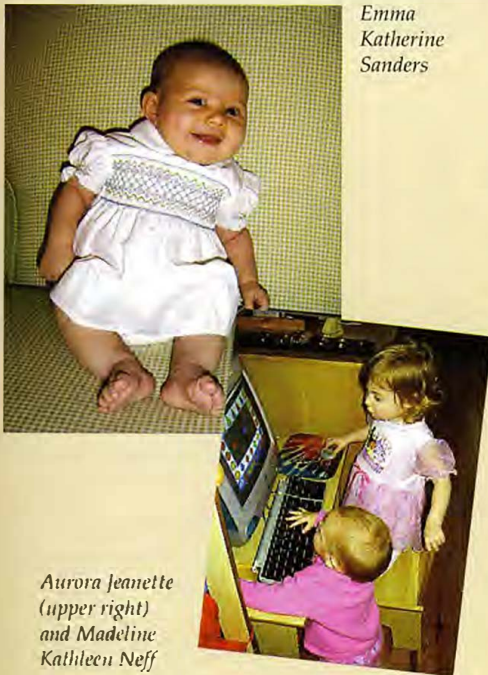
ployee of the Year. She teaches English as a second language and 12th grade English (college prep., honors, and advanced placement literature). She also designed and oversees senior projects for the honors class and college prep. classes. Turner writes, "Dr. James Barcus '59, former English professor at Houghton who was my freshman English professor and currently is the Chief Reader for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam, last month approved my application to be an AP Essay Exam Reader. He doesn't recall who I am from 36 years ago, so no favoritism or special consideration occurred!"

78 Russell Ely attended and graduated from Gordon-Conwell Seminary after attending Houghton College. In 1981 Ely and his wife, Kathy, teamed with Mark and Betsy (Davis) Retallack to plant a church in Salem, MA. In the ensuing 10-year period, Ely became engaged in a very public confrontation of the commercialization of witchcraft (Salem is known for having 2,000 witches in a city of 40,000). In 1990, Ely resigned from the

church he planted and has written a book: *Bewitched in Salem: Witch City or City of Peace* (iUniverse, 2005).

Randy Singer was the plenary speaker at the Christian Pre-Law Conference of 2006 at Regent University School of Law. Singer is the author of four legal thrillers and two nonfiction books. His first novel, *Directed Verdict*, won the Christy Award in 2003 for the best Christian suspense novel. Singer is a veteran trial lawyer who spent 12 years in one of Virginia's premier law firms, ultimately heading up the litigation section. He teaches at Regent Law School and serves as Chief Counsel for the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is also a member of the Board of Legal Advisors for the American Center for Law and Justice. He and his wife, Rhonda, and their two children live in Atlanta, GA.

79 Gail (Walsh) Wylder and her daughter moved from San Diego, CA, to Presque Isle, ME, in July 2004. Wylder is a manager of central registration for the Aroostook Medical Center in Presque Isle, which



Emma
Katherine
Sanders

Aurora Jeanette
(upper right)
and Madeline
Kathleen Neff

Future Alumni

Reid & Sandra (Adelsberger '01) Arensen '02	Griffin Edward	01-31-2004
	Ian Thomas	09-01-2005
	Galilee C.	09-01-2005
	Lynsey Jo	09-02-2005
Kevin & Victoria (Jude '92) Derby	Brynnning David	10-24-2004
David & Elizabeth (Waechter '02) Ely '02	Kate Brielle	09-11-2005
Scott & Kristen (Embich '00) Fooshee	John Arlin	01-08-2006
John & Sarah (Wood '01) Groefsema '02	Ian Foster	01-06-2006
Ted & Cindee Kennett '90	Joshua David	11-15-2005
Mark & Charissa (Westerlund '91) Lyons	Aurora Jeanette	04-19-2003
Matthew & Callie (Snyder '96) Neff	Madeline Kathleen	03-27-2005
	Jack Paul	11-26-2005
Nicholas & Sheila (Stewart '97) Nelson '00	Ethan Thomas	09-08-2005
Tom & Joy (Worth '03) Olmsted	Carter Luke	09-08-2005
	Ethan Andrew	11-09-2005
Kert & Joanne Richardson '99	Ashton Mathias	01-11-2006
Eli & Julie (Roederer '95) Rodgers	Emma Katherine	01-09-2006
Keith & Melissa (Hoyer '99) Sanders	Hudson Christopher	12-02-2005
Chris & Kelly (Daugherty '99) Studley '99	Hanna Jane	12-16-2005
Michael & Julia (Hanna '92) Stephenson	Eliana Bailey	01-12-2006
Jason & Allison (Chubb '99) Whing '98		

includes patient admissions/registration, switchboard, LifeLine, Crown Ambulance dispatch and physicians' answering service. She was born in Presque Isle, and returned there 44 years later, after living in New York City and California. She and her daughter are involved in the ministries of Bethany Baptist Church, Presque Isle. Gail can be reached at gwylder@tamc.org.

83 Ron Navamanie and his wife are serving as missionaries to Sri Lanka with The Dutch Reformed Church. They were involved

with various tsunami-related programs and the distribution of relief supplies and helping with school kits for affected children. They are also involved with discipleship and Bible studies, Sunday school and vacation Bible school.

87 Victor Claar has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor of economics at Hope College in Holland, MI. His wife, **Elizabeth (Oswalt '92)**, has finished her doctor of musical arts in organ performance at the University of Michigan.

Neil MacBride recently became vice president of legal affairs for the Business Software Alliance (BSA), a Washington, D.C. trade association of software firms and their hardware partners. MacBride, who previously served as chief counsel to Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-Del.), will oversee BSA's domestic and global anti-piracy enforcement programs. The MacBrides live in Arlington, VA, and worship at Falls Church Episcopal Church. Neil and his wife, Chris, are expecting a baby boy soon, joining Duncan (7) and Charlotte (4).

Classmates find love after 55 years

Reprinted with permission from the South Bend (IN) Tribune by Kelly Meehan, Tribune Staff Writer

FOR 75-YEAR-OLD Helen Lewis, love struck when she least expected it.

Lewis—a former Indiana University South Bend professor in education—spent the majority of her life in higher education and working as an English-teaching missionary in China. Her busy schedule left little time for romance, until fate led her to Bob Bitner.

Both Lewis and Bitner attended Houghton College in New York but were not friends during their undergraduate years.

"We didn't really know each other there," she said. "We worked in the same outreach group, but we each had a boyfriend and girlfriend."

Bitner, a fellow missionary worker in Haiti, lost his second wife last fall while living in Pennsylvania.

Upon hearing about the death of Bitner's wife through fellow Houghton alumni, Lewis called him from China to express her condolences. This exchange, however, was just the steppingstone to what would become a big romance.

"I called him on Oct. 17 ... and we talked twice a day until Thanksgiving, when we met in Hawaii at a Houghton classmate's home," she said.

The gathering—initially intended to celebrate the holiday and Lewis' 75th birthday—quickly turned into an

engagement party after Bitner popped the question.

The new couple celebrated with 15 people they had never seen before, along with two of Lewis' friends who flew in for the event and her niece's husband, who happened to be in Hawaii at the time.

Bitner said their relationship stemmed from their common love of missionary work and the fact that they had both attended the same college.

"I was just amazed how at almost 75 she was actively trying to serve the Lord out there in China," he said.

And on Nov. 29, Lewis' 75th birthday, Bitner presented her with a diamond ring.

"I got my diamond ring on my diamond birthday," she said.

About 170 guests were invited to the couple's March 25 wedding at Michiana Chinese Christian Church in Mishawaka, which was followed by a reception at the church and a traditional Chinese banquet at China Garden.

"Knowing that 55 years had transpired, we knew we would not look like we did then," Lewis said. "We fell in love with our hearts, and it has been a very lovely courtship."

Betty Haines, a longtime friend and former IUSB colleague, could not help but notice a sense of eager rejuvenation



within Lewis.

"She was so giddy," Haines said. "She has always been pleasant and jovial, but giddy? No."

Haines said Lewis had received her bachelor's and master's degree along with her doctorate, but "her 'Mrs.' degree will be most meaningful to her at the age of 75."

The newlyweds honeymooned in southern Indiana and will live in a retirement village near Harrisburg, Pa.

"Some ask if we are getting married too late in life, but it isn't," Lewis said. "He is a wonderful man, and I am sure we still have things to do in life for the Lord and each other."

Helen Lewis is a member of the class of 1951; Bitner of the class of 1950. —Ed.



Blake and Krista (Vossler '98) Mathews



Brian and Tarah (Boeve '02) Sproul



Jeff and Jessica (Reid '02) Wester



Shawn & Michelle (Bloser '05) Boyce

Down the Aisle

Stephen and Ryan Kimberley Clark '97
Gabe and Ginny (Baehr '01) Jacobsen
Blake and Krista (Vossler '98) Mathews
Eric and Catherine (Taber '99) Ooms
Brian and Tarah (Boeve '02) Sproul
Jeff and Jessica (Reid '02) Wester
Bob and Helen (Lewis '51) Bitner '50
Shawn & Michelle (Bloser '05) Boyce

09-18-2005
07-18-2004
06-10-2006
07-23-2005
05-08-2004
06-04-2005
03-25-2006
12-10-2005

88 Heidi Gehman graduated from the doctoral program in religious ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School in March 2005. She and her husband teach at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. They have two sons.

90 Bill Whitman earned his Sandan third degree black belt in Bushido Kai. He is a senior instructor at the Project Future WNY Martial Arts Center in Wheatfield, NY.

91 Melissa (MacDonald) Ersing writes, "I'm ecstatic to report that my husband, Rich, won an Emmy Award for his work on a television news documentary special." Entitled "The Promise of 100

Years: The Pride of the People," the documentary was made for Black History Month in 2005. It is Ersing's second Emmy nomination. He is a videographer at WIVB-TV in Buffalo, NY.

92 Victoria (Jude) Derby and her husband have had a fifth daughter (see *Future Alumni*), Lynsey Jo, named after Victoria's roommate at Houghton, **Theresa Jo (Davis '93) Dils**.

Matthew Taylor completed his master's degree in organizational leadership from St. Bonaventure University in December 2005.

94 Rachel (Simms) Zirilli writes, "My husband arranged a surprise mini-reunion for my birthday. **Tara (Butler)**



Pictured here from left to right are Lucy (Barth '94) Miller, Rachel (Simms '94) Zirilli, and Tara (Butler '94) Hobson; friends from their freshman year at Houghton College.

Hobson and Lucy (Barth) Miller and their families joined my family for a weekend. We had a wonderful time catching up, and the biggest surprise of all was a scrapbook my friends put together. We became friends our freshman year and our friendships continue. It was

wonderful for our children to enjoy each other, too!"



Pictured here from left to right are many "future alumni" members: Laura Miller (on top of the couch), Jared Hobson, Kate Hobson, Katie Zirilli, Ethan Zirilli, Hannah Miller, Glenn Miller and Anna Zirilli (holding Ryan Zirilli).

95 Capt. Richard E. "Rusty" Rice, Jr. recently upgraded his license to 200 ton near coastal master, allowing him to command vessels of up to 200 tons up to 20 miles offshore. Rice spent last winter working on ships used in the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." Rice spent the winter as first mate on the tall ship *Lady Washington*, then returned to *Outward Bound* in Boston for the spring. He plans to spend the summer and fall as an instructor, trainer and captain. Friends can follow his adventures at <http://homepage.mac.com/captrustywildrice>.

95 Paul Williamson performed as tenor soloist in Handel's "Messiah" in March, in a special collaborative performance with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

96 Debbie Erickson moved back to Portland, OR, after graduation from Houghton, and worked in local politics for a few years. From 2000-2003, she lived in Vancouver, BC, Canada, while completing a master's of Christian studies at Regent College. Several other Houghton graduates also attended Regent at the same time: **Alisha (Slipp '98) Melanson**, **Katharine (King '97) Miller**, **Justin Lawrence '00** and **Abram Kidd '00**. Erickson writes, "We gathered every term for a pizza-and-wing night in honor

of our Houghton days, joined by fellow alum **Janis Gilman '98**." Erickson is now in her first year of doctoral studies in ethics, with a focus on political theology, at the University of Chicago Divinity School, where she edits the religion and culture Web forum. She hopes to complete her studies within five years and plans on a career in research or academia. Friends can reach her at debra.erickson@mail.com.

Matthew and Callie (Snyder '96) Neff are becoming house parents at a home for teen moms in Lititz, PA. Their two girls (see *Future Alumni*) will be working with them. The home is House of His Creation, a Christian ministry to help teen mothers complete their education while learning parenting and the meaning of family.

97 Stephen B. Clark II married Ryan Kimberley Elder (see *Down the Aisle*) in 2005 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Utica, NY. Stephen is the personnel director at Camp-of-the-Woods in Speculator, NY. Ryan, who has her master's degree in elementary education from Roberts Wesleyan College, is substitute teaching. Among the attendants in the wedding were **Matt Albright '96** and **Jason Baldomir '96**.

98 Amy (Flemming) Howard and her husband had a baby boy (see *Future Alumni*). They live in Daytona Beach, FL, where Amy is working part-time for the Social Security Administration. In September 2004, they took a trip to Norway to visit Amy's friend **Heidi Evensen '99**. In February 2005, they visited **Shannon (Roggie) Schrag** and her husband in Lowville, NY.

Lynsey Ring received her master's of fine arts from the New York Academy of Art, Graduate School of Figurative Art, in 2001. After working in a gallery in Manhattan for two years, she decided to further her own art career, and has since completed portrait commissions and exhibited oil paintings in New York



The Neff family is pictured here with friends, including (back row, left to right): **Meredith Tindall '96**, **Harmony (Woods '96) Sveshnikov**, **Kristin (Beahr '97) Smith**, **Peter Smith '97**, **Matthew Neff**, **Callie (Snyder '96) Neff** and children.

City, San Francisco and her hometown of Baltimore, MD. She is working on a series of paintings to be exhibited in 2007 and keeps addresses in Manhattan and Maryland. Her website is www.kynseyring.com.

Krista Vossler released her debut EP "spoken/forgotten" in December 2005. Music samples and more information are available online at www.kristavossler.com. She is married (see *Down the Aisle*) and may be moving north for graduate school in the fall. Krista and her husband would love to hear from any and all Houghton alums; contact them at the aforementioned website.



Krista Vossler '98 recording her debut EP "spoken/forgotten."

00 Ruth (Erde) Hartt and Elizabeth (Jill Meyer) Peelle have been selected to participate in an opera internship program



1st Lieutenant Martin Hatch '04

wedding party included Corey (Conlin '01) Hemmerich, Ashley (Cantwell '03) Burns, Sarah Wester '03, Austin Carroll '03 and Ryan Rockey '03.

04 Martin Hatch was promoted to first lieutenant in the U.S. Army January 2006. His wife, Cassie (Pettengill '05), is the orchestra director at An Achievable Dream Academy in Newport News, VA, where they live. They are expecting their first child in September.

Houghton P.A.C.E. '02

Lenora Lesure has been hired by the Cattaraugus County Business Develop-

ment Corporation (CCBDC) as a business coordinator. The CCBDC is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide services and support to new and existing micro-enterprise businesses through education and counseling. Lesure lives in Salamanca, NY.

Retired Staff

Robert Mattke and his wife observed their 60th wedding anniversary while staying in the Pocono Mountains. Four generations of their family were there to celebrate the occasion. The Mattkes moved from Orchard Park to Henrietta, NY, in order to be closer to family.

REMEMBRANCE

Kenneth Eugene Lindley—professor emeritus of physics and mathematics, chair emeritus of the division of mathematics and science, and longtime resident of Houghton—died February 18. He was raised on a homestead farm in Colorado, where he learned to ride horses, grow wheat and lasso cattle. Much younger than his three siblings, Lindley was still a boy when he lost his two college-aged sisters to rheumatic fever.

Lindley enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he was trained in engineering, earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Wisconsin. One Sunday morning, he shared a hymnal with fellow student Katherine (Walberger '43) who also grew up on a farm. The two farm-kids-turned-scholars married in 1948.

Following his discharge from the Navy, Lindley earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and began his teaching career in the engineering department at South Dakota State College. In 1953 Lindley earned his doctorate from the University of Iowa.

In 1963 the family moved to Houghton, where Lindley began his long tenure as chair of the division of mathematics and science at the college. There he gathered around him strong colleagues whom he appreciated and admired. He was a scientist with a gift for helping students and colleagues find their way. He taught at Houghton College until his retirement in 1989.

In retirement, Lindley appreciated contact with many friends in the community and around the world. His greatest joy was time with his children and grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, survivors include his children, Lois (Lindley '71) Jordan of Pilesgrove, NJ; Margaret (Lindley '72) Koch of Minneapolis, MN; Eileen (Lindley '77) Williams of Newark, DE; and Mark Lindley '79 of Ann Arbor, MI; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, two sisters and his parents.

with PORTopera this summer. Maine's first professional opera company, PORTopera inaugurated the opera internship program, "Maine's Emerging Artists," in 2002 to give singers an opportunity to be in a professional production and to perform a smaller opera production in a separate traveling company. Hartt and Peelle will sing roles in Mozart's "The Goose of Cairo" and will understudy roles in the main stage production, Mozart's "Don Giovanni." Hartt is the choral director at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School in Sudbury, MA and Peelle is completing her master's degree in vocal performance at Boston University.

01 Robert Brinson completed his doctorate in organic chemistry from Wake Forest University, defending his dissertation on November 11, 2005. He works at the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Campus, in the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology. His research is in the biomolecular NMR field, the goal of which is to understand how the structure of HIV 1 affects its function. He was awarded a National Research Council Fellowship for this research.

02 Jessica (Reid) Webster is married (see *Down the Aisle*) and living in Akron, OH. The

36 Harriet (Sartwell) Norton died February 20, 2006, surrounded by her family. Norton received her master's degree in education from Syracuse University in 1947 and taught in public schools for 16 years before taking a position with the State University of New York, Albany, as the professor and chairman of Latin education. After retiring in 1977, Norton was vital in the formation of Pineview Christian Academy of Albany, where she was principal from 1977-1980. She was predeceased by her husband of 24 years. She is survived by two sons, including **Robert Norton '84** of Elizabethtown, PA, her grandchildren; and her great-grandson.

37 Winton H. "Pete" Halsted died December 24, 2005 in Cincinnati, OH, due to complications from a fall and a compression fracture. He loved the church and his role as a pastor. Halsted served in the military during World War II. He later worked as a retirement house administrator, in addition to transforming 50

acres of a worn-out farm into a living tree farm. Survivors include his wife, **Ivone (Wright '36) Halsted**; and three sons.

40 Robert W. Strong, a World War II Army veteran and retired high school band director, died January 17, 2006. He earned a master's degree from New York University and performed with the 88th Infantry Division Band in the Army during World War II. For 37 years he was a band director at Forestville (NY) Central School. Strong was a member of the First Baptist Church of Dunkirk, the New York State Retired Teachers Association and the Chautauqua County Music Teachers Association. He was an avid gardener. Survivors include his wife of 59 years; two daughters; a son; two sisters, **Janice (Strong '43) Sandle** and **Marilyn (Strong '55) Flint**; a brother, **Donald Strong '50**; and five grandchildren.

42 Marvin H. Eyler died April 19, 2005. After growing up in Houghton and attending

the college, Eyler earned his master's and doctorate in physical education from the University of Illinois and served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He was the director of physical education and athletics at Hiram College, and later served as a professor and dean of the College of Physical Education, Recreation and Health, at the University of Maryland. Eyler's professional memberships included the American Academy of Physical Education, the American College of Sports Medicine, the National Recreation and Parks Association, and the Maryland Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He published academic writings in many research journals. Following his retirement in 1982, he lectured in China and went trekking in Nepal to the base camp of Mt. Everest. He was involved with the Houghton College Alumni Association for a few years; his work earned him the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Surviving are his wife, **Catherine (Parks '39)**; two sons, including **William Eyler '78**; a daughter; and extended family and friends.

Esther M. Burke, former business office manager at Houghton College, died April 25 at The Waters of Houghton nursing home. She was born March 20, 1931, in Rochester, NY. Her mother worked as a cleaning woman and waitress and her father was a dairyman in Gates and Rochester. She attended Roberts Wesleyan College, where she met her husband, **E. Douglas Burke**, who survives.

Early in their marriage, Burke worked at General Electric in Syracuse while her husband earned his master's degree. They moved to Houghton in 1958 when he joined the physical education department where he served as director of intercollegiate athletics and soccer coach.

In 1965 she started working part-time at the college. During the ensuing years she worked in records, admissions, finance, career development and as secretary to the academic dean. She began working full-time as purchasing agent and administrative assistant in 1985, and retired in 1993.

In addition to her work on the college staff, she was a friend and "surrogate mom" to two generations of Highlander soccer players. The soccer field is named for her and her husband.

Surviving in addition to her husband are her children, **Sharon (Burke '77) Clark**, **Stephen Burke '80**, **Susan (Burke '82) Nelson** and **Sandra (Burke '86) Stanard**; 13 grandchildren; a brother; a niece and two nephews.



46 Doris (Potter) Carman died October 5, 2005, in Mucksville, NC. Originally from Jasper, NY, she graduated from Houghton College with a music degree and taught the organ and the piano. She served as the organist for the First Baptist Church of Mucksville. She was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include a daughter and a son.

50 Rev. Jerold B. Ellison, a pastor in Presbyterian churches in Philadelphia for more than 40 years, died December 29, 2005 at Ephrata Community Hospital in Lancaster County, PA, from complications of strokes. Ellison served the congregation of Leverington Presbyterian Church in Roxborough for 22 years until his retirement in 1991. He earned his master's in divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition to his wife and daughter, Ellison is survived by a son; two daughters; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

56 **Rev. Edward W. Wheeler** died September 18, 2005, following a battle with cancer. He graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute. Wheeler held positions as an instructor, dean and administrator at Moody Aviation in Elizabethtown, TN, retiring as professor emeritus after more than three decades of service. He was a



member and elder emeritus of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Elizabethtown, where he taught Sunday school, was chairman of the worship committee and sang in the choir. Survivors include his wife of 51 years, a son; three grandchildren; one great-grandson; a brother; two nieces; a nephew; and several grand nieces and nephews.

63 **David G. Dillenbeck** died December 8, 2005. Dillenbeck received his M.D. from the State University of New York, Syracuse, and did his internship at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. He served in the U.S. Army as a soldier in the Vietnam War. Following his neurology residency in Madison, WI, he began practicing in Tampa, FL, and was on the faculty of the University of South Florida Medical School. In the 1990s he was the director of the Neurodiagnostic School and co-director of the Neuroscience Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital, establishing the Memory Disorder Center there. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, the Stroke Council of the American Heart Association, and served on the Florida State Athletic Commission.



He is survived by his wife of 41 years, **Esther (Hoover) '65**; a son, **Stephen Dillenbeck '96**, a daughter; grandsons; brothers; a sister, and extended family.

80 **Terry (Kelly) Winslow** went home to be with the Lord on November 16, 2005 after battling cancer. She is survived by her husband and four children. Winslow home schooled her children for 13 years and was active in home school organizations and her church.

FORMER STAFF

Elizabeth Effland passed away October 16, 2005, at her home. She was 79. Effland worked as an accountant at Houghton from 1964 until her retirement in 1988. After retiring she lived in Glens Falls, NY, and spent winters at the Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, FL, where she was a member of Brooksville Wesleyan Church. She was an accomplished seamstress and made over 1,300 teddy bears. Survivors include two sisters, a niece and several cousins.

FORMER FACULTY

Nancy Barcus, a violinist, writer and public school teacher who served several years as an assistant professor of English at Houghton College, died October 19, 2005 from cancer. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and her master's degree from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She and her husband, **Dr. James E. Barcus '59**, began serving Houghton College in 1964 as assistant professor of English and chairman of the English and Speech department, respectively. Nancy wrote several books, including *Developing a Christian Mind* and *Discover Waco: Reflections and Images; A Viewbook*. She also published a monthly poetry/photography feature in the *Wacoan* magazine. A gifted violinist, she played with the Waco Symphony Orchestra for over two decades and gave Suzuki method violin instruction to many students. Surviving besides her husband are three children.

For Nancy Bidwell Barcus (1937-2005) Who Taught Me to Write



Suzanne Nussey
'74, Ottawa, Ontario
Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Your words to me diminish
As your illness grows.
Paragraph, clause, phrase.
Is this how you will die,
sentence by sentence?
We need a closer look.
Consider your options.
The treatment no longer works.

I know this story,
familiar as the rule of three—
my mother, her sisters, the sisters of my
heart—
your special ending
a matter of the right words,
as you have been to me.

Your early lessons banned all verbs of
being.
Choose the active voice, the active verb.
I practice this religiously,
even now reviewing what I write
for your consent,
I am, you are disappearing
from my text.

Which infinitives would you approve
to vivify your death?
Will you savour your last breath,
greet your Maker,
adorn yourself in immortality?
Or should I hone the lexis for your life?
She delighted, pondered, played, inspired.
I worry this poem's imagery,

hoping to shake loose
the finest words for loss,
feeding blank pages
like an empty pit that needs
flesh and bones to make its destiny
and find for you a place to rest
from all these sentences of death.
I must not fail your final test.

I scan Eudora, search the mail,
needing words from you not yet
imagined,
not too cryptic to construe
or ominously stark.
When it arrives, your valedictory
confounds all principles of writing,
all exercise of art:

Just be.

PICTURE THIS

Scattered across the campus, hung in appropriate spots, are portraits of great figures from Houghton's past. Many of them have been painted by the lady pictured here, holding her portrait of one such figure. Can you name them? Do you remember the unveiling of this portrait, or others by this artist? Drop us a line and share your memories with fellow *Milieu* readers.



LAST ISSUE: I just wanted to let you know that I was one of the "lovely ladies" in the picture that was on the back cover of the winter 2006 issue. Houghton College was celebrating its centennial, and Dr. Chamberlain coming out of the cake was definitely the climax of the event.

I remember going back through the archives and doing a slide presentation on life at Houghton in the past. I showed this photo to my husband and kids, and they noted that I was in the archives now! Hmmm... I'm not sure how to take that!

Anyway, it brought back a lot of memories. Thanks for sharing it.

Anne (Ludington '83) Mage
Horseheads, NY

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