

THE MUSIC LOUNGE |
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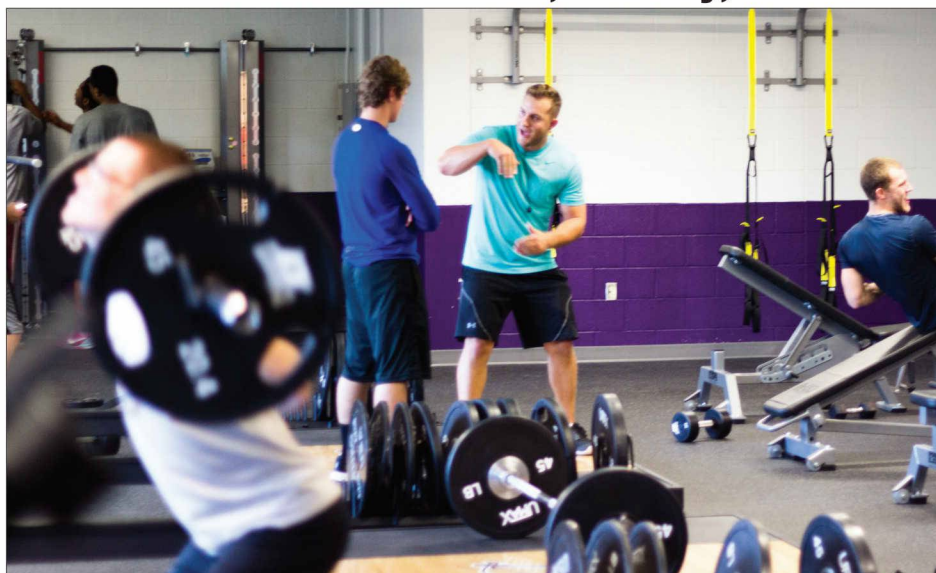
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New KPFH and NPEC Operating Hours Inconvenient for Students, Faculty, and Staff



Students utilizing the weight room in the Kerr-Pegula Field House.

ANTHONY BURDO

MARY CRONIN

With the opening of the new Kerr-Pegula Field House (KPFH), complete with workout facilities accessible to students and faculty, it was anticipated traffic at the Nielsen Physical Education Center (NPEC) would be significantly reduced. However, many within the Houghton community are still unhappy.

The new hours of operation of both the KPFH and the NPEC have become an inconvenience for students, faculty, and staff. The problem, for many, is caused by the later opening times of both fitness centers not opening its doors

until 8 a.m. The result of the changed times are the students, faculty, and staff who typically exercised in the early morning, having difficulty finding time to workout or are unable to workout altogether.

Melissa Bell, a sophomore and thrower for Houghton's track and field team, has had difficulty juggling studies and preseason workouts with the KPFH hours. Bell said, in general, the KPFH weight room isn't open long enough. "It is only open for four hours out of the day," she said. "It gets really crowded in the afternoon, when I usually go to lift."

"Athletes need to get into the facilities, and everyone has busy schedules. Early morn-

ing hours would be helpful." She said, "I don't like getting up early, but if either building were open at 6 a.m., I would go do 6 a.m. lifts to have more time for other things during the day and avoid the rush."

Faculty and staff members are also frustrated with this situation. Brian Webb, the college's sustainability coordinator and intercultural student programs coordinator, expressed his frustrations with the new operating hours. Webb, a husband and father of young children, works 3 jobs and is currently enrolled in graduate school at Harvard

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Make a Difference Day Improves Allegany County

SAVANNAH DOVIK

Last Saturday, October 25th, Houghton College, along with Alfred State and Alfred University, participated in Celebrate Service Celebrate Allegany, a day for students to volunteer their time to give back to the community.

This was the third year of joint participation for the three schools, all located in Allegany County. The day is also set to run parallel to Make A Difference Day, the country's largest national day of service.

The day started at 8:30 a.m., with projects that ranged from raking leaves, working

at the Houghton Retirement home, trail maintenance in the county parks, cleanup on Fillmore's little league field, cleaning and landscaping a cemetery, and more.

"I think Make A Difference Day is an opportunity to open the door for future relationships that Students can build with the community," said Katharine Labrecque, Student Government Association (SGA) President and senior. Labrecque worked along side Phyllis Gaerte, Marshall Green, and Jason Stephens to organize student involvement and to plan the student level events.

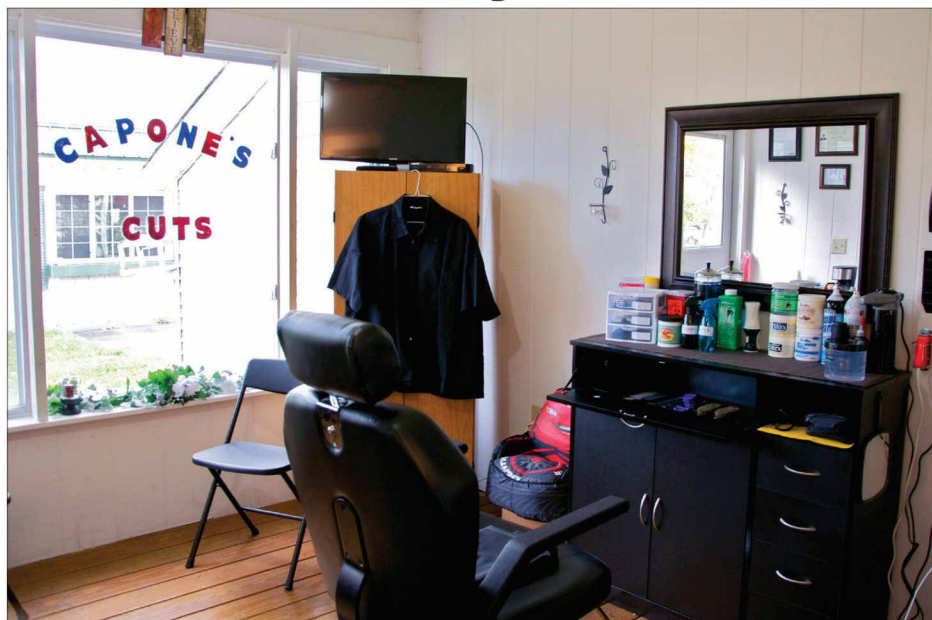
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TRAVIS TROTMAN

Houghton students working on Make A Difference Day.

New York City Barber Comes to Houghton



The inside of Capones Cuts, located inside of Buddy's Place on Route 19 in Houghton, New York.

HATTIE BURGHER

HATTIE BURGHER

MJ Ganci left behind her family, partner, and home in Queens, New York when she came to Houghton in February to pursue her dream. That dream would eventually become "Capones Cuts", a barbershop located inside Buddy's Place on Route 19.

On annual visits to see a friend in Alleghany County, multiple people approached Ganci asking her for a haircut. That's when she decided she needed to introduce the New York City style to Western New York. "I bring style, designs, and I know what is in right now," she said.

Along with that distinct

city style, Ganci uses hair tools that "no other barbershop has within a 30 mile radius." Another aspect Ganci wants to bring is comfort to those who come to her shop. "I want to make my shop as a second home for people and to provide a homey atmosphere," said Ganci. To help create an inviting atmosphere, she has a sign-in book in the corner of her shop where customers can put in their information so she can send them items such as Christmas cards.

Ganci's business has already attracted many of Houghton College's professors and students, who get a

See **CAPONES** page 3

WORLD // Boko Haram Crisis Continues in Nigeria



ANTHONY BURDO

LUKE LAUER

Killing and kidnapping by terrorist group continues in Nigeria, despite alleged ceasefire. The ceasefire, between the Nigerian Government and terrorist group Boko Haram, was officially reported October 17, but the group has not confirmed the

ceasefire and continue violent actions.

The Boko Haram is an Islamic group that was founded in 2002. Their full name, Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, translates to "people committed to the propagation of the Prophet's teachings and jihad" according to the Council for Foreign Relations (CFR). However, their more common name, Boko Haram, translates to "Western education is a sin." The group rejects Western concepts such as the big bang and evolution theory.

Boko Haram gunmen have been accused of abducting at least 30 boys and girls from the village of Mafa, northeast Nigerian state of Borno, last Friday and Saturday. A CNN article said heavily armed gunmen entered the village and abducted the children, as young as 11. It is speculated the children will be used as

foot soldiers. Local leaders complained the government military has done nothing to stop the raids.

CNN also reported several other raids. Sixty women and girls were taken from two Christian villages in the neighboring Adamawa state last week. Additionally, the group also raided the nearby village of Ndongo, killing 17 people, looting and burning the location.

Between 2002 and 2009 Boko Haram was not involved in trying to violently overthrow the government. However, in 2009 unrest broke out when group members refused to obey a motorbike helmet law. The government responded with strong police tactics and which involved brutality according to the CFR.

During the 2009 unrest, revolts broke out in the state of Bauchi and spread to the neighboring states of Borno,

Yobe, and Kano. The conflicts left eight hundred dead. As a result of the conflict, Boko Haram's leader, Mohammed Yusuf, was publicly executed. Since then, the unrest has spiraled out of control and the group has launched military operations to create an Islamic state.

In May 2013, the Nigerian Government assembled a joint task force and declared a state of emergency in three northern states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa. The force pushed Boko Haram out of the city, but violence continued in rural areas.

In 2013 experts began seeing influences from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, a Northern Africa terrorist group, in Boko Haram's operations, according to the CFR. They were officially declared a foreign terrorists organization by the U.S. State Department. Attacks have been targeted towards

civilians, including beheading truck drivers with chainsaws, killing travelers along northern roads, and then in September 2013, the killing of 65 students while they slept at an agricultural college in Yobe state. In April, the group bombed a bus stop in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, killing nearly one hundred people.

In April, 219 girls were kidnapped by the group, sparking international protest and provoking the hashtag on social media "bringbackourgirls." The fate of the kidnapped girls is still unknown. While the Nigerian government was negotiating and hoping for their release, recent violent events in spite of the ceasefire have rendered future of the abducted girls more uncertain. ★

Luke is a senior communication and art major

FITNESS from page 1

Extension School. For him, this means that the only time he can exercise is in the early morning. He said this is true for many faculty and staff. Webb stated any other time would mean "missing out on

time spent with my wife and children." He also stated "the free access to fitness facilities were a great benefit of working at Houghton College, but now this is of almost no value."

Athletic director, Harold "Skip" Lord said there are obvious "safety, liability and fi-

nancial issues involved" in the decision to cut the early morning hours in the Neilson and the KPFH. In response, Webb suggested Houghton consider having exercisers sign a waiver if they wish to work out in the morning, or perhaps the implementation of a "buddy-system." He stated during

the early morning hours there were "never proctors previously, and there were no major problems."

There may soon be action taken to accommodate the concerns raised by members of the community. According to Lord, the athletic department has been taking input

from the community, as requested in the initial all-campus e-mail. He stated, "There have been enough requests for morning hours that we have been looking for ways to fund coverage." Lord also said he planned to discuss possible solutions with the Vice President of Student Life, Rob Pool. ★

WORD ON THE STREET



"Overall I think it encourages cyberbullying. I think if you don't want to put a name to what you're saying, you probably shouldn't be saying it, regardless of what it is. If it's an encouragement, you should be bold enough to say it, and if it's something derogative or mean you really just shouldn't be saying that. I see why people like it, but overall I think it does more harm than good. I've already seen some relationships on campus that have been strained, so I've seen some evidence already that it's been very harmful."

-Matthew Dean, Senior



"I feel like I find out a lot of things that I don't want to know about people on Yik Yak. A lot of things are going on, so that's why I don't like it."

-Alyssa Strom, First Year



"I had Yik Yak for about a day and I went through it because everyone was talking about it, and then I was like 'Wow, this is really dumb. Everyone's posting stuff and they're either not doing it or being really stupid about it because they're posting it on Yik Yak.'"

-Brittany McLure, Senior



"I think Yik Yak has done some pretty amazing things. Although it can be a place of great negativity, it's also done a lot of great things for people. People who are struggling with things that they wouldn't normally tell other people, that they may feel self conscious about, they can just be open, feeling like 'I've had a really bad day' and people can comment and give them support. It can be really beneficial thing for some people who might be self conscious."

-Justin Bullard, Junior

What are your thoughts on the social medial app Yik Yak?

Watch Word on the Street on the Star's YouTube channel.

"I feel like it just loses every ounce of accountability that people have and no matter what you're saying you should always have accountability to what you're saying, whether it's good or whether it's bad. People should always have some sort of accountability to what they're saying and I don't think it's right that people can just say slanderous things towards anyone, even if it's positive. If it's good or bad you don't know who's saying it, and I don't think that's right."

-Sydney Schufelt, Sophomore

"I used to use Yik Yak, but I deleted it because I think it's foolish and I have better things to do with my life."

-Michael Sievers, First Year

"I think that Yik Yak can be funny, but at the same time it can be very offensive. It kind of depends on how people take it, but it can be used for good or for evil. You can put nice things like 'It's a beautiful day.' People can upvote that and it's great, but at the same time there can be foul language that is not appropriate"

-Elizabeth Houseman, Sophomore

"When I first got it, it was tame and there weren't any horrible post on there. I think just like anything else in life you kind of just take the good with the bad. I think I was really most fascinated by just really getting to know what people actually think and how people think, so I thought it was interesting."

-Simba Tawanda, Graduate Student



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The SGA worked as a form of public relations for the event, bringing awareness to students and faculty about the event and how to sign up. The organization also helped to fund part of transportation costs to and from the work sites.

“In order to round up interested students, I sent emails to athletic team captains, coaches, and campus clubs to see if on any level they wanted to get involved,” said Labrecque. It paid off because she estimated that about 150-175 students attended the service day, including the full involvement of Houghton’s baseball and softball teams.

The various locations and service events give each stu-

dent their own experience. Patrick Parson, junior and member of the baseball team, was a participant of Make A Difference Day. Parson viewed the day, not only as a way to help the community, but also as a way to work alongside his teammates. He said his greatest experience from participating in the service day was “the relationship I had with my team.” He went on to say, “There is undoubtedly something inherently special about serving along side others, and my teammates really taught me a lot about life that day.”

Apart from student relationships, the true reason for Make A Difference Day is reaching out to the community. The Make a Different Day website states that the day is meant for the nation to unite under one mission: “to im-

prove the lives of others.”

Kevin Cassar, a senior, was a third year participant of Make A Difference Day. “Every year it gets better,” said Cassar. He then commented on the people he served saying, “the community members of Allegany really appreciate everything that we did. They always have responded in a positive, very grateful way.”

Overall, Make A Difference Day was full of giving and gratitude. “It exposes them [students] to the various service opportunities that they can pursue long-term. It also allows residents throughout the county to meet students and learn about the college,” said Labrecque. “Even more importantly, it’s an opportunity to be a light, and to actively live out our faith through service.”★



Student on a tractor during Make a Difference Day.

KASEY CANNISTER



PHYLLIS GAERTE

Professor Douglas Gaerte getting his hair cut at Capones Cuts.

CAPONES from page 1

discount when they present their student ID. “Her design skills are amazing and the passion she has for her work really shows how much she loves her job,” said senior, Enrico Sukhdeo. Sukhdeo, who wasn’t sure what to expect when he walked into Capones Cuts, was pleasantly surprised by Ganci’s skills. “I’ve gotten my hair cut from some very skilled barbers in the past and she is definitely in that category,” he said.

Douglas Gaerte, professor of communication, decided to go to Capones Cuts because he was too busy to go to Olean, where he had been getting his hair cut for more than fifteen years. He too, was satisfied with the results. Gaerte said, “She is fantastic. She was very attentive to the way I like my hair and took her time to learn my preferences.” Both Gaerte and Sukhdeo plan on seeing Ganci again the next time they need haircuts.

Attempting to start her own business, Ganci faced some dif-

ficulties along the way. “I went to at least ten different places in Fillmore, Cuba, Belfast; and no one wanted to rent me space,” said Ganci. Just when she felt like nothing was going to work out, Ganci drove down Route 19 and saw a rental space sign at Buddy’s Place. “I just ran in there hoping to get something, and I’ve never felt so welcomed,” she said referring to the other businesses that occupy the building. “I believe in God, and I believe He brought me here for a reason.”

She puts an emphasis on people pursuing their dreams. “If you have passion you can do anything,” she said. “I am forty-one, so it’s never too late to live your dream. If I can do it, then you can do it.”

Even though Ganci recognizes Houghton and Queens are on opposite ends of the spectrum, she doesn’t deem that as an excuse to not bring quality of service to the area. She said, “It’s not a million dollar place, but I will make you feel like a million bucks.”★

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The Music Lounge: Creating a Creative Space Downtown



The doorfront of The Music Lounge, located off Route 19, a few doors down from Three Bums in downtown Houghton.

LUKE LAUER

LUKE LAUER

Once a shoe repair shop, then a Mobil gas station and car garage, this enduring building located on Route 19 in downtown Houghton has a new role — it has been repurposed into a into a creative space for local musicians. The Van Name family, from Dalton, NY started the musical venue three years ago, which they are calling “The Music Lounge.”

The Van Names obtained the location, within walking distance, a few doors down from Three Bums, from Dawn Van Name’s father several years ago. Wanting to do something with the space, they decided to turn the old garage into a place for musicians to come play and audiences to come listen.

When the Van Names first acquired the garage, the inside was filled with typical garage items, such as a car lift and a giant air compressor. They spent the last three years clearing out and renovating the space to make it useable for concerts, jam sessions, and workshops. They have added a stage, lights, some cozy furniture, and a fridge to serve drinks. They have also incorporated some of the old knick-knacks from the garage into decorations for the space, such as a vintage wooden rotary telephone and faded “posted” sign.

“The Music Lounge” has had several open mic nights since opening three years ago, said Johnny, Dawn’s son. Each event attracted about 10 to 15 attendees and some up to 20. They have had Houghton students and other musicians from across western New York come down to perform.

Benjamin and Jonathan Yuly, juniors, went to the venue twice their first year as students. Benjamin Yuly said he went the opening weekend to check it out and they were invited back to play. They went back a weekend later to “jam” with the the Van Name family at “The Music Lounge.” According to Yuly, the space has the typical feel that is common in most music lounges.

The family does music recordings in the lounge for local solo artists and bands. They want to keep a live feel and energy with the music they record. Johnny said, “Everything’s really over-produced nowadays, and I just want to get back to the live recordings. You know, still have it studio quality, but have the live feel.” The Van Names have already done recordings for local artists from the local area, including Cuba and Rochester. He said he is interested in getting more folk and acoustic artists in for live recordings.

Due to feedback from Houghton students expressing interest in jazz and other genres, Dawn would like to have various themed nights. Johnny suggested, “Different music like 80s, jazz and blues, and maybe a funk night would be cool.”

As another aspect of the business, Johnny makes hand-made custom basses and guitars. He showed the bass he is working on right now for his friend — a Bigfoot design, with three toes, wood burned and hand-carved into the body. He hopes after finishing the “Bigfoot” bass guitar to move on to an acoustic guitar and even repair drum sets. Dawn wants the venue to be somewhere close for people to go for musical repairs.

Many people that have

come to the lounge have stopped by on their way to the KOA campsite or Rushford Lake, Dawn said. She wishes to further network with people from out of state, New Yorkers from other parts coming to Rushford Lake, and the local population. She said, “We don’t want to be just one frame of thinking. We are trying to network out to everybody.”

One struggle, Dawn noted, has been scheduling. Many local musicians work and cannot get out on Friday nights, while others cannot do Saturday because they are busy running errands. Johnny also added that renovations have been another road block in the progress, but they are coming along.

Another problem the the lounge faced is that many students do not even know of the lounge’s existence. Yuly suggests there is a lot of potential in student interest and points out very little is known about the venue on campus. Sarah Slater, senior, said, “I have been here for three and a half years, plus a summer, I

didn’t know about this.” Molly Freihoffer, senior, similarly did not know of “The Music Lounge.”

Dawn and Johnny said a specific genre they want to especially support are the local, original music artists. Dawn noted that it is exceedingly hard for them to get local venues and almost impossible to get paid for their time. Johnny said it is unfair to them to play solely for exposure and wants to help support them any way he and his family can.

Yuly believes there is a very active amateur and professional community of musicians in Allegany County because of local school teachers, churches, and the Greatbatch School of Music, as well as Alfred State and Alfred University. He believes all these groups could benefit from this type of venue.

In the future, Dawn and Johnny hope to start a summer community concert series with various musical artists outside, with snacks and drinks to create a fun environment. Johnny also wants to eventually create an online radio station to showcase local musicians from the Western New York area to further the support of original music.

Dawn said there are currently no planned events this semester, but added they are “open to helping students or anybody who has original music.” They want to be a supportive and creative place where students and community members can go to perform, practice, and record. They are open to any suggestions and possibilities for the future of “The Music Lounge.” ★

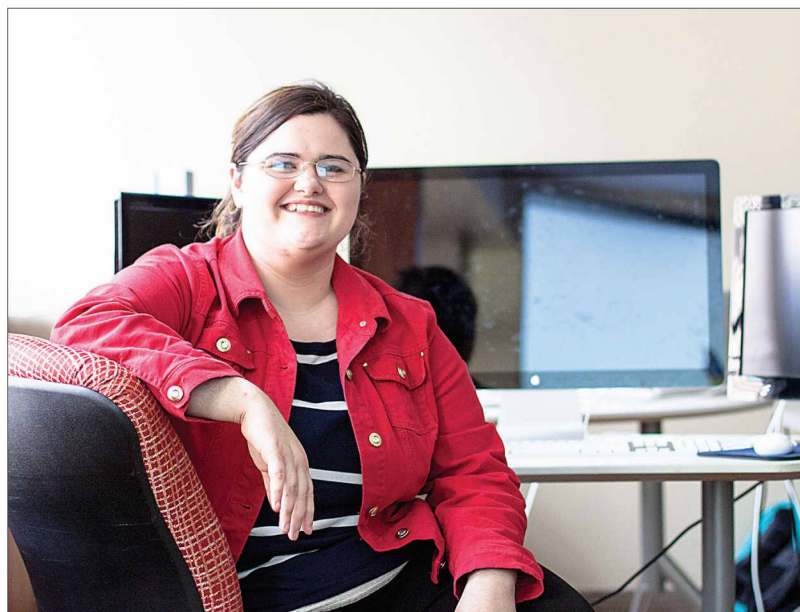
October 31, 2014 Sudoku

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WEBSUDOKU.COM



Recent Graduates Return as Faculty Members



Professor Murphy '11 in the digital media lab in Chamberlain Center.

LUKE LAUER



Professor Hixson '10 in the Paine Center for the Sciences.

ANTHONY BURDO

BETHANY CHESEBRO

Recent Houghton graduates Madison Murphy and Brett Hixson have Facebook to thank for their newly hired professor positions. Murphy, a 2011 graduate, and Hixson, a 2010 graduate, were alerted by current Houghton professors on Facebook of positions in their fields that became available.

After graduating with a degree in Communication, Madison Murphy went to Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) in Georgia and earned a master's degree in Computer Animation with a concentration in 3D Computer Character Animation. Realizing the range of possibilities her field offered, Murphy attended SCAD knowing that she wanted to teach at a small school.

Murphy got this opportunity earlier this year when

she found out Professor David Huth, the current professor of media arts and visual communications, was taking a sabbatical. "It was a Facebook message that sort of kicked it off," Murphy said, "Professor Huth asked, 'Would you mind coming back for a year?' Then it got a little more professional from there." Huth will return next fall and Murphy's position will no longer be available but she would welcome the opportunity to stay. "Would I like to [stay]?" asked Murphy, "Sure, I love it here. I think everything this department is doing is fantastic. I think it's producing awesome students." Since her current position will end, Murphy decided she will either look for another teaching job at a place like Houghton or for work in the industry of computer animation.

While a student at Houghton, Murphy was a Teaching Assistant (TA) and very involved in the communication

department, so the teaching aspect of her job was a swift transition from student to professor. However, some aspects caused for a more difficult transition. For example, instead of being all around campus like she was used to as a student, she now spends a great amount of time in the building where her office is located. The most prominent difference, Murphy said, were the "little things" like "walking into the cafeteria and noticing that they switched all the chairs around, or that the NERF club is now officially a student-recognized activity." Murphy also describes the ups and downs of eating in the cafeteria and mentions she doesn't eat in the cafeteria as much, but complains because she doesn't get to "hear as much of the buzz".

Also new to Houghton is Brett Hixson who graduated with a degree in Biology before moving to Boston in 2011.

Hixson received a master's degree of public health in international health from Boston University. After graduating she traveled to Cap Haitien, Haiti to work for a non-profit organization, strengthening the medical supply chain of the public Haitian hospitals. When that project finished she moved back to Boston and worked at a coffee shop until hearing from Houghton.

Hixson was Facebook friends with the previous genetics professor, Matthew Pelletier, and saw that he was leaving Houghton. Shortly after she received an email from the biology department encouraging her to apply and after applying Hixson recalls, "Within a week, I flew out to teach a sample lecture and interview." Less than two weeks later she got the job.

Hixson describes her first few months at Houghton as a "through-the-looking-glass" experience. She said "I had

moments in faculty meetings and division meetings and department meetings - we have a lot of meetings - where I felt a keen sense of absurdity. Not that the meetings were absurd, just the idea that I belonged in them." The teaching itself brought more comfort, as Hixson had been a TA and tutor while a student at Houghton. She does admit, however, "Lecturing a class of fifty-six in Schaller is quite different than sitting down with one or two students to drill them on the finer points of a fetal pig anatomy or the polymerase chain reaction."

Both Murphy and Hixson shared their gratitude for the opportunity to be back at Houghton and felt privileged to be able to continue their experiences at the college. As Hixson said, "I do remember day-dreaming about what it would be like to come back some day and teach at Houghton..." ★

The Role of Social Media Outlets at Houghton

ALEX FISHER

"Students have a lot of influence on what works and what doesn't work when it comes to social media at Houghton," said Amy Tetta, Development and Communication Specialist. "Current students bring a certain aspect to social media at Houghton that I can't provide. When students go on fieldtrips or have class experiences that I am not able to see, take a photo, and then upload it to Instagram, it gives prospective students a way to see what life is really like at Houghton."

With the multiple social media outlets that Houghton College has, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and a Pinterest page, alumni, students, faculty, and prospective students are able to connect with each other from all over the world. Tetta said, "Social media is al-

lowing students to have a voice in the community. I am always looking for fun photos that we can put on our Facebook page or Instagram of a student's perspective on dorm life, the dining hall, and just everyday life at Houghton." Senior social media intern, Meagan Hummel, said, "Technology is becoming more and more prevalent in society. Prospective and current students use social media all of the time."

While social media allows for current students and alumni to stay up-to-date on upcoming events that are happening on campus, social media plays a role in drawing prospective students to Houghton. As an intern, Hummel manages the Instagram page and said, "it is more than just showing them [prospective students] the nature and what Houghton looks like, it is showing them what it is like to be a student. Things like SPOT, Chapel, concerts, art gallery open-

ings, sporting events that make Houghton more appealing". Felicia Rynzowski, a first-year student, said that as a prospective student, she noticed many of these student events held on campus through Facebook. "I like that Houghton posted things that students were involved in," said Rynzowski. Alanna Paris, also a first-year student, added that prospective students can see what it is like to be a student on campus. In addition to the main Houghton Facebook page, other Houghton Facebook pages exist to connect accepted students and alumni from different graduating classes.

Social media, specifically Instagram, which is run primarily by Tetta's social media interns, allows prospective students to see what life is like at Houghton from the eyes of a current student. "It wasn't long ago that I was a prospective student. I have a pretty good idea

what students like to see and how they use social media so I am able to use my insight to help Amy," said Hummel.

Along with all of the helpful uses that social media plays in the Houghton community, there are ways that some posts or pictures can sometimes be taken in a negative way. "I always try to put myself in the place of a prospective student, current student, alumni, and faculty member to see if the post can be taken in a negative way," said Tetta. Because social media allows individuals to post whatever he or she would like to, "it can start great dialogue, but it can also start negative dialogue. That is when it needs to be closely monitored," said Hummel. Additionally, Tetta mentioned that social media is meant to be a conversation with people that might have different backgrounds and experiences than someone else might have.

"It's hard to sit back and watch an argument take place online. But Houghton is filled with a kind group of people that can sort out issues," said Tetta.

Social media plays a role in every student's life here at Houghton College. One of the ways that it influenced student's lives was last April during the One Day Giving Challenge. Social media was used throughout a majority of the day and made the giving challenge a success. The funds raised from that day were used to help current and prospective students with the scholarships and grants that they received this year.

By tagging Houghton College or using the hash tag "#houghtoncollege" you may possibly have your Facebook posts, tweets, or Instagrams reposted by Houghton College. "The students are our biggest asset," said Tetta, "They make Houghton what it is." ★

Enrollment and The Hail Mary Pass



ANTHONY BURDO

JOE GILLIGAN

A Vanderbilt University study concluded colleges that had recently closed had enrollments of fewer than one thousand students and endowments of under \$50 million. Many were religious institutions such as Bethany University in California. First year student enrollment drastically dropped - by 10% or more - at more than a quarter of U.S. private four-year colleges over the past two years, according to the Wall Street Journal. Higher education experts foresee a death spiral for small private schools due to an overreliance on tuition revenue and a scarcity of large endowments.

Houghton College has been affected by low enrollment over the past several years. Last year, Houghton missed their enrollment target and the administra-

tion enacted austerity measures such as staff layoffs, closing of floors in dorms, and cutbacks to underperforming academic and sports programs. Houghton has survived more than a century of wars, depressions, and social changes. The problems faced today are found within rapidly changing local and national demographics. As Western New York loses 1% of its population every two years and families move south, the possibility of a vibrant local enrollment diminishes. In addition, our winters make Houghton a tough sell to out-of-state students.

The national numbers are even more implacable. As high school graduating class size declines, those who graduate are deciding in larger numbers not to attend college. Private liberal arts schools continue to be dominated by white, female students. At open access colleges, which accept at least 80% of applicants, enrollment for African-Americans and Hispanics doubled in the past decade.

Religion in America is also changing, according to Pew Research. In 1955, our country was composed of 70% mainline Protestant faiths. Today, Protestants account for 50%. Catholics and non-denominational Christians are now up to 36%. Houghton College and Dean Michael Jordan have been very accepting of all Christian faiths, but Houghton should include our Christian diversity more when promoting the school.

The dawn of online education

also hurts enrollment. According to a Babson College survey, 32% of students nationally had enrolled in an online course. To add fuel to the fire, many liberal arts schools have simply priced themselves out of the market. Tuition costs have risen beyond the inflation rate and the ability to find a job to pay off debt has severely diminished due to a poor job environment.

Every problem has solutions and Houghton has responded with many positive initiatives to assist in this year's enrollment, which is up 10%, or about thirty students, from last year's numbers. The increase can be attributed to an agreement with Indiana Wesleyan to launch Houghton education online, a newly opened associate's degree program in Buffalo, the Loan Repayment Assistance Program, and an increased effort to attract foreign students in Hong Kong. These endeavors have moved the football down the field a few yards, but more students can be added at a low cost. Houghton would score a touchdown by using its best asset.

Through a generous gift by the Kerr-Pegula family, we have trumped nearly every college in the Northeast with our athletic facilities. Houghton has also spent a lot of money to complete the project. There has been a growing population of students who play sports at Houghton. According to Skip Lord, Houghton's Athletic Director, 25% of students participate in athletics, with a goal of a 33%. The ratio is excellent, but

consider elite academic schools such as Haverford College and Williams College with nearly 40% of their students playing varsity sports. Athletics attract students to come to campus, stay on campus, take up residence, and buy Houghton sports-themed apparel. Our teams recruit players at camps and give Houghton visibility. Houghton athletes establish recruiting pipelines from their former high schools. Coaches have a distinct advantage of selling the college over an admissions officer as athletes and their parents are easily swayed by the opportunity to play at the next level.

Recently, the addition of several new sports has helped enrollment. Of those additions, baseball has been the biggest success adding more than 30 students. Coach Brian Reitnour has recruited students from Colorado, Washington, New Jersey, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Canada and British Guyana. We could add more students by relaunching low-cost, official JV teams. Sports like soccer and baseball are ripe for JV programs and could add 50 students. Houghton is well known for its equestrian studies and runs one of best equestrian summer camps. Could not Houghton mirror the program and competition schedule of Centenary College of New Jersey, which packs ninety students on the equestrian team?

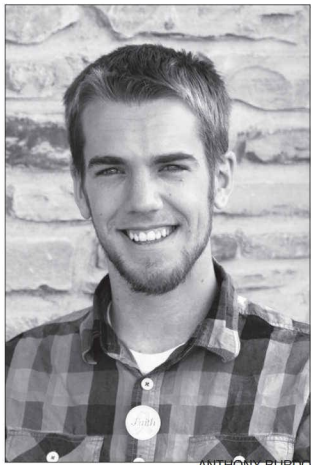
However, the enrollment touchdown pass for a small college is to add a football team with a promise of over one hun-

dred new, paying students. Since 2009, over 40 new college football programs have been added. Many programs have helped small private schools such as Hendrix College reverse the enrollment death spiral. Seton Hill also found enrollment in football. The school's president noted to The New York Times, "I could have started a spiffy new major of study, spent a lot of money on lab equipment and hired a few new high-powered professors; I might have gotten 25 more students for that. Instead, I started a football team, brought in hundreds of paying students, added a vibrant piece to our campus life and broadened our recognition factor." College football is a game changer for small schools. Besides just boosting enrollment it can eliminate low male ratios and attract new Christian minorities and ethnic, Catholic students that might not consider Houghton. Football can also add a 25 person cheerleader squad and a 60 student marching band to our vibrant music community.

In sum, Houghton doesn't have to be a small school casualty. We must acknowledge that demographic shifts and technological changes are moving rapidly and are beyond our control. With our athletic facilities, Houghton College has distinct advantage to reverse a national trend. How we react and adapt to those trends will be how our future is determined. ★

Joe is a sophomore business and accounting major.

Yik Yak: Why I Keep It



ANTHONY BURDO

MICHAEL CARPENTER

"You know what Twitter needs? Less accountability. That will improve things." This posted on Yik Yak by an anonymous poster using the pseudonym "Dean Michael Jordan."

These days, social networks seem to be springing out of the digital woodwork. Every web developer and app designer is trying to find the niche that is as-yet untouched. Some new social networks stick around well. Others do not. Eventually, most fade in popularity, becoming replaced with others that do the same thing, only better.

Yik Yak is an app that has,

so far, stuck around. For those unfamiliar with the name, allow me to explain. Yik Yak is a smartphone application that allows its users to post a short amount of text (200 characters or less), much like many other social networks. The main difference between Yik Yak and similar networks is its addition of anonymity. Those who post ("yak") to the app are completely anonymous, their words being presented without credit given to anyone. If a user so chooses, they can adopt a pseudonym to post under. However, anyone can adopt each other's pseudonyms or change names at any time, and so no true identity is revealed.

Without any sort of identification, Yik Yak needs another way to connect its users. It chooses proximity. Users see posts from people who are using the app nearby.

The danger comes from the pressure to write popular yaks.

Readers can then vote yaks up or down, helping them reach a status of popularity, or deleting them from the feed with an overwhelming negative vote. It is also possible to reply to yaks, and to have a conversation in

this way. The result for those of us who live in Houghton is a feed of thoughts, feelings, jokes, and complaints written and tailored by Houghton students, for Houghton students. And sorry for this disillusionment, but if you look through our feed, you might not like what you find.

When a given semester ends, students are afforded the opportunity to give anonymous feedback about their professors. I know I am not the only one who takes this opportunity to let out the feelings, good and bad, that I keep to myself throughout the semester. Yik Yak is a lot like these reviews. The danger comes from the pressure to write popular yaks. The Houghton feed brings up many more negative comments than I hear around campus, simply because - let's face it - we can all agree on what we dislike about

Houghton. You've heard it all before: the food is bad, college is hard, sleep is rare, and... people break the community covenant?

Yes, it's true, and it's upsetting. We have a "dark

side." I have seen posts on Yik Yak about things ranging from sexual frustration (no!), to seeking someone who will

If we never talk about, for example, sex, drugs, alcohol, or how and why we are hurting, there can never be solutions to these issues.

sell drugs (never!), to a recent, "Houghton, what is your favorite beer?" These are sad and, for some, shocking expressions of a group of college students who, *hello*, came to a *Christian* college. Where did they learn this evil, and why are they here?

Well, at least "they" are honest about it. That might seem like a small comfort, but I mean it. These things are real, and actually happen on a regular basis. If we never talk about, for example, sex, drugs, alcohol, or how and why we are hurting, there can never be solutions to these issues. Yik Yak has created a safe space to express it all honestly. Now, let's not confuse honesty with accuracy or authenticity. Yik Yak is

NOT a perfect representation of who we are. It's biased toward those who use smartphones, desire a place for anonymous communication, and aren't overly frustrated with what they read. But it is entirely made up of Houghton residents. No one else is posting in the Houghton feed. They can't.

So, then, what is the best response? Well, I'm going to keep my Yik Yak. I keep it because I don't need to hide from mere words, especially words that give me a greater understanding of those around me, and how to love them. And I know that I am salt and light (for the Bible tells me so), so I'm going to act like it. Our feed could always use a bit more positivity and a bit more love. Of course, Yik Yak is not my mission field, and needn't be yours, either. Most Houghton students are Christian already, and Yik Yak does not allow enough personal connection to evangelize. But I won't be posting anything that I wouldn't be proud to own up to. You shouldn't either. ★

Michael is a sophomore applied design and visual communication major.

Homosexuality and the Church | Part 2: Why ‘Being Gay’ Is Not a Sin



HOLLY CHAISSON

In my last article, “Homosexuality and the Church Part 1,” I addressed the issue of how the church should respond and treat the LGBTQ community. Changing behavior is not a particularly simple or easy task, especially when that attitude or behavior is rooted in centuries of dogma and tradition. In fact, church doctrine typically serves as the basis for action. This typically comes out in positive ways when the church takes it upon itself to care for the poor, feed the hungry, etc. However, when our doctrine says something intrinsically negative, our actions seem to

follow suit. The church has problems dealing with its congregations full of sinners. Grace and forgiveness are exceedingly hard to extend, and judgment is often cast instead. If Paul condemns the adulterer, so does the church. If Jesus condemns the Pharisee, the church condemns their modern day equivalent. Sin is a recurring problem, and yet it is an issue that we perhaps don’t fully understand. The common picture of sin that the church gives is characterized by specific actions: adultery, lying, murder, etc. However, reducing sin to mere actions misses the point of what sin is. It has to be more than breaking the rules. A more accurate understanding is that of sin as separation from God. With this definition of sin in mind, it gives us cause to reevaluate what is actually sin and what is not. Homosexuality, I will argue, is not the sin the church has believed it to be. Thus in adjusting her theology, the church will be able to change her behavior toward the LGBTQ community in

significant and lasting ways. Catholic priest and theologian James Alison, a gay man himself, calls himself an “educated amateur” when it comes to the topic of homosexuality. In his article *The Fulcrum of Discovery or: How the ‘Gay Thing’ is Good News for the Catholic Church*,

Historically the church has taken stances on social issues (racism, women’s rights) that she later must amend; homosexuality is simply the next item on this list.

Alison lays out his basic premise which is two-fold: first, “what we call ‘straight’ or ‘heterosexual’ is not the normative human condition,” humanity is not “intrinsically heterosexual,” and second, homosexuality is “not a vice or a sickness. It is simply a regularly occurring minority variant in the human species.” Alison rejects homosexuality as being any sort of psychological or physiological pathology, and

instead argues that it is a minority variant that regularly occurs, “independent of culture, habitat, religion, education, or customs.” The reality of “being gay” is lived in “an entirely culture-laden way” just like any other human reality, which is why, Alison argues, it has been often misinterpreted as being merely “a function of culture, psychology, religion or morality.” This is why the church has gotten historically “worked up” over the issue; if she simply saw it as something that is just there, not something wrong or something to fix, “being gay” would be a non-issue. Alison finds support for this claim and argues that there is no longer scientific evidence to reinforce the idea that homosexuality is inherently odd or wrong. It is merely an objectively true fact of being human that some individuals (between three and four percent across all cultures according to Alison) are attracted to members of their own sex. Surprise, humanity is more complex than we (the church

included) had originally thought. Historically the church has taken stances on social issues (racism, women’s rights) that she later must amend; homosexuality is simply the next item on this list. The church has new information at her disposal and it is her responsibility to make amends and reform not just her attitude and behavior, but her doctrine as well. Honestly, when the idea of “being gay” is given any amount of thought, it is hard to say why (aside from culturally dependent and misunderstood Biblical passages) it would be a sin. Why is being attracted to a member of your own sex such a bad thing? Shouldn’t what matters the most be love? Why should we care the context in which that happens if it is a healthy and safe one? The homosexuality that Paul talks about is not this; it concerned abusive relationships between older men and younger boys. This I can see being a sin. Two men or two women simply falling in love does not compute as sin for me, I agree wholeheartedly with Alison. If our image of God is so small that only heterosexuality is acceptable in his design of humanity, we have bigger worries than marriage equality. ★ *Holly is a junior religion major.*



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.

Correction: In the October 24, 2014 edition of The Houghton Star, Evan Anstey should have been credited for the writing of the article “Gillette Townhouse Floor: A Happy Medium.”

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO editor@houghtonstar.com

You can comment on articles online at www.houghtonstar.com



Artist of the Week

Alicia Taylor

//art professor

Alicia is a visual artist whose studio practice engages material as metaphor. She earned a BS in Studio Art, Printmaking at Roberts Wesleyan College and an MFA in Visual Studies at Visual Studies Workshop in association with SUNY Brockport. She currently lives in Western New York, where she is an Assistant Professor of Drawing and Print Media and Director of Exhibitions at Houghton College.

Titles & Media

Series: The Search
digital photographs, drawings, paintings, and installations.

Top to bottom

standing still on
moving ground

we saw them thaw

ten thousand
times ten

I'd been there before



ANTHONY BURDO

