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Dean Of The College Addresses SGA



Dean of the College Jack Connell addressed the Student Government Association on changes to IS requirements, Mayterm evaluation, and faculty replacement.

LILY BRUNNER

MICAH CRONIN

Dean of the College Jack Connell addressed the Student Government Association (SGA) on the state of the college's academics on Monday. He focused on concerns about faculty positions, the new Integrative Studies (IS) structure,

a proposed online Masters of Business Administration program, and upcoming studies on the college's Mayterm program.

It is "not remotely the case" that there are major cut-backs on the number of faculty at the college, Connell said. The college Board of Trustees has been evaluating "how many

faculty [Houghton] need[s]," and it has been settled that based on the college's current needs, "we can deliver our curriculum with about 71 or 72" full time faculty, Connell stated. Currently, the number of faculty sits at 74, and over the next two years the college plans to reduce the number to 72, accord-

ing to Connell.

The history department is expected to see significant changes in the near future. The current three history professors are working half-time as they transition to retirement, Connell stated the college plans to replace all three with one professor. Daniel Merriam '17 asked Connell if the change will "limit options" for course offerings.

"Not at all," Connell said. He went on to state that in the "rare" case there are "gaps" in a department, adjunct professors will be hired.

There are currently seven faculty searches in progress in Psychology, Music, and International Development. Ryan Yates has been added to the Data Science department, and Deb Rice will join the Business department, Connell stated.

Connell also informed SGA of upcoming changes to IS requirements, which will be in effect for incoming first-year students in the fall of 2017. Aside from moving to a 3-credit system, the college is "largely redoing" its approach to humanities. The "distribution approach" to IS courses will be discontinued for incoming students in favor of a "cross dis-

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Online Courses Attract Residential Students

ALYSSA ROGAN

Residential students of Houghton can now take up to two online classes per semester (not including summer courses), according to Marlene Collins-Blair, Associate Dean of Distance Education. She explained that "up to 49% of a main campus degree can be earned online—a maximum of around 60 credits," due to New York State regulations.

She continued, "Online education is one of the largest and fastest growing segments of higher education. Last year, there were approximately 3.5 million students in the United States working toward their degree online. The pro-

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Winter Sports Close On High Note

QUINN HULL

Men's and women's basketball as well as men's and women's indoor track and field came to a close on Saturday. The Nielsen center was packed with over 300 people who came to see Highlanders play host to cross-town rival Alfred University. Down by 8 early in the game, the Highlanders had their work cut out for them. With Phil Pellegrino '17 coming into the game

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Honors Weekends Wrap Up

JORDAN TRAUTWEIN

Last weekend, Houghton hosted its final Honors interview weekend for the academic year. The weekends serve not only as the process of determining which students will be invited to join the Honors programs, but also as a form of advertising to students why they should choose to receive an education from Houghton.

The Houghton College website claims, "We were one of the first colleges to introduce a serious, developmental curriculum for top incoming students, and our honors opportunities remain among the best anywhere." During Honors interview weekends, the school had the opportunity and challenge to prove itself worthy of the



MICHAEL SIEVERS

Last weekend was this year's final Honors interview weekend. This year, students were extended invitations at the end of each weekend as part of an "admissions strategy."

statement.

Director of the Honors Programs and Professor of Philosophy, Benjamin Lip-

scomb explained while other colleges are increasingly offering Honors programs and interview weekends, "Our

process is more rigorous and, from what we hear back, it's

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International// Plane Crashes Into Melbourne Mall



NATE MOORE

DANI EATON

taken off from Melbourne's Essendon airport Tuesday morning and was headed to King Island, an island located between the south shore of Australia and the island of Tasmania. According to the New York Times, a pilot aboard the plane reported a "catastrophic engine failure" moments before the crash. However, Victoria Minister for Victoria Police, Lisa Neville said the details surrounding the crash are still "being confirmed by police and fire services." Reuters, a London based news agency, reported that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau will investigate the crash.

All five individuals aboard the aircraft were killed in the crash. The names and nationalities of the deceased were not released as of Monday

night. However, in response to a report that the individuals were U.S. citizens, the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, while declining to comment, said it was working with local authorities.

A statement released by the Embassy said, "We are unable to confirm any details about the nationality or identity of any of the victims. The U.S. Embassy in Canberra and the consulate in Melbourne are working closely with local authorities to assist in any way possible." The statement also extended their "...deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of all those who died in today's tragic crash."

The plane, described by the New York Times as a "twin-engine Beechcraft Super King Air" crashed into

a storage area in the back of the Direct Factory Outlet Mall. According to Reuters, witnesses at the scene stated the plane exploded upon impact. Firefighters, paramedics, and police were rushed to the scene of the crash, where the flames were extinguished. Both the roof and infrastructure of the mall were damaged.

The connects to the airport where the plane crashed near the end of the runway. The mall was set to open about an hour before the crash occurred. This was somewhat fortunate as no one on the ground sustained any injuries, according to assistant commissioner of Victoria police, Stephen Leane. He stated, "...certainly if we look at the circumstances, we've been very lucky..."

based on "...the time of day and who was around." Leane also said, "it was a catastrophic plane crash..."

While flights in and out of Australia's main airport were unaffected, the Essendon airport, where the crash occurred, remained closed as of Monday night. Additionally, parts of the Tullamarine Freeway remained closed for part of the day Monday as there was a significant amount of scattered debris as a result of the crash.

In a CNN article, Neville said she expects authorities to have updates on the personal identities of the deceased shortly. ★

Dani is a senior majoring in communication and writing.

Several people were killed in Melbourne, Australia on Monday morning when a plane crashed into a shopping mall.

The chartered flight had

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with 999 career points, the Highlander faithful were just waiting to erupt. When Pellegrino stepped up to the free throw line the anticipation was palpable. After draining the first basket, the crowd's excitement couldn't be contained any longer as they cheered on their 1,000-point scorer. "Scoring 1,000 points was something that I never really thought of my whole college career. I hear of so few people doing it that it never registered to me that it was a possibility. Being able to do it in front of a home crowd on my last game was something out of a dream. The amount of support that whole Houghton community gave me throughout the process was an unforgettable experience," said Pellegrino.

The Highlanders went on to defeat Alfred on the backs of Dylan Lambert's '19 41 points and a clutch three-point shot from Pellegrino that would prove to be the game winner. "...It was the ultimate high note. Having transferred from Alfred U after my freshman year it was a pretty sweet victory for me personally. Every senior contributed a ton to the game, so it really sent us all out with



ATHLETICS.HOUGHTON.EDU

Rebekah White '18, Gwen Stokes '20, Nikki Gams '18, and Emma Fox '20 hold the school record for the 4x400 meter run, after sprinting to a time of 4:14.39 at NCCAA nationals.

a good taste in our mouths. I can't say enough about the support and love that all my teammates and the Houghton community has given the entire year. I couldn't have asked for a better college basketball experience," he said.

Though the Highlanders failed to reach their goal of making the playoffs, the team posted a final record of 10-15. "It was great to win against a rival to end the not only the last game of the season but my college career as well... [it] was just all you

could ask for" said Johnathan Stowe '17.

The Houghton Women's basketball team closed their season out in an exciting way as well. Unfortunately, the outcome was not as favorable as the men's game. The Houghton crowd thought the game was won when Madison Detwiler '19 converted the two most crucial points of the game at the line giving the Highlanders a two-point advantage with five seconds to play. Instead it was Alfred's Jamie Wilcox to the rescue, scoring a two-point jumper

as time expired to force overtime. Despite the Highlander effort, Alfred prevailed by a score of 83-78. "The end of the season is always tough, even more so after an overtime loss. That hurt. We did improve from last year, but I wouldn't be telling the truth if I said I thought our team wasn't capable of more as far as wins and losses go. I am most thankful for my time here because I have made amazing lifelong friends... I can't wait to see what the team does next year," said Elle Reed '17 after her last

game as a Highlander.

The team may see a bright future. Major contributors such as Laura Call '18, Brittany Lenart '19, Madison Detwiler '19, Leslie Moose '19 and Cori Beck '20 will be returning next year for another run at the Empire 8 tournament.

The Houghton indoor track and field team also had a productive season. In the Empire 8 Championships the team recorded 20 personal best performances. A school record was set in the men's 4 x 4 by Cory McCarty '17, Dan Burdo '20, Nate Moore '18, and Will Baggs '20. The men's team set a school record by scoring 16 points in a conference meet, and Nikki Gams '18 set the Division III era school record in the 200 meter. To top off conference competition, Leland Roberts '19 pole vaulted his way to becoming an Empire 8 Champion.

At the National Christian College Athletic Association national tournament, Gwen Stokes '20 earned All-American honors in the high jump, making third place with a leap of 1.52 meters.

Rebekah White '18, Stokes, Gams, and Emma Fox '20 now hold the school record for the women's 4x400 meter run, after sprinting to a time of 4:14.39 at nationals. The foursome finished in 6th place overall. ★

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cipline approach." Rather than students taking separate courses for English/Literature, History, and Philosophy, the three disciplines will be combined into Humanities 101 (The Ancient and Medieval World) Humanities 102 (The Early Modern World), and Humanities 201

(The Late-Modern World). This will total to 9 credits in the humanities.

Emma Carpenter '18 asked if the combination courses will limit the ability of niche courses to "attract enough people to fill seats".

"I think the answer is 'no,'" Connell said. "Because it is more flexible- literature, history, and philosophy professors can teach [the humanities courses],"

allowing more time for other professors to teach niche courses in a given semester.

There are "trade offs", he stated, but "our faculty are convinced" this model will "not dilute our ability to teach upper level courses".

Connell also informed SGA that the faculty approved a proposal put forth by business professor Ken Bates for an online MBA program. The proposal

now awaits President Mullen's approval, after which it will go before New York Department of Education for review.

The current structure of Mayterm is also up for study, Connell said, though "nothing will happen in the short term." Connell continued, "It is currently a very active conversation" as it has "been a long time" since Mayterm has been evaluated.

SGA President Joanna Friesen '17 asked Connell about the college's plan and process "for hiring more diverse faculty." "This is a priority," Connell said, noting that two people of color have been added to the college staff in the last ten months. Connell said the college is currently seeking out ways to increase the number of applicants who are racial and ethnic minorities. ★

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more impressive than what other schools do with their honors interview weekends.” He continued, “We dig a little harder here, press people a little more, and that makes an impression on them. So I keep hoping we can maintain that edge and I think there are certain reasons to hope that we might.”

Different from other schools is the length of time for which Houghton has been working on this process. Lipscomb offered, “I am blessed to be the inheritor of a long tradition going back to the mid 90’s of ‘Sure, let’s’. And there is that Houghton communal spirit; we’re good at this barn raising sort of thing, which it really is. And that enables us to impress our candidates of what we’re able to put on.” According to Lipscomb, to host an Honors weekend it requires “a ton of work to get these files to faculty to read ahead of time, to give up a whole Saturday. Two faculty members look-

ing at each candidate that comes in and engage seriously with the material they supplied. It’s a lot of work and I think if you don’t already have a tradition of faculty working that hard and coming in on their off time, it’s hard to do that.” One change to this time-honored system, is the recent practice of telling students from the first two weekends of their acceptance as soon as it’s decided, rather than waiting to hear until after decisions are made from all three weekends. When explaining the reasoning behind the decision, Lipscomb said, “Students are making their

college decisions earlier and earlier. This is in the Honors pool and outside the Honors pool. People who would have waited until March or April to make these decisions, because of changes in how financial aid processing works.” He added, “And if we can give them something particularly appealing to think about before the end of February...there is a definite admissions strategy to telling them early.” He argued that the physical visit to the campus is “a very appealing part of the pitch to come”. Anna Schilke ‘19, who will serve as the teaching assistant (TA) for those ac-

cepted into next year’s London honors program, recalled her experience from going through the honors weekend interviews, “I remember walking in as a prospective to honors weekend, and it was so cool,”Schilke stated. Even as someone who grew up in the community, she said she found it an impressive display of the college. She noted “Honors weekend brings together the best of Houghton College, it brings together the faculty and staff, it brings together the student body, it brings together our ability to send students to the world and really make that tangible.★

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jection is that this number will increase to 5 million by 2020.” The draw to online courses lies in the fact that they are “flexible, convenient, and often cheaper than face-to-face courses,” she said. Online courses also expedite the gradua-

tion process, with summer courses available, according to Collins-Blair. Resultantly, online courses have reached a new popularity with younger students. As Collins-Blair explained, online courses were originally popular with non-traditional, adult-aged students; recent research, however, has proven that “the mean age of undergraduate online students decreased from 34 years old in 2012 to 29 in 2016. The mean age of

graduate online students decreased from 35 years old in 2012 to 33 in 2016.” For those hesitant to believe that online courses are not as credible or high-quality, Collins-Blair ensures students that “Houghton College students receive the same quality of instruction regardless of the delivery format, and that the learning outcomes for online courses remain consistent with those of the on-campus counterparts, if they exist.” Accord-

ing to the Houghton College website, online students can attain Bachelors’s degrees in science or business administration. Programs include human resource management, integrated marketing and communication, management, leadership development, or psychology. Students may also attain an Associate’s Degree in Arts. Director of Admission, Ryan Spear, weighed in and stated, “With every opportunity comes caution. There is

something, dare I say ‘magical’ about learning in the classroom setting. Students should consider the ‘opportunity cost’ of swapping an online course for something they could take residually and consider the pros/cons of what they want out of their educational experience.” Spear added that, despite the traditional classroom setting, students have a great opportunity to continue their “post-college learning” process, thanks to online classes.★

SASF To Serve In Louisiana



EMILY WING

Students of the Salvation Army Student Fellowship will spend February break serving on a missions trip in Louisiana, helping to repair buildings damaged in natural disasters.

ANNA SCHILKE

Over February break, the Salvation Army Student Fellowship will head to Louisiana on a missions trip. This year the trip will focus on cleanup from the flood that

happened in August of 2016. The Salvation Army Student Fellowship, according to student member Ruthanna Wantz ‘17, has been in existence since at least 2002. The group is a SGA recognized club, and primarily uses its funding to transport interested students to church

every week. The group also does a number of events during the school year. Wantz stated their most popular event is the Salvation Army thrift store that takes place in the basement of the Campus Center each semester, but the group puts on other events, including an annual missions

trip. “The missions trip is something we’ve been doing every year” Wantz said. “We’ve had a chance to go to a variety of places.” In the past few years, the missions trip has been involved in cleanup from Hurricane Sandy, helped at an Adult Rehabilitation Center in Buffalo, and assisted a community outreach center in Camden, New Jersey. According to another group member, Emily Wing ‘17, most of the trips are connected to a local chapter, or as the Salvation Army calls them, a Corps. This year the group will be traveling to Louisiana. “This year is going to be different from previous years,” stated Wing. Not only is the group traveling a further distance than the past few years, their focus is going to have a stronger emphasis on service projects. “Most of their building are damaged, and there’s still a lot to do down there,” she said. Wantz added the area is “still dealing with damage to property from the disaster this summer.” Wantz continued, “We’re going to help repair and make building and properties more usable. They’re already told us that the roof is completely caved in on one of our proj-

ects. We’re going to be helping put a new roof on.” The group will also be assisting a women and children’s group. Wing stated, “they want to hear our testimonies...which should be cool and interesting.” One of the main goals of the trip, according to Wantz, is to allow students an opportunity to see the work their denomination is doing in other places. “It gives people a taste of what the Salvation Army is doing around the country and by extension around the world,” she said. This goal and the outreach the group is planning to accomplish meshes nicely with Houghton’s vision of producing servant scholars who can lead and labor in the world. “I learned [at Houghton] to listen and care,” stated Heather Phillips ‘18, another member of the group. “That is going to be helpful to me.” Wing agreed and stated, “Houghton is a good place to prep yourself spiritually and mentally... it can be hard...but I think Houghton definitely gives you the tools to minister to people.” The group is planning to leave Houghton Friday afternoon and arrive in Louisiana on Sunday, giving them the week of break in the area. ★

1 in 1,000: Basketball Player Scores Career Milestone



COURTESY OF PHIL PELLEGRINO

Pellegrino is in his senior year, and has been lauded by his teammates and coach for his selflessness, integrity, and leadership. He recently scored his 1,000th point in his final career game.

BETHANY KUIKEN

On Saturday, February 18, basketball player Phil Pellegrino ‘17 scored his 1,000th point in his final career game. This lofty accomplishment was a highlight of Phil’s successful basketball career as a college player.

Pellegrino said he is humbled by this accomplishment, which was achieved through hours of hard work and dedi-

cation. “It is an unreal feeling. I have been playing basketball since I was a young kid. All I ever watched on TV was college basketball and I remember wanting to be just like them,” he said. “Scoring the 1,000th point was the icing on the cake for my dream to play college basketball. It makes all of the countless hours spent in the gym worthwhile.”

Pellegrino has been faithfully supported by his teammates and coaches who have encouraged him in this endeavor. “My coaches and teammates are fam-

ily,” he said. “I love each and every one of them from all my years of playing at Houghton.” He emphasized the importance of camaraderie on the team, and stated, “I couldn’t have achieved this accomplishment if it wasn’t for my teammates. The coaching staff has always been supportive of me, and pushed me to be the best basketball player and man that I could be.”

Corky McMullen, head men’s basketball coach, expressed his appreciation for Phil’s contribution to the team both on and off the court. “Phil has been a joy to

coach,” said McMullen. “He has really brought into the new system that we put in place. It’s difficult to get a new coaching staff for your senior year, and he has made our job easy.” He continued, “On the floor he gives us instant offense, and always puts his teammates before himself. Off the floor, he is a man of high integrity and leads our underclassmen by example. It has been an honor coaching this young man.”

Pellegrino’s teammate, Jordan Scott ’17 echoed Coach McMullen’s appreciation. “Phil’s accomplishment reflects his hard work, but more importantly his attitude towards his accomplishment reflects his selflessness,” Scott said. “He rarely discussed the possibility of getting 1,000 points during the year.” He added that Pellegrino was more focused on winning and team success than with this personal accomplishment coming as a result of their playing. “He always put the team before himself and it was refreshing to have him as an unselfish leader for our team.”

On the court, Pellegrino is a player that can be relied on for his dynamic offense. “As a team, we looked to him as a primary scoring option, which is reflected in his 1,000 career points,” Scott ’17 said. “Transitioning to a new

offense with a new coach made it difficult, but as the point guard I knew I could trust Phil to score, and I could look for him as an option when facilitating the ball. I am very proud of what Phil has done on the court, but more proud to call Phil a friend for life as a result of the bond we share from being teammates here at Houghton.”

Houghton’s mission in athletics is “excellence for the glory of God.” According to his coach, Pellegrino’s career accomplishment aligns with the mission Houghton strives to implement on and off the court. “Scoring 1,000 points is no easy feat at any level,” said McMullen. “Striving for excellence is all that we do on and off the court. Your identity is not made by wins and losses or scoring 1,000 points. Your identity is in Jesus Christ. Phil is a perfect example of that model. He is a noble servant leader first, and a basketball player second.”

Although his career is almost at its end, Pellegrino expressed that he is grateful for the opportunities he has had on the team. “I am so thankful to be part of the Houghton basketball program,” he said. “I have no regrets leaving the game I love.”★

Crossword of the Week

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Across

1. First inductee into the Baseball Hall of Fame
5. Wicked place
10. Having the means
14. Soprano's big moment

15. City on the Nile
16. Make turbid

17. Tape recorder type
19. Uses a battering log
20. Cow catcher
21. One way to slug it out
23. Some mag pages

24. Hope-Crosby destination
26. Firth of Clyde port
27. Where I-90 runs
33. Dull with drink
36. Best's obverse
37. Dog of ill reputation
38. Like Garfunkel's preten-

- tious collectibles?
39. Actress Miles and author Brittain
40. Day-saver in comics
41. French inc.
42. "A Touch of Class" actor
43. Examined a joint?
44. Like a frank conversation
47. Rob's boss
48. Direction from Buffalo to NYC
49. Exaggerate, as expenses
52. Kind of correspondence
57. Come up with something
59. Fashion designer Gerreich
60. Salesman's beat
62. This is one
63. Yawn-inducing condition
64. Mater or Gluck
65. High slopes
66. American Beauties
67. Waterfall emission

Down

1. "Cheers" character
2. Companion of Artemis
3. Coffin supports
4. Crosby-Hope destination
5. Nova's companion
6. Hand-operated propeller
7. South Beach, for one
8. Snack item since 1912
9. Treacherous spy
10. Gulch near Phoenix

11. Regattas
12. It may be a stretch
13. "Or ____!" (veiled threat)
18. Member of a reader's deck
22. Press Secretary's asset
25. Lake Ontario port
27. Like a shrinking violet
28. Temple reading
29. Rose's home, in song
30. CIA's forerunner
31. Fully convinced
32. Tramped
33. One of the Three B's of music
34. 15 miles of song
35. Like a post-shower mirror
39. Lab treater
40. Head liner?
42. Manche capital
43. Something to believe in
45. Improves the bow
46. Given current conditions
49. 1777 battle site
50. They might be smashed
51. Perform an exterminator's service
52. What Willie of "Free Willie" is
53. Void's companion
54. River bordering Germany
55. "____ Nanette"
56. Years upon years
58. Dutch cheese town
61. Regret it ever happened

Singing Their Way Down South

ANNA SCHILKE

Over the course of next week, the Houghton Singers, Houghton’s acapella group, will leave on a tour which will cover Florida and make additional stops in Virginia and North Carolina. The tour is part of a joint effort with the Advancement Office to publicize Houghton in Florida. According to Kelly Van Kirk, the group’s director, the idea of a week-long Florida tour came from alumni and community engagement director, Phyllis Gaerte, who first envisioned a partnership between the Singers and Advancement. “It was the perfect storm,” Van Kirk recalled. “It’s not only a great thing for the members of the group [to go on tour], but a chance to connect with our denomination and alumni and to do some recruitment.” While the Houghton Singers typically do a shorter, more local tour in the spring semester, the tour in Florida will break from previous years in several ways. The Singers are only doing four church concerts,

instead playing the majority of their performances at retirement homes and schools. They have also expanded their repertoire to include more than acapella pop which Van Kirk called the group’s “bread and butter.” They will now include a few older jazz standards, a gospel piece or two, and even a Beatles song. The Houghton Singers were created four years ago by Kevin Dibble during what Van Kirk termed “the post Pitch Perfect phase.” The group is highly selective, with a limited number of slots each year filled by an intensive audition process. Ellenore Tarr ‘18, an alto in the group stated, “I love working with this small, intimate ensemble. We’re more than a singing group. We’re a family of believers, and we get to use our gifts to create something beautiful.” Several members of the group expressed their excitement at the opportunity for a longer tour. “I’m excited to get to go off campus with people in a situation that’s less stressful – no homework or assignments,” said Hannah Jager ‘18, another group member. “We get to just perform, we don’t even have to rehearse every day.” Additionally, the Singers will experience the Florida weather, and make time in their packed itinerary to visit



COURTESY OF AMY TETTA

Houghton’s acapella group will tour Florida with stops in Virginia and North Carolina as part of a larger effort for the Office of Advancement to advertise the college in the Southern United States.

St. Augustine and Tampa, and hopefully the ocean. “We’re excited to enjoy the weather, enjoy the sunshine,” Van Kirk said. “In a busy tour, this is all the break we’re going to get.” The singers are also looking forward to their role in the advancement process. Jager, a music education major, specifically mentioned the group’s school visits. She also

referenced the group’s church ministry, and stated, “We get to lead worship one Sunday, so I’m pretty excited for that.” To cut down on the cost of a tour bus, the group will be driving themselves, doing the trip down south over two days and the trip home in one. Van Kirk referred to the process as “an adventure.” Despite the long hours on the road,

the group is in high spirits. “I’m excited to make personal connections in the places where we travel,” said Tarr. “It will be special to create real memories out of the itinerary that we’ve only seen on paper so far. In a couple of weeks, we’ll be looking back on experiences instead of talking about expectations.”★

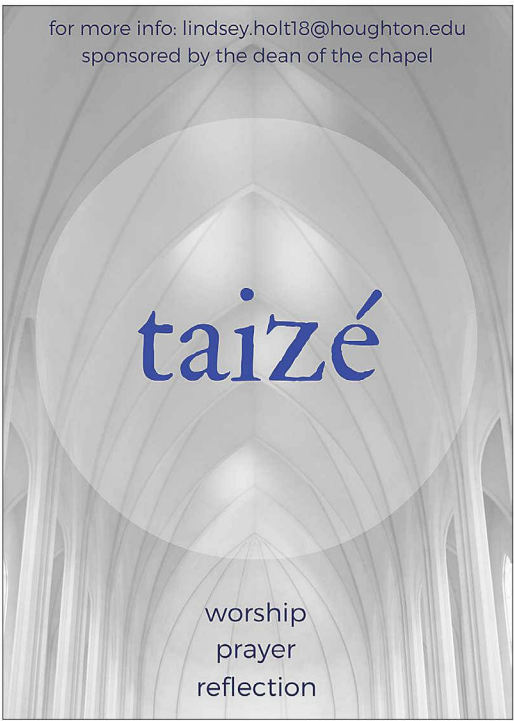
Finding Solace in Silence and Scripture

ABIGAIL TAYLOR

In Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France, one will find an ecumenical monastery called the Taizé (pronounced tah-zeh) Community, made up of Catholics and Protestants living together in a community structured around prayer. According to the Taizé Community’s official website, their existence “is a ‘parable of community’ that wants its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples.” Taizé services are solemn, and filled with repetitive music and silent prayer. Although Houghton, New York is far from Southern France, Taizé-style worship services have arrived on campus. Lindsey Holt ‘18, a chapel deacon, has been in charge of putting together these reflective worship services. She said, “I felt like these types

of services would be a welcome addition to Houghton’s opportunities for worship.” Lindsey learned about the Taizé Community when she was in high school. “I had the opportunity to go for a week, which is why these services are so meaningful to me,” she said. The Taizé services on campus consist of 60 minutes of prayer, repetitive singing, acoustic music, and scripture reading. Michael Jordan, dean of the chapel, also helps to plan these services. He said, “The Taizé services are carefully planned with particular choruses mixed in with Scripture readings, especially the psalms, and silent prayer.” This silent prayer is described by Holt as the most striking part of the service. “In the middle there is 10 minutes of silent prayer,” she said. “I think that having silent prayer for such a long period of time is important, because in most cases we don’t have enough silence in our lives”. The music of the Taizé worship is intentionally much different from a typical chapel service. Rather than high energy worship music, the songs are usually a

simple refrain sung over and over again. The accompaniment, usually piano, violin or guitar, is also simple. According to Holt, this is because “the worshiper is more comfortable with the music, and so able to focus less on singing, and move into deeper meditation on the truth of the words being sung.” Jordan also commented that he thought this style was very important. He said, “It takes seriously our need for stillness”. The reflective, quiet services of Taizé at Houghton began during the fall semester. Holt planned two services on campus. One took place in the evening, and one during chapel. This semester so far, only one Taizé service has happened, taking place at the end of January. Usually, there are about 20 to 30 people in attendance. All are welcome to attend and take part in the Taizé Community on campus. “There is a way in which you go to Taizé scattered, but leave gathered—ready to reflect Christ’s love to the world with confidence, fearlessness and joy,” said Jordan. At its core, Taizé strives to be a quiet, peaceful reflective space for one to



COURTESY OF LINDSEY HOLT

The services on campus consist of 60 minutes of prayer, repetitive singing, acoustic music and scripture reading. go and worship in a relaxed and solemn way. Jordan’s final comments on Taizé were of its necessity on campus. He said, “[The services] provide a very different and very helpful form of worship for over-busy, over-anxious, over-tired college students”. Taizé takes place in the Wesley Chapel, and the next service is scheduled for the month of March.★

Body Image And Disordered Eating



ANTHONY BURDO

KEVIN BIONDILLO

In our society, there are so many opinions, ideas and prototypes thrown at us for what the ideal body looks like. Sure these standards may change every few years or so, from small women to tall men, from skin and bone European models to our cultural fascination with “thicc,”but there is always a standard. With lines of beauty clearly defined by society, there are always many people that do not fit into that mold of “beautiful” or “handsome.”

The people that fall outside these beauty standards feel

inward shame, anger, and sadness. These feelings alone are a terrible effect of cultural image standards, but even more disheartening is that some people then form unhealthy eating as a solution. However, this isn’t entirely a matter of choice, as Eastern University’s assistant professor of psychology, Michael Thomas, pointed out in chapel on Monday. Biopsychology has found a genetic leaning that, with excessive pressure to meet a bodily standard, causes people with a certain genetic makeup to resort to disordered eating. Disordered eating is not genetic-based or choice-based alone.

Both women and men, but more often women, will conceptualize what they need to look like to be beautiful. To achieve this, some people undergo large periods of fasting (a day or more), with either large binges of massive calorie consumption or small meals between these fasts. Or they may restrict all their food and calorie consumption. Others may eat vast quantities of food

“We must love our neighbors enough to pay attention to those around us.”

and “purge” it after a meal by vomiting or excessive workouts. Some may feel they are too skinny and desire to be “thicc” so much that they eat to the point of pain and illness at every meal.

More people are affected by this than we think, and definitely more than we can see. So what can people without eating disorders do to help.

Primarily, remember that everyone is different. A key concept I’ve learned from my psychology degree, my Christian faith, and my friends who suffer from eating disorders is to be empathetic. Loving your neighbors and being empathetic towards them doesn’t seem like a breakthrough, but that is where we, as Christians and peers, should always start. We must love our neighbors enough

to pay attention to those around us. Notice if someone is rapidly gaining or losing weight, notice if they binge or they go to the bathroom right after most meals (they might be vomiting each time), notice if they are losing vibrancy and energy. Some people you think might have an eating disorder, may not in fact. We make mistakes, but that’s ok because we’re still displaying God’s love by paying attention to our neighbors.

But if we do find a friend is showing signs of disordered eating, what should we do? The worst thing to do, as a friend or peer, is to try to give the person therapy ourselves. Instead, we should start by simply being present and being a friend. Ask someone you noticed displaying some disordered eating habits how they are doing, take an interest in their lives, and show that you care about their well-being. Please do not explicitly (and bluntly) ask a person right away if they have an eating disorder. For example, show you care about the person by mentioning you’ve noticed they have lost a lot of weight recently or that they don’t really seem to

be eating much at meals and ask them why. Then, both you and the person of a suspected eating disorder, should continue talking and pray God gives you wisdom and direction. You may find out you’re wrong, or you may need to suggest they go to the counselling center if their condition seems dangerous. Another option is to go online to the “counseling services” section of Houghton College’s website and refer someone (or yourself) to take a “free online confidential screening” if they are afraid of gaining weight or are worried about their eating habits. But remember, you cannot force anyone to go to the counseling center, or to take a test.

There are no clear guidelines because every situation is different and people who have disordered eating symptoms are unique in how they deal with them. But I promise, if you approach an individual with a true sense of empathy and compassion for their well-being, you will be heading in the right direction.★

Kevin is a senior majoring in writing and psychology with a concentration in pre-therapy.

“Ask someone you noticed displaying disordered eating habits how they are doing, take an interest in their lives, and show that you care about their well-being.”

Understanding Trump’s Voters



NATE MOORE

RACHEL BELLEROSE

I grew up in an area much like this one, where Confederate flags were spray painted on trucks with slapdash exuberance and men walking down the roadside with guns slung over their shoulders didn’t seem out of the ordinary. People in my town took care of my single mother and her four children: stray groceries and fifty dollar bills were always finding their way into our beaten up minivan. And when that minivan broke down, you betcha our mechanic fixed it for free. That’s why I love my area, and the area surrounding Houghton. That’s

also why I am so upset at the rhetoric surrounding Donald Trump’s election. It demonizes those people and places I care for so deeply, and I am ashamed to say our college has not done much better at understanding the nuances of the situation.

Before you start feeling too self-righteous (or run away screaming), let me also say this: I consider myself to be liberal, and I understand the situation I described in the first paragraph might not work the same for everyone. I’ve often wondered if the color of my family’s skin would have affected our neighbors’ generosity, had we been a minority group. I’ve also wondered how it must feel for people of color to drive down those rural Western New York roads and see a bunch of white guys openly carrying rifles. Probably not too cozy. I deeply empathize with those who have felt marginalized or threatened in that way, and I understand why Trump’s presidency is so disturbing. It’s disturbing to me too. However, that does not change the fact that he is our president. The only

thing we can examine and change now is how we react to it.

Thus far I have seen many of my progressive brothers and sisters act in an unbecoming way when dealing with Trump’s election. I’m not talking about peaceful protests: my husband and some of my best friends have participated in several post-election marches. I’m talking about the riots and the days of

“But many...of the people who voted for Trump didn’t choose him because of his immigration policies or his misogynistic “locker room talk.” They chose him because they didn’t think they could survive another term under a Liberal administration.”

mourning without action and the language that tells many of my family members and friends that they are sexist, bigoted racists for voting for Trump. But many, perhaps most, of the people who voted for Trump didn’t choose him because of his immigration policies or his misogynistic “locker room talk.” They chose him because they didn’t think they could survive another term under a Liberal administration. As my uncle so eloquently put it

over Christmas dinner, “I know Trump’s bat shit crazy, but at least minimum wage might not go up.”

To many of you, my uncle’s statement might seem callused and unaware. But if you understood that he’s a small business owner, desperately trying to keep a tiny grocery store afloat, what would you say then? What if you could see that grocery store, the only business in town, and one of maybe two job opportunities within a thirty minute drive? My grandfather opened it forty years ago, built it up from the ground, and my uncle is scrambling to keep the doors open. With the incremental climb of minimum wage, along with increased taxes and healthcare costs, he’s worried he might have to lay off more employees.

My uncle is not alone in his feelings of being overlooked by a Liberal administration. A man I spoke with recently, a first generation Chinese-American combustion engineer, was laid off when the coal energy plant he worked at was closed by the

Obama administration. He had little sympathy for the environmental reasons behind President Obama’s decision because he and many others in his community no longer had jobs. These are not the people we think of when we sling insults around about Trump supporters.

One of our problems at Houghton is that we don’t have much interaction with the folks in our extended community. We are a city on the hill, so far removed that we can’t see the hurting people who live at the bottom. On the news, we see a man with a beer belly and a trucker hat hurling racist insults in the name of Trump, but we don’t see the moderates, the people who are just trying to survive in the only way they know how. My challenge and my hope is that you would go into our community and actually listen to these people, without defensiveness or excuses. If you can’t do that, I understand, but please: stop asking how Trump was elected and start trying to understand those who elected him.★

Rachel is a senior writing major.

Effectively Educating DeVos



MICHAEL SIEVERS

JUSTIN BULLARD

After the most narrow victory in U.S. history with the votes 50-51, Betsy DeVos was voted into the position of United States Secretary of Education. Since she was first nominated, there has been a large population of people who have been worried about the possible effects DeVos' policies and lack of experience may have on our System of Education.

A couple weeks ago, a protest occurred against DeVos at a D.C. public school, which involved protesters denying her access to the building. As an educator, I don't believe she's qualified for the position and I disagree with many of the policies she plans to implement. However, denying DeVos access to public schools will only cause more damage to our public school system. How do we protest the actions of someone who works so closely with our children without creating other issues and halting productivity in our schools? How do we allow our voices to be heard, without our words being at cost to educational professionals, parents, and students? Recently, protesters have handled the situation rather poorly. We need to make it our goal to make DeVos hear our voices without damaging the day to day operations of our schools. The main concern with DeVos is her focus on privatizing education and her perceived anti-public school

agenda. DeVos believes teachers in charter and private schools are better equipped, and more likely, to lead the way toward better education. She believes charter and private schools provide education that will move away from standardized testing, and prepare students for the current job climate. These beliefs, however, are not based on empirical data. In fact, the U.S. Government site for education states, "Today, high school graduation rates are at all-time highs. Dropout rates are at historic lows. And more students are going to college than ever before." DeVos seeks to take tax payer money from public schools by investing in voucher programs. This process involves taking both a student and tax money which would've gone to a public school, and instead places them in a private school, leading to an increase

in underfunded public schools. This presents a larger problem as the success of public schools has been shown to have a direct correlation to their funding. If a school cannot buy supplies or afford arts and music programs, they are less likely to succeed. If DeVos gets her way, we will see more public schools underperforming to the extent that DeVos claims they are. Across the country, people are worried that public education will not receive the necessary funding and legislative focus it deserves, and so desperately needs. We need to speak out against her initiative to privatize and funnel money away from public schools in a more productive way. We need to ensure that DeVos spends more time in public schools, not less. We need to write letters, make statuses, and talk about what she's doing. Increasing awareness of her actions while encouraging her to spend more time in public schools, not keeping her out of them. Public schools are exactly

where DeVos needs to be right now. It's only when she gets in those buildings that she will begin to see the great work public school teachers and other education personnel are doing every day to prepare our students for the future. Discouraging her from entering public schools will only prevent the prosperity of the public school system, and the children being taught in it. Additionally, this will discourage DeVos from learning about public schools, which is detrimental to the public school system. Lastly, we need to find places to make our voices heard in places that aren't schools. Our schools should be respected as institutes of learning and we shouldn't seek to slow down the goings on at any school with protests. Protest at your town halls, not at our children's schools.★
Justin graduated in 2016 with a degree in inclusive adolescence education.

“We need to make it our goal to make DeVos hear our voices without damaging the day to day operations of our schools.”



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



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Artist of the Week

Rachel Rava
//senior studio art major



MICHAEL SIEVERS



“ Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”
- Thomas Merton

Titles & Media

clockwise descending, all oil

- Different Moments
- Canning Days
- Peeps
- Scene
- Untitled

