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PRESIDENT LEWIS' FIRST SEMESTER IN REVIEW

JOSHUA CARPENTER ('24)
Regular Contributor

In the Fall semester of 2021, Houghton College welcomed Dr. Wayne D. Lewis, Jr. as its 6th President. Since then, Lewis' first semester has ended, with his second having just begun. Meanwhile, positive feedback on his presidential performance is flowing in from all over Houghton.

Micah Williams ('23) sat down with the STAR in an interview to discuss his first impressions of President Lewis, noting his appreciation for Lewis' frequent presence on campus, also adding that "It's nice to see the president of the school where they are just sitting in chapel and being there with us, or even just seeing him drive around campus and knowing that his presence is there..."



President Lewis at the Data & the NFL: Pro Talk event last semester.

COURTESY OF RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT

it's nice to just have his presence there."

Looking at President Lewis from a professional angle, Dr. Gaerte, a communication professor who has been teaching public speaking for more than 35 years, observed his inaugural address with positive re-

marks, referring to it as "outstanding". Gaerte also wrote that, "He struck an effective balance between honoring Houghton's long traditions and showing connections to past presidents like James Luckey, Stephen Paine, Dan Chamberlain, and Shirley

Mullen, and yet clearly articulating how he will continue to shape Houghton going forward in his own unique way. That can be a difficult balance for a new president - how do I respect the past and those who helped create this office before me yet while es-

tablishing my own vision for my presidency."

In search of a personal comment, The STAR reached out to President Lewis to ask him some questions to better understand his own thoughts and feelings towards his presidency and Houghton in general. He answered, "The Houghton College community, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni, have been incredibly welcoming, kind, and gracious to me and my family. We are thankful that God brought us to such a generous and Christ-centered community." President Lewis also commented on what he thinks are Houghton's greatest strengths, having said, "Houghton's greatest strengths are its people and its faith. I have never

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FEATURE: Student Council

SARAH BURTON ('23)
Regular Contributor

The Student Council is a vital and fundamental part of the student body at Houghton College. They are a collection of students that represent the various aspects of being a student at Houghton, such as a representative from athletics, academics, and each class, etc. In an interview, Cassie Cavell ('23), the Representative for the Class of 2023, echoed this statement, saying, "Student Council is a peer-elected group of students that represent the student body as a whole in all areas of life at Houghton."

According to the coordinator of the Student Council, AC Taylor, the



The office space for Student Council and CAB, located in the lower level of the Campus Center.

Student Council has a significant role in aiding all Houghton students to have a voice when it comes to events, conditions, and circumstances here. He remarked that "Student Council represents student concerns and opinions to the institution through councils, committees, and relationships with administrators."

The Student Council, once known as SGA, or Student Government Association, has observed a few changes in 2021, including their office space being renovated and a name change. While Cavell stated that "the office actually did not physically move," she did note that, "it just got remodeled and renamed over the

summer! The CEO's (chief executive officer or someone in a higher leadership role) new space features inviting glass doors on which our office hours are posted. We love the grand conference table as it incorporates our mission to hear every voice. There are also chairs for hanging out and chatting." This inviting and comfort-

able space can be found exactly where the SGA office used to be, for any students interested in voicing a concern or wanting to get in touch with any of the representatives or members of the Council.

Being a member, as any of them will tell you, is a rewarding and honorable position, meant to ensure all students at Houghton College feel connected to all the administration, faculty, and staff. Currently, there are no definite ways to run for a position, as the "Student Council is finalizing the election process and timeline," Taylor stated in the interview. However, a typical election process would look like gathering and submitting signatures on a petition and giving an election speech. Then, the students of Houghton College

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Meet the Newest Members of Our Staff!



Christian Welker

Opinions Editor

Christian is a Sophomore double majoring in History and Writing. In addition to working with the STAR he also works in the College Library and does tours for the Admissions Office. He loves writing, reading, coffee, and hanging out with friends. Christian is excited to work with the STAR and hopes to help make the newspaper the best it can be!



Mary Hannah Kennedy

Columns Editor

Mary Hannah Kennedy is a senior art major. Her primary interests include watercolor painting, calico cats, shockingly unflattering panoramic photography, and most (but not quite all) written memoirs.

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served at an institution with a more loyal and committed community. Our people love Houghton, and it shows... As well, the Houghton community's historic and continuing belief that God will faithfully provide re-

sources and direction to the college is a hallmark and tremendous strength of our community. I share in that longstanding faith belief. As long as we "Trust in the Lord with all [our] heart and lean not on [our] own understanding; in all [our] ways submit[ting]

to him, he will make [our] paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

With a presence welcomed by both students and faculty alike, President Lewis has shown Houghton that not only is he enjoying its people, but his presidency as well.★

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would vote for each member of the Student Council.

Cavell also commented on the election process and what an interested student should reflect on: "They should evaluate their current experience in leadership, communication skills, advocacy, and self-motivation." There are several tasks members are required to complete each week, including sharing feedback, utilizing office hours, and continuing projects; it is no task to be taken lightly.

Another member of the Student Council, Haley DeJager ('22), the Athletics Representative, stated, "Whether you have limited leadership experience or lots of it, I think the student council is a great opportunity to serve your fellow students! Be prepared to dedicate a couple of hours a week to various council and committee meetings. There's also a team atmosphere in which members collaborate on many projects, while still maintaining a personal agenda specific to an individual's role." Even when the tasks and expectations flow in regularly, the Student Council members work together to support each other and keep each other going. DeJager also stated, "Most importantly, I really enjoy the feeling of making a dif-

ference on our campus. Knowing you're making a difference and being able to see that difference come to life is a really great thing to experience." While it has many responsibilities, it is a respectable and significant position to have at Houghton College, and any student hesitating to campaign should head over to the newly renovated office space named the Campus Engagement Office, and speak with any of the members there.

Taylor encourages students who are interested in running to, "Go for it! The institution wants to know what students are thinking and feeling and the Student Council is the go-to structure." DeJager also stated, "Most importantly, I really enjoy the feeling of making a difference on our campus. Knowing you're making a difference and being able to see that difference come to life is a really great thing to experience." While it has many responsibilities, it is a respectable and significant position to have at Houghton College, and any student hesitating to campaign should head over to the newly renovated office space named the Campus Engagement Office, and speak with any of the members there.★

Off-Campus Studies



Have you been wanting to study abroad? Well, now's your chance!

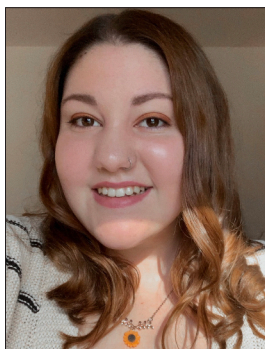
Explore the options that Houghton College offers.

Check out the Off-Campus Studies office (Lib 316)

Google: "Houghton Off-Campus Studies" to learn more!



Finding Yourself in a Distracted World



JACIE COOK ('22)

Distractions. In 2022 with social media, an abundance of things on your list to do, and the fear of shutdowns, distractions are unavoidable. I'll admit the first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is check my phone — it's a terrible and an addictive habit. I've heard many different versions of the same thing: if the first thing you do in the morning is look at your phone, you're doomed. Okay, so that's not exactly what I've heard, but the essence of what I've heard was that it was a horrible habit

and it should be done away with immediately. But what should you do to replace that habit?

In one of my classes this semester, fellow classmate Sarah Halvorson mentioned how they started enjoying a cup of coffee in the mornings with a new activity: staring at their wall. Now to some, that may seem ridiculous. There's so much to get done! How could one possibly waste time and stare at a blank wall, letting their thoughts take over them? My professor, filled with wisdom and always knowing what to say, replied to my

"So often we might find ourselves wrapped up in expectations; ones we have placed on us from jobs, parents, professors, friends, families, significant others, and even ones we place on ourselves."

about narrative and personal essays and I found myself struck with this earth-shattering new thought process: I just have to exist. That's all I need to do in order to be considered a human being. How refreshing! So often we might find ourselves wrapped up in expectations; ones we

ist? The time to sit in our rooms and stare at blank walls, to roam around with no destination, to let our minds run wild in all the thoughts we avoid during the day-to-day, too concerned with what we have to do.

Am I saying you have to look at your wall every morning? Nope. But I am suggesting you find time in your day to simply exist — or even find time in your week to start, because this isn't something that comes naturally to us anymore and might take some training. Forget about the to-do lists, forget about the obligations and responsibilities. Of course, you can't forget about those things forever, but the key to this is to find the balance that works for you and for your life. Maybe it seems impossible for you to fit existing into your full schedule, and if you're sitting here reading this article and finding yourself in that position, then this is exactly the thing you need to hear. When I look back on the past

four years here at Houghton, I don't remember every homework assignment I had, I don't remember every shift I was scheduled or every thing I checked off my checked list. I remember the moments I truly enjoyed. I remember taking a break from homework to go get Chinese food with a friend, I remember sitting in Java for a few hours and not getting anything done, but simply enjoying the atmosphere. That is what I encourage everyone here at college to do. Take time to enjoy every day, even if that means you stay up five minutes more just to give yourself that time. I can't promise it will solve all of your problems, I can't even promise it will make you happier, but I can promise that your body needs those breaks. If you take anything from this article, I hope it's this truth: you are more than a human doer. You are a human being. So take the time to just be.★

"Take time to enjoy every day, even if that means you stay up five minutes more just to give yourself that time."

classmate with "Ah yes, we are human beings, not human doings."

And so there I was, in the middle of a class that was supposed to be

have placed on us from jobs, parents, professors, friends, families, significant others, and even ones we place on ourselves. How do we find the time to just ex-

Have an opinion
you want to share?

CONTACT
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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
star@houghton.edu

Jacie is a senior majoring in writing with minors in Psychology and Photography. Her favorite things in the world are rainy days, iced coffee, a good Spotify playlist, and books!



The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton College since its inception. This is 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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In Review

The Suicide Squad (2021)

CALEB TIEDEMANN ('25)

The Suicide Squad is a movie that I fell deeply in love with. Similar to Free Guy, this was a movie that I watched multiple times before coming to college. Because of its timely release, it became a comfort movie to me. Within the first month of release, I had watched the movie, in its entirety, five times. In 2018, Guardians of the Galaxy director, James Gunn, was fired from Marvel for some decade-old raunchy and offensive tweets. Due to the failing efforts from DC Comics and Warner Bros. in kickstarting their own superhero universe, they were eager to employ the talents of someone who had experience and knowledge on the subject. They hired Gunn to direct the film, and I gained one of my favorite DCEU films in recent memory and possibly my favorite movie of this year.

The 2021 film was a pleasant surprise for me. The plot centers around the multiple supervillains of the DCEU universe that make up the Suicide Squad. Despite there being a lot of contenders, only a couple of villains get fleshed out enough to be considered main characters. Those being, Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), Bloodsport (Idris Elba), Peacemaker (John Cena), Ratcatcher 2 (Daniela Melchior), Rick Flag (Joel Kinnaman), Polka-Dot Man (David Dastmalchian), and King Shark (Sylvester Stallone). This group is tasked by Amanda Waller (Viola Davis) to infiltrate the enemy-ridden island of Corto Maltese and find The Thinker (Peter Capaldi), the evil scientist in charge of the mysterious "Project Starfish."

There are a lot of amazing details to go over in this movie. Namely, the characters. The ones that survive get backstory and development that gets tied up into a nice character arc. It does not matter if this is their first on-screen adaptation/appearance or if they have been witnessed by an audience before. Each of these characters gets time to shine and be amazing. Gunn goes as far as to humanize each and every villain, too. He does not let you see these characters for their bad deeds but how the

bad deeds of others or loved ones caused them to become what they are today. Some have never known anything different than this criminal life. I believe a movie is only as good as its characters and because I love these characters, I believe that should testify to the skill of Gunn's writing.

One of the staples of director James Gunn is his soundtrack musical choices, and the wild humor implemented into his superhero films. With that said, the jokes in this movie are genuinely hilarious. Gunn's sass and unique charm shine through each and every character and situation. It's because of this humor that the movie does not take itself seriously. It fully acknowledges its comic-book origins and takes it to heart, going wild with deaths, violence, gore, characters, and situations. As mentioned, the soundtrack is remarkable! Each song fits so perfectly in the scene where they are used. From Grandson's Rain to K.Flay's Can't Sleep, this movie can boast an amazing soundtrack.

In terms of personal favorites, Ratcatcher 2 was amazing. Also, Rick Flag, whose character was made so much better throughout this film. Having Starro as the main villain was a plot point that I thought was extremely stupid, but just silly enough for Gunn to pull off. Fortunately, he did it magnificently. I absolutely loved the opening and final battle scenes. Once I got over the shock of the opening, it helped me mentally prepare for this cinematic rollercoaster.

David Ayer's 2016 Suicide Squad was quite the flop since the movie was hastily written, causing it to be disjointed, and had terrible special effects and one-dimensional characters. Luckily, this new movie pushes that degradation far from our minds by giving us a soft reboot and introducing better characters and stories to the DCEU. I highly recommend this movie, despite its odd appearance. It has a heart and should provide everyone with a good time.

Final Grade: AAbout the Artist

Zach McKay is a senior majoring in math and art. He primarily paints with oil or watercolor and is highly influenced by children's art. He especially likes painting cats, trees, and images inspired by his home state of Washington.



Artist of the Week

Zach McKay

