

HOUGHTON

# Milieu



"...TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A WOOD, AND I—  
I TOOK THE ONE LESS TRAVELED BY,  
AND THAT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE."

—Robert Frost

HOUGHTON COLLEGE • FALL 2003





*John Brittain is the dean of the chapel, a position new this year. He comes from Evansville (Ind.) University, where he had served in a similar position for the past 16 years. For more on Dr. Brittain, see page 6.*

## Uniting knowledge and piety

*By John Brittain, dean of the chapel*

I ACCEPTED CHRIST as my savior at an early age and often thought of the ministry as a way of life. However, the events of two dates—October 4, 1957, and May 25, 1961—altered my life. The first was when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, and the space race was on. The second was the date on which President John F. Kennedy told a joint session of congress, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth.” The race to the moon was in high gear.

Like many others, I shifted my focus and went off to college on a full scholarship to major in chemistry and minor in astronomy. Fortunately, the university I at-

*“I have received the gift of spiritual nurture and mentoring...it is a privilege and a responsibility to continue to give those gifts to others at Houghton.”*

tended took spiritual growth and Christian worship seriously and provided opportunities for me to continue growing in my faith. Majoring in the sciences was a wonderful experience from which I have continually benefited, but as the apostle Paul reminds us, our spiritual growth is the most important.

I feel blessed to be at Houghton College, which has a long heritage of, to paraphrase Charles Wesley, “uniting the two so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety.” I will be working to strengthen the already dynamic chapel services, which provide a spiritual core for the Houghton community. Bible study and other spiritual nurture groups abound on the Houghton campus, and it is my goal to ensure that a discipleship or accountability group is available for every student who desires one. Over the years my wife, Eileen, and I have had the privilege of leading mission teams to locations across the U.S. as well as to Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Russia. We hope to continue this activity with a cross-section of the Houghton student body.

I received the gift of spiritual nurture and mentoring during my undergraduate years; it is a privilege and a responsibility to continue to give those gifts to others at Houghton.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Woolsey, p. 17



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On the cover: The serene beauty of Letchworth State Park, photographed by Greg Bish '95, provided this issue's cover and feature illustrations. Robert Frost's poem, "The Road Not Taken," fits as a metaphor for delving into the topic of faith.

HOUGHTON **Milieu**

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

HOUGHTON Milieu is the magazine of Houghton College, One Willard Avenue, Houghton, NY 14744-0128. HOUGHTON Milieu is published for alumni and friends of the college three times yearly: February, June, and October.

[www.houghton.edu](http://www.houghton.edu)



**HOUGHTON**  
A Christian College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



## Calendar

### November

- 3 Gallery Talk
- 6-8 Fall drama production/  
dinner theater
- 10 Encounter Day  
(visit opportunity for  
prospective students)
- 13-15 Shakespeare play
- 17 Faculty recital: Ed Wadin
- 22 Philharmonia concert
- 25-29 Thanksgiving break
- 30 Residence halls re-open

### December

- 1 Classes resume
- 3 Jazz ensemble concert
- 3 Red Cross blood drive
- 4-6 Yuletide celebration
- 12 Philharmonic Winds  
concert
- 13 Reading Day
- 15-19 Final exams
- 19-Jan. 10  
Residence halls closed

### January

- 11 Classes resume
- 16 Gallery Talk
- 18-20 Christian Life  
Emphasis Week
- 19 Encounter Day
- 26 Faculty recital:  
Judy Congdon
- 30-31 First-Year Honors weekend

### February

- 6-7 First-Year Honors weekend
- 9 Faculty recital:  
Kelley Hijleh
- 14 Symphonic Winds  
Jazz concert
- 17 Encounter Day
- 20-27 February break  
College choir tour

*If you have questions about events at Houghton, please call the Public Relations Office at 585.567.9556. For a complete sports schedule, go to [www.houghton.edu/sports](http://www.houghton.edu/sports).*

Dear Editor:

Reading your article, "Matches Made in Houghton," made us think about our match of 38 years. Barry and I met in a boring missions class that became very interesting! It was my senior year, his junior. We got married August 21, 1965. Barry is pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Millersville, Pa., and I'm teaching. We are grateful to my pastor who said, "Go to Houghton; you'll be sure to find a husband." Bless him for his wise advice.

Barry and Rona (Sandercock '65)  
Wolfe '64  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the summer 2003 *Milieu* very much—especially to see my distant cousin, Carol (Zimmerman '78) Fuller, and her family featured in the article written by Tim Fuller '79—whom I have never met! Carol was just a young child when I saw her last. My sister, Anneliese Ruth, was named after Carol's mother, Ruth (Krein '50) Zimmerman. I have wanted to get in touch with Carol, knowing that she was at Houghton, but did not know her married name. What a pleasure to see her and her family!

Houghton has always put out such beautiful publications—a wonderful reminder of the beauty and fine Christian atmosphere of the school.

Thank you,  
Ken & Trudy (Krein '73) Rodgers '71  
Merritt Island, Florida

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed the feature ("This Place is Home") on Rachel and Naomi Spurrier in the summer *Milieu*. An interesting postscript to their story is the fact that after having lived there as infants in the 1980s, both are returning to Waldorf for their junior years, where they will live in community with around a dozen other

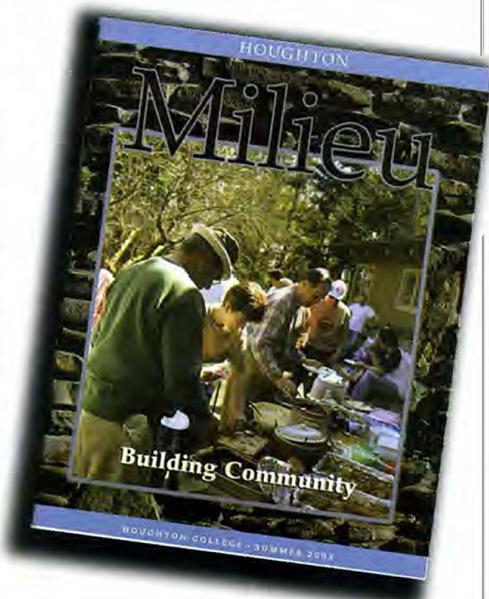
women equally committed to living together in an environment uniquely committed to integrating living and learning — Houghton at its best.

Chris Stewart, Houghton College  
Prof. of Philosophy and  
Waldorf House advisor

Dear Editor:

The last issue of *Milieu* was delightful. I read it in one sitting. It was a welcome change to have the "news" about alumni.

Louise Gingrich  
Lake Wales, Florida





# Houghton welcomes Gloria Gaither and friends

GOSPEL SONGWRITER AND singer Gloria Gaither and three of her friends—including Joy (Titus '60) MacKenzie—presented a seminar on friendship at Houghton September 13. Over 600 women attended the event. During their Houghton visit, Gaither and MacKenzie, as well as Sue Buchanan and Peggy Bensen, confessed about life's ups and downs and God's faithfulness. They shared stories of their lives and friendship for each other from the days of roller skates and baby doll carriages, through years of gain and loss, to a sense of satisfaction that comes with maturity.

Gaither has recorded more than 60 albums and written more than 600 songs with her husband, Bill—including such gospel classics as "Because He Lives," "Something About that Name," and "Something Beautiful." Their honors include more than 20 Dove Awards, four Grammys, the Gospel Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Songwriters of the Century Award from the American Society of Composers Authors & Publishers (ASCAP). She recently received the Mark Hatfield Award for demonstrating "uncommon leadership that reflects the values of Christian higher education" from the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU).

MacKenzie taught in elementary school, high school, and college. She's written more than 40 books, consulted with educators around the country, and served as vice president of an educational publishing company. She is chairman of the English Department at Christ Presbyterian Academy (Nashville, Tenn.) as well as a writer, speaker, and educational consultant. On Saturday, alumni director Jim Arthur '64 presented MacKenzie with a Houghton College scholar-servant towel.

Sue Buchanan is co-owner of Dynamic Media, Inc., a Nashville, Tenn., company, but she's best known for her ability to celebrate. In her book, *A Party Begins in the Heart*, Buchanan explains: "Celebrating...is embracing all that is delightful, fanciful, and imaginative." She even found reason to celebrate over 20 years ago when she was battling breast cancer. After surviving the disease she wrote her first book, *I'm Alive, but the Doctor's Dead*, which launched her career as an author and speaker.

Peggy Benson can tell stories—about her kids and grandkids, about building a home, about planting a garden, about celebrating with friends and family, about surviving the deaths of her husband and their son. However, it is her ability to listen that has made her such a wonderful storyteller. *Listening for a God who Whispers* is her book on the subject—one of three she has written.



Gloria Gaither lectures to over 600 visitors in September.

## Faculty News

Nina Assimakopoulos, assistant professor of flute, received a grant from the New York Women Composers for her project, "Literary-based works for flute by 21st century American women composers." She has been invited to perform at St. Louis's "Premiere Performances" concert series and to do a masterclass at the University of St. Louis during the 2004-05 season. Also, she will be performing during the 2004-05 Dame Myra Hess concert series in Chicago. The performance will be a live broadcast to over 250 National Public Radio stations.

In May Ken Bates '71, associate professor of business and chair of the department, earned recertification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR). Also, he has been elected to serve on the Allegany County Red Cross board of directors.

Gary Baxter, professor of art, had two of his pieces included in the National Clay 2003 exhibit juried by Regis Brodie from Skidmore College. The exhibit was on display until August 15 at the Saratoga Clay Company in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

B. David Benedict '73, professor of political science, received a Fulbright Award to teach and research in Yerevan, Armenia, for the 2003-04 school year. Other commitments will prevent him from serving the whole year, but he plans on teaching and researching from January-June 2004. He will be teaching international relations theory, law and organization, comparative politics, and government and law at the undergraduate and graduate



levels. He'll be researching the changes that have occurred in the last 15 years due to the transition of Armenia from a former Soviet state to a newly independent state.

During the first week of June, **Laurie Dashnau**, assistant professor of English, flew to Daytona Beach, Fla., to grade Advanced Placement English exams for the College Board's Educational Testing Services. She spent four days the following week grading SAT II writing exams in Parsippany, N.J.

**Linda (Mills '74) Woolsey**, professor of English, presented her paper, "Historical Intelligence, Moral Agency, and the Romance of History in 'The Scottish Chiefs,' 'Rob Roy,' 'Valperga,' and 'Romola'" at the Women's Writing in Great Britain, 1660-1830 conference sponsored by the University of Southampton and the Chawton House Library, in the UK.

**Mark Hartman**, associate professor of violin, joined the summer faculty of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, Mich. Blue Lake offers music training to junior and senior high school students, as well as Suzuki strings to adults. Hartman was invited to join the high-school faculty, when most first-time teachers start at the junior-high level. His assignment involved teaching as well as performing in the faculty orchestra and in chamber music groups.

**Ronald Oakerson**, academic vice president, dean of the college, and professor of political science, participated with scholars from around the country in a professional consultation hosted by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation at the

## Four alumni among new faculty members

EIGHT NEW FACULTY MEMBERS have joined the ranks at Houghton College for the 2003-04 academic year. Four of them are Houghton graduates.

**Melanie Agnew**, who graduated from Houghton in 1999, is interim instructor of computer science. Most recently she was Network Operations Center programmer and customer support representative at Global Crossing in Rochester, N.Y. Agnew is working toward a master's of science degree from Rochester Institute of Technology and expects to finish her studies by next summer.

**Heather Armstrong**, who graduated from Houghton in 1999 as co-salutatorian, is assistant professor of theory and oboe. Since 2002 she was adjunct professor of oboe at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y. Armstrong is a member of the International Double Reed Society and Pi Kappa Lambda. She earned a master's of music (concentration in oboe) from Eastman School of Music in 2001 and is working toward a doctor of musical arts in oboe from Eastman. She expects to complete her coursework next summer.

**Alan Belford**, a 1996 Houghton graduate, is instructor of biology. He earned a master's of professional studies in fish and wildlife management from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1999. Belford is a freelance writer and has published articles in *Canoe and Kayak*, *Field and Stream*, and *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, among others. From 1999-2001 he taught physical education, health, meteorology, and ecology at Phil-Mont Christian Academy in Erdenheim, Pa.

**John Brittain** joins the religion department as professor and fills the new position of dean of the chapel. Before coming to Houghton Brittain was chaplain at the University of Evansville (Ind.). He earned an A.B. *magna cum laude*, in physical chemistry and astronomy from Brown University in Providence, R.I., an M.Div. from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Del., and a D.Min. from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md. Brittain has published more than 30 articles and participated in over two dozen short-term missions trips. He is a member of numerous organizations, including Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Charles Wesley Society.

**Marcus Dean** is assistant professor of Spanish and intercultural studies and director of off-campus programs. Since 1988 Dean has been a missionary to Latin America with Wesleyan World Missions. He also served as an adjunct professor at Indiana Wesleyan University, where he earned his B.A. *summa cum laude*, in Christian ministries in 1981. Dean earned an M.Div. and a Th.M. in Christian ministries and missions, respectively, from Asbury Seminary. Two years ago he earned a Ph.D. in intercultural studies from Trinity Seminary.

**Cathy Freytag** is associate professor of education. Before coming to Houghton she was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Central Florida and taught learning disabled students at Discovery Middle School in Orlando, Fla. She's had her articles published in *Educational Forum* and *Special Education Leadership*, and presented conferences in Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina. Freytag earned a





From left: Marcus Dean, assistant professor of Spanish and director of off-campus programs; Brandon Johnson, assistant professor of vocal music and conducting and director of choral activities; Melanie Agnew '99, interim instructor of computer science; Heather Armstrong '99, assistant professor of theory and oboe; and Larry Reining '78, director of the Willard J. Houghton Library. Not available for photo: Alan Belford '96, instructor of biology; John Brittain, dean of the chapel; and Cathy Freytag, associate professor of education.

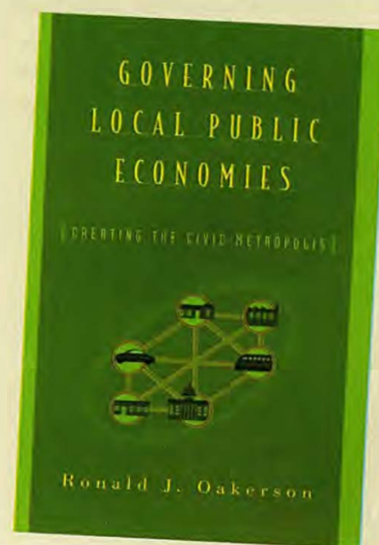
B.S. degree in special education and elementary education, *summa cum laude*, from Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, an M.A. in learning disabilities from the University of Alabama, and an Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in exceptional student education from the University of Central Florida, in May.

**Brandon Johnson** is assistant professor of vocal music and conducting and director of choral activities. He was conductor of the Symphonic Choir at the University of Arizona. Concurrently he served as the music director at Spanish Trail Lutheran Church. Johnson earned a B.Mus. in music education from Concordia College (Minn.) and a master's in music and a doctorate of music arts, both from the University of Arizona. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference.

**Larry Reining**, a 1978 Houghton alumnus, is director of the Willard J. Houghton library. Formerly he was director of library services at the Kinlaw Library of Asbury College (Ky.). He earned an M.S. in organic chemistry from Purdue University (Ind.) and an M.A.L.I.S. in academic librarianship from Northern Illinois University (Ill.). He did doctoral work in chemistry at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a member of the American Scientific Affiliation, the Association of Christian Librarians, and the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities Directors Group.

Claremont Resort Hotel in Berkeley, Calif., on July 25. The purpose of the meeting was to advise the Foundation on its future support for research on metropolitan governance. A nationally recognized authority in the field and well-known proponent of metropolitan decentralization, Oakerson has recently been engaged in a number of closely related activities.

With California State University economist Shirley Svorney, he presented a paper titled, "Rightsizing Los Angeles Government" at a Haynes Foundation conference on "Reform L.A. Style: The Theory and Practice of Urban Governance at Century's Turn," held at the University of Southern California in September 2002. Last fall he presented a paper at the DeVoe Moore Center's Critical Issues Symposium on "Decentralized Governance: The Implications of Government Organization in Metropolitan Areas" at Florida State University. A revised version of that paper, "The Study of Metropolitan Governance," will be published later this year by Georgetown University Press in an edited volume, *Local Governance and the Organization of Government*





in Metropolitan Areas.

Oakerson's principal publication in the field is his 1999 book, *Governing Local Public Economies: Creating the Civic Metropolis*, published by ICS Press, and translated and published in Korea in 2002.

The dean's research interest in metropolitan governance goes back to the mid-1980s when he was a senior analyst with the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in Washington, D.C., charged with overseeing the Commission's research program in metropolitan areas.

This summer, with the assistance of 2003 Houghton grads **Tim Snyder** and **Joshua Trant**, Oakerson launched a research effort that applies the same methodology he has used in metropolitan areas to the study of regional governance in New York's famed Adirondack Park, the home of Houghton's recently acquired, 40-acre campus on Star Lake and a new fall-semester program of study in "Environment and Culture."

**Mark Yuly**, associate professor of physics and chair of the department, had his article, "Experimental Test of Virtual Photon Theory via Electrodisintegration and Photodisintegration of the Deuteron," published in *Physical Review C*. He collaborated with professors from MIT and Glasgow University. In August, he received President Chamberlain's innovation award for his work with physics students using a new paradigm for an on-campus sequence of laboratories which have provided the foundation for additional summer research projects on sub-atomic forces using the facilities of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

# Summer weekends bring 800 alumni home

MORE THAN 800 ALUMNI returned to the college for two Alumni Weekends in July.

Alumni Weekend I welcomed back 311 alumni and friends. Thirteen members of the Class of '43 returned for their 60th-class reunion while one member of the

Class of '32 here for her 71st reunion! Nearly 50 members of the Class of '53 received 50-year medallions from President Chamberlain. Participants attended a faculty recital, a seminar led by Dr. B. David Benedict '73 on the war in Iraq, and an administrative update on the state of the college. Dr. Judy Congdon, professor of organ, gave an organ loft tour in Wesley Chapel. Dr. Carl Schultz '53 gave the day's devotional thought. The Classes of '52 and '53



"Catching up" at Houghton's summer alumni weekends

Trumpet Trio made a return engagement to the Saturday banquet and hosted a hymn sing that evening. Sunday began with an alumni communion service led by Rev. Howard Gifford '53 at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, followed by the morning worship service.

For the July 18-20 event, 518 alumni, spouses, and children enlivened the campus. The weekend, which was marked by mild temperatures, began with dinner, class/cluster gatherings, and an ice cream social Friday evening. On Saturday morning Dr. David Lewis, director of Church Relations, presented a devotional, the administrative staff spoke on the state of the college, and the faculty met alumni at a reception, culminating in a family picnic on the quad. Saturday afternoon brought the unveiling of an official college portrait of Dr. Robert Danner, former vice president for student life. Saturday evening alumni gathered in the Center for the Arts' recital hall for a time of praise and worship. Throughout the weekend, a kids' program kept the children smiling, allowing parents to reconnect with their classmates and friends.

## Next year the following alumni will be invited to "come home":

JULY 9-11, 2004 — SAW I

Landmark reunions for: '54 and '64

Cluster reunions for: '68, '69 and '70

\* Senior Alumni Cluster (grads prior to '54 w/emphasis on '34, '39, '44 and '49)

JULY 16-18, 2004 — SAW II

Landmark reunions for: '79 and '94

Cluster reunions for: Young Alumni Cluster (all grads in the most recent five graduating classes— '99, '00, '01, '02 and '03) plus '88, '89 and '90



# Summer flash flood wreaks havoc on campus

IN JULY FLASH FLOODING WREAKED havoc across campus, leaving in its wake some \$120,000 in damage.

Wesley Chapel took the brunt of the damage. The floor in Presser Hall, in the basement, including all carpeting and a wood floor, had to be ripped up and taken out. Three practice organs sustained some cosmetic damage. Volunteers—faculty, staff, students, and members of the Houghton and Fillmore volunteer fire departments—hailed 40 pallets of miscellaneous goods out of the basement.

Water flooded into the telecommunications room in the basement of the campus center as well, coming from underground conduits that criss-cross the campus and normally deliver voice and data. The excessive volumes of water flooded a major part of the telephone system, causing over \$40,000 damage and immobilizing college telecommunications for most of a day. Two volunteers from Frontier phone company along with many college employees helped clean up water in an effort to prevent further damage to the phone system and post office.

Other areas on campus—East Hall, Shenawana, Lambein, Willard J. Houghton Library—felt the effects of the flood in minor ways.

Jeff Spear '79, vice president for finance, said, "The swift and thorough help [of volunteers] made it possible to be back up and running the next day." He added, "Undesignated gifts to the Houghton Fund provide funding for emergencies such as this. We are especially grateful for that support."



*Custodial and maintenance crews, as well as volunteers from the community, survey the damage in the chapel from a flash flood in July. Other campus buildings sustained damage, too.*

## Gemcar and "Thor" join college fleet

The latest additions to the college fleet are the Gemcar, a totally electric, zero-emission, four-seat vehicle donated to the college by Daimler-Chrysler Corporation, and a 14-passenger, 2003 Aerotech minibus.



The high-tech Gemcar has a windshield, wiper blades, rearview mirrors, headlights and taillights, seat belts, reflectors and a parking brake. It is legal to drive it on roads with speed limits of 35 miles per hour or less, although it cannot exceed 25 miles per hour. The car plugs into a standard 110-volt wall outlet for charging.

Houghton was able to apply for the environmentally friendly vehicle due to the college's membership in the Clean Cities Coalition, said Vice President for Finance Jeff Spear '79. The car will offer comfortable transportation around campus for alumni, prospective students, and other visitors.

The minibus offers a safe, comfortable option for transporting larger groups of students and staff. An alumnus of the college donated half of the money needed to purchase the vehicle made by Thor Industries. Dubbed "Thor" after its maker, the minibus is equipped with reclining seats, cup holders, reading lights, and storage above seats (much like a Greyhound bus). The college plans to add a 17-inch flat screen television with DVD/VCR combination in the future.



## Campaign update

The last several months have included several key milestones and marked some transitions in The

Campaign for Christian Liberal Arts at Houghton College:

- The total for the campaign has reached \$30,418,731 as of the end of September.

- This month (October), the campaign starts its final 1,000 days (it ends June 30, 2006).

- The Houghton Fund is ahead of last year's pace, but its goal is \$100,000 higher as well. Please pray that the first of four mailings this fiscal year—which went out early in October—will generate a significant response.

- Paul Mills '61 has joined the Advancement Office as Senior Director of Development. Mills—son of "Pop" Mills who is profiled in this issue—will be a great asset in soliciting for grants and major gifts. Mills recently retired from Oklahoma Wesleyan College, where he had served as president for almost twenty years.

- The Planned Giving Council has developed a theme for its appeals, based on four "Hs." The mailings will ask donors to listen to their hearts, consider with their heads, and then use their hands to make a gift to Houghton.

- The campaign steering committee makes an important transition this month as David Blanchard steps down from his position as chair and Lyn Barnett '69 moves into that role. Barnett had served as vice chair. Blanchard and Barnett have worked closely to ensure a smooth transition.



# College helps fire company purchase new truck

THE COLLEGE HAS PURCHASED a late-model platform aerial truck for the Houghton Volunteer Fire Department.

The local fire district will finance the \$500,000 purchase price over the next 20 years at a cost of \$30,000 to \$45,000 annually, with the college reimbursing all financing costs. The 1999 Pierce model comes with an 85-foot boom and 3,000-gallon pumping capacity, replacing an aerial truck purchased in 1968.

Houghton Vice President for Finance Jeff Spear

'79 said that the investment in the newer unit was made to ensure the safety of Houghton's students. "We are looking at this as a cost of operating multi-story dormitories. The new equipment affords improved safety assurances for the entire campus community," said Spear. "And, this resource will be available for attacking other major fires in the region, including barns and silos. It's a benefit for both the college and the community." Spear added that the college saves approximately \$5,000 per year in insurance costs by this equipment being available.



*The 1999 Pierce model, with an 85-foot boom and 3,000-gallon pumper, made its debut in the Homecoming parade in early October.*

## Clark Pinnock lectures

DR. CLARK PINNOCK, AUTHOR and retired professor, lectured on campus April 8-9.

Pinnock, who is professor emeritus of the faculty of theology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, has authored numerous books and articles on scripture, interpretation, the church, and theology and has been a distinctive and creative leader in 20th-century evangelical theology.

Dr. Pinnock graduated from the University of Toronto with a bachelor's degree in Semitic languages in 1960, and from the University of Manchester with a doctorate in New Testament in 1963. He has taught at several seminaries and universities, having retired in 2002 from his post at McMaster Divinity College.

His Houghton lectures included "The Beauty of God: John Wesley's Reform and Its Aftermath," "Divine Election as a Corporate Doctrine," and "Divine Openness and Biblical Inerrancy."



# Why I teach at Houghton

by Kristina LaCelle-Peterson '82

LAST SPRING, WHEN A first-century burial box made the news because of its possible link to James, the brother of Jesus, one of the tabloids carried a story about some ancient sandals. The "experts" claimed they had found "the very sandals of Jesus" because "the tread on the soles matched the only known footprint of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee." I couldn't resist sharing the article with some students who were understandably incredulous and amused. How could anyone make such a claim? Good question.

When it comes to more serious claims, we ask similar questions. What have people thought about the nature of humanity, for instance, or about the church, and why have they made the assertions they have? In fact, when I was a college student, one of my most challenging professors, Warren Woolsey, observed that his job was not to give us answers but to help us learn to ask good questions.

Why? Because the world is a wonderfully complex place that demands attentiveness to its delights and intelligent responses to its woes. We cannot dismiss the human condition with simplistic answers or ignore it for its banality or evil, since it is the very place God has come to us, and the only place we have for living out our faith.

Christian faith is not without its complexities. What, for instance, is the relation between belief and obedience? How does one balance the heart and mind in articulating faith? Who can explain the mystery of being those who bear the presence of the Almighty into every sort of work situation, every neighborhood, every family we inhabit? Issues such as these demand our thoughtful questions and our humble, lived-out responses.

Furthermore, we ask questions about the interpretation of Scripture because its very nature demands it. How do we understand a set of texts inspired by God but written in human history? How do we sort out the eternally relevant message from that which merely points to the personality, the culture, or historical situation involved in the writing?

We also pose questions about the nature of God as we wrestle together to understand more fully the Love that carries us through this life. How strange it would be to claim to have all the answers about the God whose immensity is not contained in the spaces of the universe, let alone in the structures of our minds or the faltering arrangements of our words.

Yes, I am convinced of the need for good questions. That's why I teach at Houghton. (And I'm not going to Italy to view some old sandals.)

*LaCelle-Peterson '82 joined her alma mater in 2001.*



*Assistant Professor of Religion Kristina LaCelle-Peterson '82 fields a good question.*

## Faculty News

**Jon Arensen**, professor of anthropology, had his article, "Literacy without Schools," published in *Worldwide Perspectives*. It shows how literacy skills spread throughout the Murle people of the Sudan without organized teachers and schools.

**John Brittain**, professor of religion and dean of the chapel, had his 1985 doctoral dissertation selected to be part of the Intervarsity Nurses Christian Fellowship collections new electronic archive, "Dissertations, Theses and Other Scholarly Papers on Christian Faith and Nursing."

Professor of Philosophy **Carlton Fisher** is leading an initiative by the Wesleyan Education Council to make up to \$20,000 a year available for five years to support the scholarly and cooperative work of Wesleyan professors of religion. Last April, a group of Wesleyan professors—including Houghton professors Fisher, Rich Eckley, and J. Michael Walters '86—met in Indianapolis with church leaders to lay the foundation for the writing and publishing of several anthologies. A book about the Wesleyan vision for biblical preaching is also underway. Several Houghton faculty will contribute. Slated publication date is within the year.

**Carl Schultz '53**, professor of Old Testament, had his article, "God's role in the world: the informing but disturbing depiction of Job," published in *The Journal Aldersgate Papers* (Vol. 3). During Alumni Weekend I, he presented the Saturday devotional, "A Call to Remember," to his classmates. Schultz is a member of The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences.

**John Tyson**, professor of



*Faculty news continued...*

theology, has had his entry, "Wesley, Charles" printed in the *Biographical Dictionary of Evangelicals*, an Intervarsity publication.

## Who knows their Bible history?

When Jeff Crosby '89 graduated as a Bible major, he felt equipped to go find his place in service and work, but he also felt overwhelmed by the amount of money he owed for college loans, knowing he would be adding to that amount to attend grad. school. Later years would add house payments and the cost of raising three daughters. Crosby said he believed God would make a way out. He says God promised him and his wife, Kathy (Wohlschlegel '93), that he would meet their need. During prayer, Jeff felt the Lord urge him to use his gifts to pursue the promise of deliverance.

Having been given a sharp mind, he tried out for "Jeopardy!" and passed, but was not asked on the show. When an opportunity came to try out for the syndicated version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" Crosby thought it was another open door. Successfully passing the testing, the show offered him "the hot seat" in December 2002. "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" is a game of knowledge: answer all the multiple-choice questions and win a million dollars. Contestants can choose to quit at any time, taking home with them the amount of money attached to the last question they answered correctly. Crosby says when he reached the

# Reflections on Tanzania: a critical shortage

*by Rich Perkins*

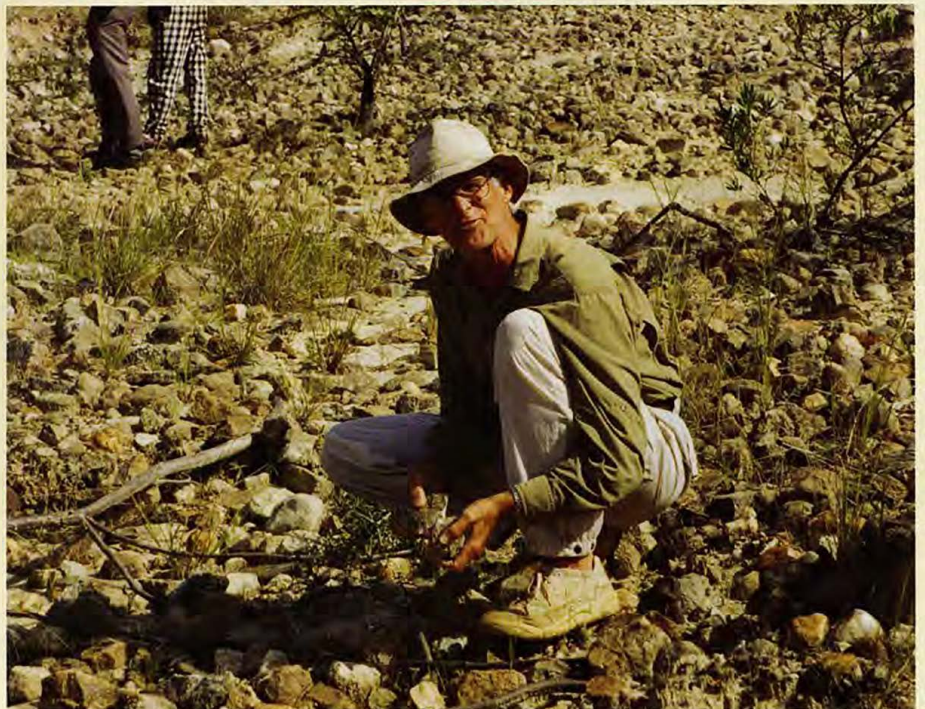
**CONTINGENCY THINKING.** It's the tendency to think "What if...?" It focuses our attention on the unexpected: what might happen.

Our cars come complete with spares and jacks. Public buildings have well-placed fire extinguishers. Banks require insurance policies for clients who take out mortgages. From social security to Medicare, we have fashioned a society along the lines of contingency. In fact, since September 11, 2001, contingency thinking has become an expensive national obsession.

I spent last semester in Tanzania. Since returning, I have been asked, "What was your most telling impression of Africa?" Most folks expect to hear about elephants and lions, but instead, I tell them about contingency thinking...or the lack of it.

Tanzania has much to offer—a gracious and proud people, and some of the best national parks in the world. But Tanzania is a mess. The average per capita adult income is \$270. (Compare that to our per capita average of \$24,000.) Tanzania's best national highway isn't even up to the standards of our typical county road. AIDS is ravishing the country. Of every 1,000 births, about 250 Tanzanian children die before age five. Average life expectancy is just under 50 years.

Why is Tanzania so messed up? There are many answers to that, but the one I'll offer centers on contingency thinking.



*Sociology professor Rich Perkins finds that while Tanzania is short on contingency planning and they are "running out of hills," rocks abound on the terrain.*



To be modern is to be rational. To be rational is to plan for the future. To plan for the future, one has to think in terms of contingencies. And what I saw was a critical shortage of contingency thinking. I rode up steep mountain roads without a foot of guard rails, being passed by truck drivers who routinely pass on curves and hills. It was a whiteknuckle experience all the way! I saw crops planted on 45-degree slopes, guaranteeing erosion, yet they do this year after year. After all, terracing takes too much time and effort. When erosion happens (and it does), they move on to other hills and plant there.

Tanzanians are running out of hills.

Their lack of contingency planning shows up in life-threatening ways. Police patrols are expensive, so they rely on a cheaper alternative: speed bumps. Most speed bumps have warning signs, but not all of them. While traveling cross-country early in our trip, our land cruiser hit one of these unadvertised speed bumps. . .at about 100 kilometers per hour. Our heads whacked against the car's roof, and the trailer flew into the air. Thankfully, we had hooked a sturdy chain to the trailer hitch. Contingency thinking!

Some would argue that this lack of contingency thinking is a product of the poverty gripping the nation. I don't think it's that simple. Consider my last observation, made while waiting to depart from the airport in Dar Es Salaam. Consistent with rational practice, and as a part of their security arrangements, local authorities had planted a staff member at a desk right in front of the metal detection machines. On the desk sat a modern computer. Thus, the security officer could check our passports against information available via computer. Good contingency thinking. However, I noticed an electrical cord running from a wall outlet across 50 yards of public space to her computer. That cord repeatedly spiraled up about six inches off the floor, presenting a hazard to anyone stepping over it. Hundreds of people, some old and infirm, had to step over that cord's coils. That cord, in need of a simple, inexpensive duct-tape solution, symbolized a thousand such experiences.

*Professor Perkins spent a sabbatical semester teaching in Houghton's Tanzania program. His classes emphasized themes associated with modernity.*

## Psychology department adds honor society

THIS SUMMER, PSI CHI, The National Honor Society of Psychology, accepted Houghton College's application to form a chapter. This fall 15 students and four faculty members will be installed as charter members and elections will be held for society chapter officers. Founded in 1929, Psi Chi promotes excellence in scholarship and advances the science of psychology. It functions as a federation of chapters located at approximately 1,000 senior colleges and universities. Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society. (Houghton currently has two other national honor society chapters: in music and in science and math.)

\$125,000 question, he was stumped (he wasn't up on the pseudonym for Agatha Christie), but felt the Lord urge him to guess. He got it right and moved on to the next question: "Nineveh was the capital of what ancient empire?" Crosby knew the answer—the Assyrian Empire—and added \$250,000 to his wins. With this—the amount he needed to pay off student loans and his house and give tithes and taxes—he went home, shaking his head in amazement at how God works.

"I felt like that was God's signature, the fulfillment of a promise he made to me 10 years ago: never give up on a promise God gives you."

Jeff came to Houghton as a new Christian. He says he knew little about the integration of faith and life, but through relationships with faculty, lessons unfolded.

"Dr. Kingdon introduced me to the Bible," says Crosby. Crosby says Professor Warren Woolsey '43 "had a humility and godliness" that caught his attention, and Professor John Tyson is "one of the smartest men in his field, yet he was down to earth and made learning fun." Other Christian role models included Dean Danner—"he made me feel valued"—and Coach Skip Lord '80—"he was a great coach, friend, and mentor, and embodied faith through sports."

The Crosbys are debt-free and focusing their energy on the work God has given them to do: serving in a ministry dedicated to helping local churches come together for revival. A pastor with a master's degree in religious education from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Jeff seizes every opportunity he has to tell others that they, too, can trust a God who keeps his promises.





# Frightening Gamble

by Dave Huth '95

**M**y background is evangelical Protestant. Thanks to sacrificially loving parents, I got the gist of what Jesus was about and was passionately drawn to the whole enterprise when I was young. My cancer is chronic leukemia, discovered during a routine check-up two years ago.

This story isn't a final statement about my faith. I'm still alive, and growing, and changing, and maybe dying, and thinking a lot about it. I might still change my mind about God and religion. It's already happened to me, so I know it could happen again. I think it could happen to you, too.

To summarize: my faith didn't protect me from changing in negative and frightening ways.

Maybe you're expecting something more, something like

"my faith didn't protect me from changing, but God is faithful to the end" or "... but I have assurance that Christ's love is sufficient" or maybe "... but God's presence is stronger than death."

It's fashionable these days for Christians to "struggle" with faith, and be "honest about the hard questions." I've heard pastors, folks in Sunday school, Christian authors and speakers say things about their doubts and hard times. And then



"MY FAITH HAS CHANGED INTO A FRIGHTENING GAMBLE. FAITH  
USED TO BE CONFIDENCE ABOUT WHAT I'VE DECIDED IS TRUE.  
NOW IT'S LIKE TAKING A RISK ON WHAT I HOPE IS TRUE."

they usually say "but."

I wish I could say "but," but I can't. It feels like something I can't afford, something that can only be said by people who are richer or better than I. I have no assurance that Christ's love is sufficient. I don't know if God's presence is stronger than death. I don't really know if God is faithful to the end—I haven't reached the end yet. And everything in my life that used to make me feel calm and peaceful about this sort of thing—that assured me I had the right answers—seems to have been burned out of me by chemotherapy.

I no longer feel at home in the world; I don't seem to recognize anything anymore. I've tried to describe what life feels like, and many people are reluctant to concede what I feel is "fear." It's a word some people don't think belongs in the life of a Christian (Christ's perfect love casting it out and all that). But I know I'm scared. I've been one of those confident Christians my entire life, but now that I have cancer, I'm afraid to die.

This is standard boilerplate "facing mortality" stuff. I've known from an early age that I'm going to die some day, and of course I never really believed it. Now I do believe it, and it seems to have messed me up a bit. No, I don't dress in black and drag my sorry butt around town like a Goth Eeyore, ruminating on the inevitable worm-feast that will become of my body. I've changed now that the religious clichés have failed to keep fear out of my life. It's horrible. I miss the old me so intensely that sometimes I think I've begun the mourning process that others will finish after I die.



I've no idea why being a Christian hasn't protected me from these awful changes. I know other Christians with leukemia who seem to be doing just fine, spiritually. Where's my faith?

I'm still a Christian. But I guess I'm some kind of different Christian. It doesn't feel like the Christianity I used to have. My faith has changed into a frightening gamble. Faith used to be confidence about what I've decided is true. Now it's like taking a risk on what I hope is true.

I really want to be a Christian, and haven't renounced anything. But don't think I haven't considered it. When I looked into the dark hole waiting for me ("Dead so young," "so much potential", "strong to the end," etc...), I was willing to jump



ship for any religion, any god, any belief system that would change things so that I wouldn't die. I can't describe my merciless, unapologetic panic to STAY ALIVE. Anything that would make me immortal would have had my full attention.

I'm not stupid; I know everybody dies. No religion has solved this problem yet.

I've become increasingly resentful toward Christians who tell me the opposite. Often, Christians seem to pretend that we'll live forever, that we won't die. They say Christ has "conquered" death, it doesn't hurt, and its sting is gone. "Eternal life begins now!" These are absurd, delusional things to say, particularly to someone dying faster than other people. Thank God when I was a Houghton student a professor told me, "Be careful of people who tell you what they think Christianity is supposed to be about."

I love Christianity because it has the best ideas I've ever heard: ideas that suggest grace, sacrifice, peace, and love are at work in the ruined parts of the world. I love the kind of person the Bible makes God out to be. The people who fed me at my sickest were the Christians in town. Stories about Jesus move me profoundly. And Christianity has another powerful, radical idea: the idea of resurrection.

My spiritual life becomes a desperate gamble through this idea of resurrection. It goes like this: What if it were true? I know I'm going to die, either sooner (name the threat, they're legion) or later (come on cancer research!). But what if I could be resurrected? What if God is real and hates cancer so much that he worked out a way to bring me back to life after I'm dead? Think about it, could this be real? I've decided to take that gamble and hope as hard as I'm able that it's true.

So that's something cancer's done: it's turned my faith into a slippery, quaking, risky thing. And my prayers have changed, too. My prayers are less frequent, and shorter. I pray a lot more for my friends and family than I used to, and my prayers for myself have become kind of simple. Every day I pray: Dear God, please help me stay a Christian. Please help me change the world for the better. Please God, let it all be true.

*David Huth '95 is a one-time dropout and eventual graduate of Houghton College. His remission from leukemia has held for a year. He's finishing an MFA in computer art at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Write him at [dave@watership.net](mailto:dave@watership.net). See Huth's art on the back cover of this magazine.*





# When God comes down

*by Cynthia Machamer '85*

“**O**h, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,

you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him” (Isaiah 64: 1-4, New International Version).

Down through the ages God has revealed himself. The Great

Awakening of 1857 brought over one million new converts into the American Church and brought new vigor to over four million church members present before the revival. Evangelists Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield sparked a history-making evangelism movement. Other religious giants—



# "A STUBBORN LOST SHEEP"

by Warren Woolsey '43

I KNEW THE REVIVAL was coming, but I wasn't worried. By age 20, I had weathered two such campaigns every year, plus camp meeting in the summer. I knew what to expect, including the fact that I would be an object of prayer.

The college community was smaller then, just over 400 students, some 40 faculty and staff, plus villagers with various degrees of connection to the college. Everyone knew everyone, and most people were aware that this faculty kid didn't think he needed the Christian faith, consistent-living, affectionate and prayerful Christian parents notwithstanding.

Perhaps prematurely, I had read a little philosophy, nothing profound (specifically I remember Will Durant's *Story of Philosophy*), and often could maneuver "theologs" (as we called religion majors then) into some sort of intellectual impasse. Christianity seemed to me a "crutch" for those not strong enough to live without it.

The meetings began with the familiar pattern: first "warming up" the faithful, urging special prayer sessions, calling for personal witness, friendship evangelism. Truth be told, without any intention to disparage, there was nothing special about Rev. B.N. Miner's content or presentation, no special eloquence. In fact, I don't remember anything unique about his ministry—except that somehow the Word was powerful.

These were not conventional meetings. Deep seriousness, late-night prayer meetings, sharing in classes and dining-hall, extended services, and an atmosphere of spiritual concern settled on the campus. Splashes of joy resounded around campus as one after another had their prayers answered.

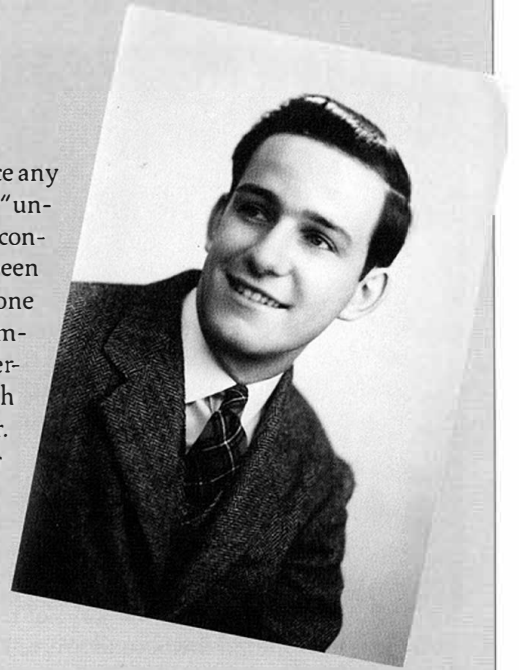
Still, I wasn't worried, even though some I would have regarded as allies were being "picked off." But we thinkers were always in the minority. Of course, it meant that increasingly we "holdouts" were prayer targets, as I had to acknowledge when my mother said, "I guess you know that everyone is praying for you."

I didn't experience any "arm-twisting" or "unfair" pressure. The contest could have been unequal when late one evening my roommate, Al Russell, persuaded me to go with him to talk with Dr. Paine. I remember low-key conversation recognizing the difficulties I might be facing and assurance of prayer.

The final Sunday evening people packed the church. A girlfriend and I were among those in extra chairs in the vestibule. During the closing appeal the atmosphere was electric. A number of holdouts responded, and reluctantly, we joined them. I knelt there at the crowded altar and prayed, not altogether sure why I was there.

After some minutes, when I stood to give witness for the first time, I said something like: "I know that many of you have been praying for me. Tonight your prayers have been answered." And as I was speaking, an almost palpable sense of the presence of God overwhelmed. A particularly stubborn lost sheep had been found. A long journey, with many ups and downs, had begun.

Warren Woolsey taught in the religion department from 1958-59 and 1966-94. He and his wife, Ella (Phelps '43), live in Houghton.



Charles Finney, Peter Cartwright, and D. L. Moody, for example—led other resurgences of spiritual renewal.

Houghton history, too, is alive with periods of marked spiritual awakenings, times when God has come down to meet his people in Allegany County. The earliest reported occurrence of revival at Houghton was in February 1926. Joseph R. Pitt, pastor of the village church from 1921-37, was a "man of deep thought and scholarship, given to reflective pauses in his sermons." In a letter he wrote to Canadian Methodist Church Bishop the Rev. Charles V. Fairbairn, Pitt said, "God has given us the mightiest revival in the history of Houghton. ... never before have we faced such a crisis as we did this year, owing to the fact that Houghton had become a chartered college and ... needed a corresponding advancement in spiritual life. After

months of agonizing prayer, God has fulfilled the petition of his people ..."

Bishop Fairbairn later wrote a letter to his wife, and said, "When I tell you that 259 seekers have been to the mourners bench, you will see that Almighty God has undertaken as I have not seen him undertake in several years. Not only are they seeking at the altar, but conviction has spread until the professors are having prayer services in their classrooms instead of lessons. ... Yesterday the vocal teacher broke down and prayed through. Classes were broken up, and for hours the students prayed for salvation and victory. ... We do not know what turn these services will take, but the Lord has things in hand."

While it would be another 16 years before God "set twigs



"PEOPLE WERE VULNERABLE THEN, BUT NOT BEFORE AND NOT AFTER THE REVIVAL SEEMED NATURAL; IT WASN'T CONTRIVED. IT WAS SPONTANEOUS. THE LORD LED THE MEETINGS."

—Clara (Bower '53) Maffucci

ablaze" in Houghton, he had things in hand. The 1930s were difficult Depression years, "but Houghton College was growing." While administrators sought accreditation, they learned they would need to improve some buildings, expand the library, and increase faculty salaries. They designated October 18, 1935, a special day of prayer. They launched the "Campaign for a Greater Houghton." President Luckey died on April 7, 1937, and Stephen Paine, then dean of the college, took over. A pioneer in the National Association of Evangelicals, President Paine led his college in the ways of the Lord.

As America entered the Second World War, "a major spiritual revival washed over the campus." Prior to two weeks of special meetings, that started on February 4, 1942, "a group of dedicated women met at the village church each morning at eight to pray for a revival. Then, as the meetings began—just two months after the start of World War II—the spiritual concern of village and campus alike was heightened by two deaths in the community. One of Houghton's 'old saints,' Rose Tarrey, passed away, and a child, Robert Ingersoll, vanished through the ice on the Genesee River."

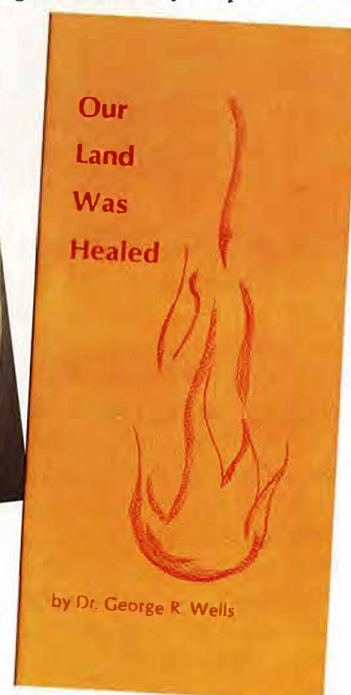
The revival coincided with the day of the boy's funeral—

February 8. Special speaker Rev. B. N. Miner urged listeners to think about the accounting they would be required to give to God. "Dozens of young people who sensed their accounts were in alarming disorder silently, soberly moved forward. That evening, not only was the altar filled with seekers, but the front seats too." Ruth (Fancher '43) Hutton recalls, "God was present in a wonderful way. You wanted to be at church; you might miss something." She recalls that many people were directing their prayers toward one young man who was "a wonderful scholar and a great athlete but not a Christian." Miner didn't refer to the recent attack on Pearl Harbor and "most students felt the war was something that wouldn't affect their lives after graduation."

In 1949 students gathered to remember the lives of 10 students lost in World War II. "Families and friends ... stood near the Luckey Memorial Building while the A Cappella Choir sang. Prof. J. Whitney Shea, himself a veteran of World War II, spoke briefly about planting an oak sapling, one of ten trees that would be green and living remembrances of the men who had died." Returning veterans brought with them a heightened interest in world missions. They initiated Wednesday night prayer meetings and monthly chapels devoted to



Top: Coach Wells (far right) with an early Youth in One Accord group that grew out of the religious meetings of 1951. Right: revival pamphlet





missions. "Affiliation with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, a strengthened Foreign Missions Fellowship Chapter and institution of a missions conquest week focused Houghton's long missionary tradition."

It would be two more years before God would make the mountains tremble around Houghton. The revival of 1951 is the biggest and most well-known awakening in Houghton's history. Some credit the veterans as catalysts; others say the praying began by a visiting evangelist in the 1930s kept the flame burning. George Wells '47, former athletic director and director of Youth in One Accord, said a faculty member wrote to all college employees and urged them to pray for a revival. Whatever the causes, the "campus was spiritually ready and receptive."

Edward D. Angell pastored the village church and invited an evangelist to lead special meetings from October 20-22. "He came and went with little observable result" and "then after one Sunday evening service a group of men were drawn to a dormitory to pray—and the spark ignited." Impromptu prayer meetings overflowed to the church. Prayer went on and on—over days—filled with confession and testimony. Clara (Bowers '53) Maffucci, a retired teacher, remembers, "People were vulnerable then, but not before and not after. The revival seemed natural; it wasn't contrived. It was spontaneous. The Lord led the meetings." Classes were suspended. College per-



*Claude Ries (left) taught Greek and Bible for 40 years and modeled Christian servanthood.*

## "HAVE THE WINDS OF REVIVAL BLOWN PAST HOUGHTON SINCE THOSE DAYS? MANY WOULD SAY THAT GOD STILL COMES DOWN."

sonnel called students' parents to report what was happening on campus. A team traveled to Buffalo Bible Institute to share the good news. "The awakening was contagious: ministers who heard about the revival visited the campus, and many Houghton students went forth to share their experiences with churches in nearby communities and in the cities of Buffalo and Rochester. ... The revival leaped to several eastern cities and its influence continued to spread through changed lives." The Youth in One Accord music ministry team grew out of the revival of '51 and continued its work for the next 30 years.

Other revivals in Houghton's timeline include one during the 1958-59 school year. Wesleyan Methodist Church magazine editor and evangelist O. G. Wilson came for special March services. Again, spontaneous prayer marked this event. Nine-

teen seventy-two brought another movement of God.

Have the winds of revival blown past Houghton since those days? Many would say that God still comes down. When students gathered to pray for victims of September 11, 2001, God made himself known in hearts spread around the quad. Christian Life Emphasis weeks still inspire students and staff to seek to know God more. According to an article by David Lewis, director of church relations, in the June 1995 *Milieu*, "A desire for holy living and Christian service is being rekindled among many students. Spiritual complacency is gradually being replaced with a renewed hunger for God."

We cannot claim to know when God will come down again, nor can we expect him to move in the same manner he has in the past. But we can, as Lewis concluded, "be a prepared people, seeking after God and His righteousness, availing ourselves in absolute surrender to His good purpose. We are to fix our eyes on Jesus, submitting ourselves to His scrutiny and to drink deeply from the cup He extends our way." Lewis said he senses "a hunger among students to know God more fully and to be tangibly used in His service. I see a desire for active involvement in worship, prayer and service-oriented mission. Many are seeking revival—a transforming work both personally and corporately."

Unless noted, excerpts for this article came from *Houghton Wesleyan Church Sesquicentennial, 1852-2002*, *Consider the Years*, and *A Vine of God's Own Planting: A History of Houghton College From Its Beginning Through 1972*, by R. L. Wing.





# Purpose for living

by Martha Whiting

"Thank you Lord for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. You watched me as I was formed in utter seclusion. You saw me before I was born. Everyday of my life was recorded in Your book.

Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me! Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life" Psalm 139:14-18; 23, 24 (NLT).

I was born in 1939 in New Brunswick, Canada, to godly parents. They had strong convictions and were diligent to raise me in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In 1957 I set off for college to obtain a B.S. in nursing. I was glad to be free from the restraints of home and launched my own career in self-centered living. In 1962 I married, and we had four children over the next 13 years. My relationship with the Lord deteriorated further as I made myself number one and forgot that He had His hand upon me for His purposes and plans. I thought my plans were best. My life seemed perfect until the day my husband came home and told me he no longer loved me. My hopes, my dreams, my life came crashing down, leaving me a shattered, broken, pain-filled woman.

Out of my brokenness came life, a life dependent upon God. The painful memories still come back, but I see them, now, as tools to remind me of the suffering of Jesus for me. He suffered the pain of rejection, humiliation, and loss, too. I have learned to be thankful for that crisis because I found my identity and worth in Jesus Christ. He called me from the foundations of the earth, has written my name on the palm of His hand, formed me, and planned for me, giving me a purpose for living. I made a choice to establish Jesus as Lord of my life. That didn't change the circumstances, but it did set the course for the rest of my life.

After the divorce, my children (then between the ages of three and 10) and I moved from the West Coast to Rochester, N.Y., to be closer to my family. Penfield Christian School (now Charles

A. Finney School) opened shortly after my arrival in New York, and I was able to work as the school secretary and nurse. My children graduated and for the next six years, I hoped God would restore my marriage. My ex-husband's remarriage dashed my hopes, and I began to wonder if God remembered me, or even knew what He was doing with my life. I longed for the fulfillment that marriage brings, to belong to someone, and to find my significance through marriage.

Before the Lord could entrust me with someone, I needed to come to the acceptance of my singleness with a willingness to remain single the rest of my life. I needed to find my significance not from belonging to another, but from a relationship with Him. It took me several years before I could say to the Lord that I would be single for the rest of my life if that is what He wanted.

Then He brought Bob Whiting into my life. Bob is the auto mechanic for Houghton College and he had lost his wife to cancer in 1988. We met, fell in love, and were married in August 1989. The Lord continues to deepen me in my relationship with Him. My value and significance come from Him who loves me. It is in having been chosen by Him, blessed by Him, broken by Him, and by being able to give to others what He gave to me, that I find my true fulfillment and purpose for living.

*Martha Whiting is the administrative assistant in the sciences and math department. Three of her four children are Houghton grads: Kris Hall '87, Lyn Fiegl '88, and John Hall '92.*





# Identifying Houghton's core values

by Lisa Bennett

JENNIFER\* OPENS HER LAPTOP in readiness to take notes as she begins a new phase in her education, but it's not at Houghton College, it's in graduate school. She is a Houghton alumna, whose comprehensive program of study, service, and collaboration at the undergraduate level equipped her for admission to her first choice from among the five leading graduate schools to which she applied. Her transition from Houghton to graduate school was seamless.

How does this happen? It begins with analysis, reflection, intention, and determination—all parts of the strategic management process at Houghton College.

Just as a coach evaluates a team's strengths and weaknesses to determine what will produce success, Houghton engages in pivotal planning to guide its future direction. The forces underlying strategic actions include the influences of an ever-changing world, our own institutional capabilities and potential, and the availability of resources—time, people, and finance. Our task is to focus on actions most apt to fulfill our mission, and to set our goals accordingly. Dialogue and assessment are crucial components of our work to ensure that what we are doing is done well, and that it has genuine appeal in the marketplace of higher education.

The aspirations represented in our goals (see sidebar) clearly grow out of Houghton's mission and serve as the focal points and structure for progress toward making our vision a reality. The goals envision a plan that responds to opportunities and challenges. The strategies help the college move from its current status to its desired position, and at the core of our strategies is the element of faith. We do not present our plan to God as "Will you bless this?" Instead, we pray constantly for divine wisdom while recognizing our human responsibility.

Our strategic goal setting was an inductive process that identified Houghton's core competencies, then designed the specific goals to strengthen them. The sequence of the strategic goals is deliberate, consistent with our mission. Out of our Christian faith (first goal), grows intellect; out of intellect, we communicate knowledge about a discipline and expand it through scholarship (second and third goals) into service. From this combination (fourth goal), an individual is helped to select a calling that matches his other capabilities which grow in a community; and from community (fifth goal), comes awareness (sixth goal) of the relevance and power of a Houghton education.



One outcome of this approach relates to student engagement and the way we conceive of collaborative research between students and faculty. Beyond student observation of scholarly investigations by faculty or the discussion of research topics, Houghton's approach to collaboration involves active, collegial participation. It provides significantly more interaction than is offered in other settings. The most able students seek for such intense collaboration, and they will find their opportunity at Houghton—that is strategic.

Reaching our goals will enhance such input measures as our ability to attract and retain able students while increasing support for the Campaign for Christian Liberal Arts and increasing alumni giving and participation rates. The tangible "outputs" might include increased GRE and MCAT scores of our graduates, increased contributions our employees and graduates make to professions, employers, and communities, as well as increased student satisfaction here on campus.

Less tangible will be the value added to the life of students as a result of attending Houghton. Whatever their level of spiritual, intellectual, service, and relationship competencies when

## VISION

*By 2008, Houghton College will have measurably elevated its practice of scholarship and service, deepened its commitment to civility and teaching excellence, enhanced its preparation of global Christians, and strengthened public awareness of the value of the Houghton experience.*

*(continued on next page)*



they enroll, as a result of their Houghton experience they will have grown significantly when they graduate. Students will have meaningful cross-cultural or international experiences, perform meaningful service, and leave with a sense of vocation. They will not passively participate in life, but they will actively engage in meaningful contributions that reflect God's desire for humanity.

The institutional "reaching" represented in our goal setting

is ongoing. We continue a cycle in which one generation of aspirations and accomplishments informs the next, goals inciting goals, and strategies inciting strategies in an ever upward cycle.

*\* not her real name*

Lisa Bennett is Houghton's coordinator for strategic management.

## GOALS 2003-08

### 1. Enhance both spiritual formation and theological understanding among students, faculty, and staff.

*spiritual formation:* The understanding and practice of traditional Christian spiritual disciplines, including prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting, accountability, witness...

*theological understanding:* The central Christian doctrines (historic creeds) and great theological traditions beginning with the Wesleyans, and including Roman Catholic, Anabaptist, Eastern, Reformed...

### 2. Foster greater student engagement in the learning process.

*student engagement:* Students who are self-motivated, proactive, actively seeking answers to questions, pursuing ideas, learning both in and out of the classroom

*learning process:* Involves all students do that contribute to the knowledge and skills that are important to their growth and development

### 3. Strengthen support for faculty scholarship and development in pursuit of teaching excellence.

*faculty scholarship:* The faculty member who is self-motivated, proactive, actively seeking answers to questions, pursuing ideas, learning both in and out of the classroom

*faculty development:* Building connection to: other disciplines, faculty in same discipline at Houghton, faculty in the same discipline at other institutions, and students

*teaching excellence:* Teachers who engage students in contributing to the knowledge and skills that are important to their growth and development

### 4. Better equip students to discern and pursue their calling to serve others in a culturally diverse church and world.

*discern calling:* A Christian understanding of vocation and the nature of the Kingdom and "my" place in it

*pursue calling:* Motivate to develop skills and knowledge  
*serve others:* Outward and Kingdom focus, with community as the object of the service; prepared to serve cross-culturally

*culturally diverse church & world:* Recognition, understanding, respect, rejoicing that the church and world are diverse

### 5. Enhance the mutual respect and cooperation, both among members of the Houghton community and with our neighbors.

*mutual respect:* People are valued and listened to regardless of role (position within community, title, status, power, perspective/opinion)

*mutual cooperation:* Thinking, working with and informing each other so as to minimize boundaries to achieve common goals

*Houghton community:* Employees, students, alumni, volunteers, friends and the communities where we are located

*Houghton neighbors:* Our neighbors include the communities we are located in (London, Tanzania, etc.) plus the surrounding area

### 6. Increase public awareness of the demonstrated value of the Houghton experience

*public awareness:* Primarily in our targeted geographic area; earned and paid for within the general populace

*demonstrated value:* Developing scholar-servants while maintaining affordability

*the Houghton experience:* Christ-centered transformation process in the context of an academically rigorous and residential community of scholar-servants





## "My dad is older than God!"

*Milieu spoke with some alumni children to get their opinions about the Creator. Enjoy a refreshing look at an age-old quest to know God.*

### What is God's favorite (food, sport, animal)?

"God likes to play soccer and eat lamb."

—Jenea Shoemaker, age 6

"God likes baseball and dogs." —Nathan Good, age 8

"God's favorite food is a Wendy's meal."

—Josh Jordan, age 10

### How old is God?

"God is 100." —Jenea Shoemaker

"God is 200." —Nathan Good

"God is eternal; my dad is older than God!"

—Austin Rudd, age 12

"One million years." —Josh Jordan

### What does God do all day?

"He answers people's prayers." —Matthew Yanda, age 10

"He watches and helps people." —Austin Rudd

### What does God's house look like?

"He decorates with angels." —Matthew Yanda

"It's big. He decorates with gold." —Nathan Good

"God's house is really bright white. He has a wall of history." —Austin Rudd

"He has a lot of comfy stuff." —Josh Jordan

### What does God wear?

"God wears clothes with a red sash. He goes barefoot. In the old days they wore funky sandals."

—Jenea Shoemaker

"God wears a white cloak." —Austin Rudd

### What makes God happy?

"God is happy when we obey him." —Jenea Shoemaker

"God is happy when we do the right thing." —Nathan Good

"People telling people about Jesus." —Austin Rudd

### Meet the theologians:

Jenea Shoemaker is a daughter of Kevin and Julie (Sentz '93) Shoemaker '93.

Matthew Yanda is a son of Allan and Debbie (Offringa '73) Yanda '74.

Nathan Good is a son of David and Ruth (Holt '88) Good.

Austin Rudd is a son of Armin and Sally (Youd '83) Rudd '84.

Josh Jordan is a son of Jeff and Susanne Jordan '83.

**Artists' note:** Eila Shea '66, art instructor at Houghton Academy, and Evan Cline, the nine-year-old son of Lyn and Tam (Hopkins '91) Cline, collaborated to illustrate this article. Cline said that the base of the heavenly walls shows the precious gems that are the foundations. Inside the gate, one can see angels. Cline used colored pencil and watercolor paint. Shea did the background wash in watercolor and helped the young artist mix some of the colors for his part.



## James "Pop" Mills, Sr.: "God's happy janitor"

FORMER HOUGHTON COLLEGE president Stephen Paine described Pop Mills as "a symbol of the scores of Christian staff members who have a genuine love for young people, who meet them naturally and know their problems, and for whom the Lord certainly is reserving a good reward." A 1956 *Christian Herald* article called Pop Mills "God's happy janitor." For the man who served Houghton from 1948-76 as director of janitorial services, these accolades are fitting.

James H. Mills, Sr. was born in Crisfield, Md., in 1899. He quit elementary school after the fifth grade to help support a growing Mills family. At the age of 17, he accompanied his father to Eddystone, Pa., where they obtained employment at the Remington Arms Works during the first World War. In

*Pop Mills directed janitorial services for almost 30 years.*



*His counseling service—while he pushed a broom—was free, and students gained insight into their lives and reaped the benefits of knowing a man who cared about them.*

1918 he took a new position at the American Viscose Corporation, also in Pennsylvania, where he met his wife to be, Lillian Mae Vandever.

A whirlwind romance ensued and on December 13, 1918, they eloped and were married in Elkton, Md., without the consent, and against the will of Lillian's mother. Lillian's mother

notified the state police and sought their help to prevent the marriage. However, Jim and Mae had married already and fled to Crisfield, Md., Jim's birthplace. They remained in Crisfield long enough for Lillian's mother to vent her anger. (The wounds did heal and the two families lived side by side for some time.)

Jim and Lillian began their family, which grew to produce six sons, four of whom graduated from Houghton: Jim H. Mills '51, Frederick Mills '52, Paul Mills '61, and John Mills '65. Pop became supervisor of janitorial services at American Viscose Corp. He held this job until the family moved to Houghton in 1948. They first lived in Belfast, then occupied the president's old house. When the Science Center displaced this house, they moved to Waldorf House, where Jim and Lillian were a familiar sight on the porch swing. Mills came to Houghton with only a grammar-school education, but students respected his wisdom. His counseling service—while he pushed a broom—was free, and students gained insight into their lives and reaped the benefits of knowing a man who cared about them. It was during his tenure at Houghton that students dubbed the Millses 'Pop' and 'Mom.'

When he retired at 76, the Millses moved to Maryland. They were not forgotten, however, she for her quiet prayerful spirit and he for the difference he'd made in students' lives. In 1983 Pop was named to the Houghton Centennial One Hundred. In 1993, at the age of 94, after celebrating 75 years of marriage, Pop went to receive his eternal reward.

The portrait of him dedicated last August captures Pop Mills in his role as "God's happy janitor." Mom Mills occupies an important spot in the background of the portrait to represent her significant role in helping to sustain and strengthen him. Her prayers prevailed for her children and the extended Houghton family she held in her heart.

*"Pop" and "Mom" Mills, decades after they eloped against her mother's will*





Share your important life experiences—employment, honors, graduate school, marriage, and births—through Milieu. Your news and your photos, are great ways to connect with classmates. Contact: Alumni Office, One Willard Avenue, Houghton College, Houghton, NY 14744, or e-mail: milieu@houghton.edu. Visit the alumni online community at [www.houghton.onlinecommunity.com](http://www.houghton.onlinecommunity.com).

**50** Joy (Harris) Walters and her husband, Worth, moved from the eastern shore of Maryland to Alabama in March to be near one of their daughters and her family.

**51** Bill Jersey has been producing documentaries for broadcast television for over 40 years. His company, Quest Productions, of Berkeley, Calif., won the 2003 George Foster Peabody Award and was nominated for two national Emmys for shows three and four of *The Rise and Fall of*

**56** Lois (Burls) McKnight went to England in May to visit her father's birthplace.

**58** Robert Sabean and his wife, Nancy, celebrated 44 years of marriage on June 13. In May he was hospitalized for three weeks for three intestinal bacterial infections and three lung viruses. The Sabeans are in their 38th year of service with the Latin America Mission in Costa Rica.

**59** Marilyn Hunter practices pediatrics half time and hopes to retire in 2004. She spent September 2002 filling in for a missionary doctor on LaGonave, Haiti, which was home for her from 1970-95.

**60** Calvin Johansson recently retired from 39 years of service to Evangel College in Springfield, Mo. Professor of music, he specialized in church music, choral conducting, and analysis of musical form. He

is the author of *Music and Ministry: A Biblical Counterpoint*, published in 1984, and its sequel, *Discipling Music Ministry: Twenty-first Century Directions*, published in 1992.

**62** Liz (Hogeland) Pope and her husband, Charles, went to Alaska for three weeks in July. They enjoy sailing on the Chesapeake Bay and visiting their seven grandchildren.

**65** Bob and Alice (Bence '67) Davidson celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary recently with an Alaskan cruise with Norma (Bence '63) Grover and her husband, Steve.

**66** Bonnie Andrews retired from Pennsylvania Commonwealth in April after more than 35 years. She and her sister, Linda '69, traveled to China last year.



Bill Jersey '51

Jim Crow. During his career, Jersey has interviewed such famous people as Senator Jack Kemp, writer Toni Morrison, former U.S. President Richard Nixon, and Governor Mario Cuomo, among others.

**52** Edna Prinsell celebrated 50 years ministering in Okinawa, Japan. She celebrated this accomplishment and her 79th birthday in June with the people she loves.

**55** George and Elaine (Bowen '56) Pattington celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2002. He's in his 21st year pastoring Hillsboro Baptist Church near Camden, N.Y.

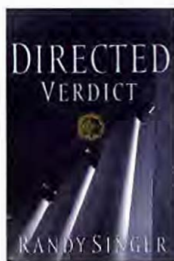


EDNA PRINSELL先生 来日50周年記念祝賀会  
2003年6月23日 於:サムシングフォー西崎

Edna Prinsell '52 (seated center, front row) celebrated 50 years of ministry in Okinawa.



**71** **Doris (Garrett) Nielsen** received an Allegany County Youth Bureau special award for her years of reaching at-risk youth through the Wilderness Adventures STEP program. Nielsen stepped down from her role as executive director this spring. **Sharon Hibbard '92** succeeds her.



American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. His next book, *Irreparable Harm*, is due out in 2004.

**78** **Randy Singer** won the 2003 Christy Award in the suspense category for his book, *Directed Verdict*, published by WaterBrook Press in 2002. Singer is executive vice president of the North

**79** **Tim Fuller** has been appointed a senior fellow of the CCCU in recognition of the annual research project he conducts on the cost to recruit a student and the admission funnel, for chief enrollment of-

ficers. He's been doing research of this nature for a decade. He continues to serve as vice president for enrollment management at Houghton.

The Christian Chiropractors Association chose **Brian Scharf** as the 2003 Christian Chiropractor of the Year. He practices in Springville, N.Y., where he lives with his wife, **Susan (Pringle '78)**, and their three sons. Scharf is a part-time pastor at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Orchard Park, and has gone on several short-term missions trips to Jamaica and Ukraine.

## Accolade

### Georgia doctor recognized by community

In May, **C. David Markle '61** received the South Cobb Citizen of the Year award, given annually by the Rotary Club for contributions to the community of Austell, Ga.

Markle has been practicing medicine there since 1969. In the mid-'70s he opened a private internal medicine practice. Since 2001 he has also served as medical director at Presbyterian Village, a retirement community.

"I remember registering that first year [at Houghton] in the library in Luckey building," Markle says. "All pre-meds had to meet with Dr. Moreland. . . . Seven years after I left Houghton, I got a call one day from Dr. Moreland, who was at the Atlanta airport. He wanted to have lunch."

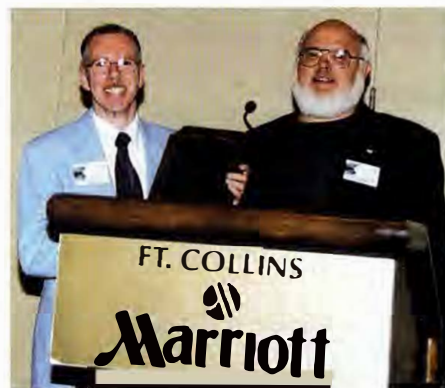
By then Markle had completed a medical degree from the State University of New York at Syracuse and went south to the University of Alabama at Birmingham for rotating internship, a three-year residency in internal medicine at Georgia Baptist Hospital, followed by a fellowship in hematology at Emory University and the V.A. hospital in Atlanta.



C. David Markle '61

Recalling the day Moreland called, Markle says, "I was impressed that he remembered me and knew where I was. I knew he was praying for me. Houghton has had many such people as Dr. Moreland, people of faith and prayer, who were a great blessing to me."

Today, Markle and his wife have four grown children and four grandchildren. He teaches Sunday school, directs and sings in his church's choir, and teaches a second Sunday school class at Presbyterian Village. His citation as South Cobb Citizen of the Year, said, "All of his 34-year professional career has been spent in Austell. [His patients'] lives have been enriched by not only his medical expertise, but by his obvious Christian faith and his never-failing encouraging and uplifting attitude."



Brian Scharf '79 (left), Christian Chiropractor of the year

**Anne Sortore** is a substitute teacher at various Allegany County schools. She also has her own tutoring business.

**80** **Barb Schultz** is an interim priest at Grace Episcopal Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

**82** **Janine (Helle) Hegle** and her husband, Gregg, are teaching at the Bandung International Alliance School in Indonesia.

**83** **Beth Emmons** earned high honors in human services studies when she graduated from Mesabi Community College in Virginia, Minn., recently. She has begun work toward a bachelor's in social work at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. She said she hopes to graduate by December 2004. Emmons is a member of the National Dean's List.



## Future alumni

Tyler & Kristy (Sahli '01) Aiken	Kylie Grace	06-19-00
Mark & Cindy (Mock '90) Kailburn	Glen Alexander	11-08-02
Kevin & Laura (Wenger '97) Bedell '98	Ryan Alexander	03-06-03
John & Lori (Hoerr '95) Blevins '92	Luke David	06-17-03
	Aubrie Rose	06-17-03
Jonathan & Elizabeth (Lemcke '01) Bliss '02	Joshua Gabriel	07-24-03
Bruce & Carrie (Martin '95) Dailey	Rebecca Anne	07-25-03
Bryan & Keren (Stockin '94) Davidson '94	Andrew William	06-11-01
	Evelyn Aimee	05-11-03
Robert & Carol (Volkert '90) Dubin	William Robert	12-02-02
Jay & Megan (Timura '96) Evans	Parker Jay McLeod	07-01-03
Ned & Marisol Farnsworth '87	Joel Mark	07-11-03
Mike & Kiley (Potter '99) Farwell '99	Elijah Michael	11-07-02
Aaron & Amy (Kuperus '96) Fisher	Kayla McKenzie	07-16-02
Scott & P.K. (Buonocore '93) Friedel	Chloe Lee	05-30-03
Brent & Carolyn (Cornell '93) Friend	Ryan Jon	05-09-02
John & Donna (Nasca '87) Hallenbeck	Katherine Eloise	08-27-01
Matthew & Amy (Bretsch '97) Hirschhoff '97	Dominic Matthew	05-30-03
Jeff & Jennifer (Osborne '00) Holcomb '99	Sarah Rebekah	07-31-03
Mark & Cindy (Mock '90) Kailburn	Glen Alexander	11-08-02
Jim & Deb (Pease '91) Kalivoda	Alexander James	09-03-02
Brian & Shoshana Kvasnica '95	Boaz "Bobby" Aviad	06-07-03
Kevin & Kimberly (Verrier '94) Mann '93	Owen Emerson	06/26/02
Mark & Brenda (Pettygrove '95) Mashiotta '96	Mason Raymond	06-29-03
Daniel & Audrey (Norton '86) McCarthy	John David	06-16-02
Scott & Bethany (Beedon '95) McLaughlin	Andrew Christopher	10-02-03
David & Laura (Mercadante '95) Mee '86	Olivia	07-30-03
Chris & Laurie (Reynolds '85) Miller	Rebekah Joy	01-19-03
Ryan & Tanya (Iulj '97) Nakai	Lindsay Ryan	04-04-02
Andrew & Christina (Bird '92) Odell '94	James Zachary	10-08-01
	Miriam Frances	03-14-03
Bryan & Paula (Jones '94) Pimm	Shauna Keanne	05-12-02
Jason & Jennifer Rienhardt '92	Lenora Marie	03-10-03
Ivan & Karen (Hillman '92) Rocha '92	Sarah	06-10-02
Mark & Lisa (Kamerson '93) Rounds	Julie Ann	06-24-03
Michael & Rebecca (Gee '97) Sitterlet	Olivia Leona	05-04-03
Andrew & Kara (Roggie '98) Swenson '99	Abagael Edith	04-26-03
Aydin & Megan (Pryor '92) Tasdeler	Alyssa Jordan	07-28-02
Matthew & Lori (Manning '94) Taylor '92	Aidan McKenna	06-20-03
Marshall & Linda (Fleth '88) Thompson	Luke Daniel	06-12-02
Matt & Melody (Duttweiler '94) Weaver	Samantha Gail	05-10-02
Michael & Christina (Cortwright '92)		
Westenberger	Cate Elizabeth	01-23-03
Charlie & Laura (Boyd '94) Wilson	Jeffrey Michael*	12-27-01
Aaron & Carrie (Sturtevant '95) Wolfe '96	Maxwell William	08-10-03
Gregory & Kim Zittel-Palamera '92	Joseph Gregory	11-22-00

\*adopted

**84** Dale Wright earned a master's in management from the University of Maryland. He is executive director of human resources at Houghton.

**85** Eva Garrouette and her husband, Dr. Xavier Lopez, live in Boston, Mass., where she teaches sociology at Boston College. The University of California Press recently released her new book, *Real Indians: Identity and the Survival of Native America* (available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)). Garrouette continues to do health research for her tribe, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and has been awarded a two-year grant to pursue this work from the National Institute on Aging.



### Alumni and friends:

## Join us for Service Day 2004!

On March 20, Houghton students, faculty, and staff will go out to sites in Buffalo and Rochester and Allegany County to serve. If you would like to get involved, either as a site host or worker, contact [milieu@houghton.edu](mailto:milieu@houghton.edu).





Six friends from the class of 1988 who lived together in East Hall got together for a reunion in Butler, Pa., in July. They are, from left: Jacki (Corey) Hise of Lexington, Ky.; Dionne (Chandler) Hammond of Tampa, Fla.; Ruth Ann (Lutzweiler) Bowen of Butler, Pa.; Cassie (Meleski) Cerniglia of Americus, Ga.; Danielle (Buchanan) Grande of Rockville, Md.; and Pam (Lewis) Osterhus of Westwood, N.J. Osterhus says, "The friendships built at Houghton by great friends with common Christian values, cultivated at a beautiful rural campus have made for lifetime friends."

**87 Donna (Nasca) Hallenbeck** and her husband, John, are active members of Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. She serves on the personnel committee and is a homemaker. (See "Future alumni.")

**Tim Kangas** and his wife, **Jennifer (Hice '90)**, continue to church-plant with Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Cambodia.

**88 Terry Gordon** recently released his second CD with the Terry Gordon quintet. "Contemplations" features his original compositions and is available at [www.cdbaby.com/terrygordon2](http://www.cdbaby.com/terrygordon2).

**Dan O'Bryon** became director of financial planning and analysis for Moen, Inc. He has been with the company for seven years. He and his wife, Stephanie, and their two children live in Medina, Ohio. Friends may write him at [danobryon](mailto:danobryon)



Jennifer (Hice '90) and Tim Kangas '87

@zoominternet.net.

**Linda (Fleth) Thompson** and her husband have started a business selling flowers to local florists and at a roadside stand. She homeschools four of their six

children. (See "Future alumni.")

**89 John Cerniglia** is senior director of campaigns for Habitat for Humanity International. He and his wife, **Cassandra (Meleski '88)**, moved to Americus, Ga.

**Bill McLeod** is the executive director of Barrocks Row Main Street, a small, nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. He is also training for his second Marine Corps marathon and hopes to improve his time to four hours. McLeod invites friends to visit and contact him at [williammcLeod@yahoo.com](mailto:williammcLeod@yahoo.com).

**Deborah (Bogdon) Moran** earned an A.S. degree in medical administration and a diploma in medical records and coding from South West Florida College in June. (See "Down the aisle.")

**Kathy (Riley) Trezise** and her husband, Tim, and their two children have moved to Mexico where they will be site directors for Edu Venture, a study-abroad program for college students who choose to leave American culture for a semester to focus on Christ, a third-world nation, engage in missions, and experience outdoor recreation.

**Robb and Sue (Sleigh) Zarges** continue to serve with Straight Ahead Ministries, a juvenile justice ministry. They are involved in establishing a new Christian-based residential program called Straight Ahead Academy. To get in touch with the Zargeses, e-mail [rzarges@straightahead.org](mailto:rzarges@straightahead.org).

**90 Cindy (Mock) Kailburn** is a stay-at-home mom after three years as a computer systems administrator at Cognigan Corporation. In 2001 she earned a second degree, this one a B.S. in computer science. (See "Future alumni.")

**92 Brette (Kinney) Hindman** is back substituting now that the youngest of her three children has entered school. She sings in her church choir, directs vacation Bible school, is a deaconess, and involves herself in prison ministry. She and Craig



have been married 11 years and enjoy their 10 acres of land. "We have a large garden, a horse, and lots of room and fresh air for our children," she said.

**Ivan Rocha** is senior software developer/architect at Cadmus Communications in Richmond, Va. He and his wife, **Karen (Hillman '92)**, live in Richmond with their two children. They may be reached at [karensrocha@yahoo.com](mailto:karensrocha@yahoo.com). (See "Future alumni.")

**Megan (Pryor) Tasdeler** has moved from England to Brockport, N.Y., with her husband, Aydin, and their two children, four-year-old Josiah John and one-year-old Alyssa Jordan. (See "Future alumni.")

**Rebecca (Tolly) Windsor** is a stay-at-home mom caring for her two-year-old daughter, Ellie. She earned a master's in education from the University of Texas in 1999, where she was a missionary for six years. Her husband, Brian, is director of a biotech company he helped found.

**Kim Zittel-Palamara** earned a master's in social work in 1994 and a Ph.D. in social welfare this year from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She is professor and coordinator of the CARES program in SUNY at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. In 2000 she married Gregory Palamara. (See "Future alumni.")



Suzanne Brenneman '94

## Accolade

### Pastor selected for Beeson Fellowship

**Christopher Baldwin '95** is one of 15 pastors selected to receive the Beeson Pastor Fellowship for doctoral training at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky. This highly selective, one-year award covers tuition, dissertation, and living expenses.

Christopher will learn Bible background in Israel, travel to Korea to meet the pastors of two of the world's largest churches, and conduct on-site study at several leading churches across North America, including Saddleback (California), Willow Creek (Illinois), Frazier Memorial (Alabama), and others. The on-campus segments of the program will focus on preaching and leadership.

Baldwin was a Christian before he came to Houghton and says, "Discipleship came to me in Bible study at Coach Lord's house and the personal mentoring of Dr. David Lewis. These set me on the spiritual path that I still walk with God everyday. I am thankful for the educational foundation I received at Houghton, but even more for the spiritual formation that happened as a result of being a part of the community's spiritual vitality."



Chris Baldwin '95

**94 Suzanne Brenneman** helped hold one of the 12-by-18 foot American flags presented by the Allegany County 9/11 Tribute Committee to the officials of the New York City Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, August 23. "I've never been more proud of where I come from than I am today," she said. A patrol officer working out of the Fort Apache police station in the Bronx, Brenneman helped display one of the large flags with friends from the Andover (N.Y.) Volunteer Fire Department. "This is really a

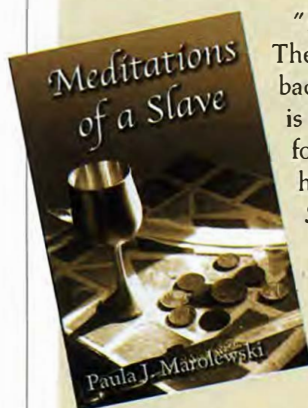
great thing the people of Allegany County have done, and I'm proud to be here with them," she said.

**Colleen (William) Clester** is one of four elementary teachers from the Pioneer School District (Arcade, N.Y.) who have contributed an article to the 13th edition of *Adventuring with Books: A Booklist for Pre-K-Grade 6*, a publication of the National Council of Teachers of English. Clester teaches at Delevan Elementary School. Professor of Education **Dan Woolsey '77** edited the book.

**Robin (Shea) McGee** and her hus-



## Required reading



"I am a slave. My parents were slaves, and their parents. The debt is an old one, and I don't see any way of paying it back." So begins the soul-searching narrative of a man who is redeemed by a new Master. Redemption comes in many forms. He learns, throughout a variety of life lessons, where his true treasure lies. This new book, *Meditations of a Slave*, by **Paula Marolewski '93**, takes the reader on a journey through a life, which, although dissimilar to our own, reverberates with many of the questions we've asked in our desire for forgiveness and grace. If you like spiritual allegory, you'll enjoy this book. This novel is available in paperback at [www.pjmbooks.com](http://www.pjmbooks.com). Marolewski has also published poems and articles. She may be reached at [pmarolewski@pjmbooks.com](mailto:pmarolewski@pjmbooks.com) or 215.368.2499.



Scott and Allissa (Barnett '99)  
Alvard '97

band, Kevin, are raising support so they can go to Kenya next spring under the auspices of Assemblies of God. They live in Rock Hill, S.C., with their two girls.

**95 Tammy (Grossman) Groff** and her husband, Duane, are in their third year hosting an exchange student during the school year. She says, "We have been blessed by our experiences with the students and, hopefully, they have witnessed our Christian faith while they were here. We hope to visit them in their country some day."



The Groffs and exchange student

**Joel Tate** is the pastor of North Chittenden Wesleyan Church in Vermont. His wife, **Christine (Forster '96)**, is a stay-at-home mom with their three children.

**97 Scott Alvard** earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from George Fox University (Oregon) in May. He successfully defended his dissertation—"Comparison of Perceived Social Self-Efficacy and Self-Esteem Between Home and Traditionally Educated College Students"—and is finishing his internship in neuropsychology at the VA hospital in Gulfport, Miss. His wife, **Allissa (Barnett '99)**, earned an MBA from George Fox University in December 2002 and has started a new position as sales representative with Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company. The Alvords have moved to Portland.

**Scott Galdo** earned a master's in sports management from Adelphi University in May. He teaches physical education at Trinity Lutheran School in Hicksville, N.Y.

**Rebecca (Gee) Sitterlet** is a stay-at-home mom. Prior to her daughter's birth, she worked as an insurance agent. (See "Down the aisle" and "Future alumni.")

**98 Kevin Bedell** is a specialty sales representative with Merck & Co. Inc. in West Palm Beach, Fla. His wife, **Laura (Wenger '97)**, stays home with their new baby. Friends may contact them at [kgblwb98@aol.com](mailto:kgblwb98@aol.com). (See "Future alumni.")

**Brian Freeman** is director of graphic design for First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla. In July he participated in a missions trip to Israel to "tell Jewish people about Jesus." Freeman lives in Delray Beach and may be contacted at [bfree11@yahoo.com](mailto:bfree11@yahoo.com).

**Adria (Willett) Pearson** completed



Kevin Bedell '98 (seated, lower left) holding Ryan, and his wife, Laura (Wenger '97), with family: Karon (Bedell '95) Zablonski (left) and Diane (Bedell '69) Gates.



her internship at an evangelical covenant church in the Chicago area, and has returned to classes at North Park Theological Seminary. She hopes to graduate in December 2004. (See "Down the aisle.")

**Rebekah Tanner** gave the valedictory address at her graduation from Ben Gurion University of the Negev M.D. program in Israel in international health and medicine in collaboration with Columbia University Health Sciences (New York City). She is a first-year resident in the family practice department at Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center in Pennsylvania. She is the daughter of **Amos '67** and **Mary (Wilday '67) Tanner**.

**99** **Misty Arnold** teaches at The King's Academy in West Palm Beach, Fla. She is in her fifth year teaching geometry and French.

**00** **Wesley Brown** is a technical analyst for General Electric in Albany, N.Y.

## College Choir in Your Town

The College Choir may be coming to a city near you in February 2004! Brandon Johnson, director, is organizing concerts in cities in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia. Check out [www.houghton.edu](http://www.houghton.edu) (Greatbatch School of Music portion) for more details or e-mail [brandon.johnson@houghton.edu](mailto:brandon.johnson@houghton.edu). Also, e-mail if you would like to sponsor a concert for the southwestern tour being planned in 2004.

### Alumni of College Choir

If you'd like to receive the new newsletter, *Choral Notes*, e-mail the director or call him at 585.567.9400 to be added to the mailing list.



**Paul Ulrich** earned a master's of science in marine studies from the University of Delaware in May.

**01** **Steve Erickson** is developing fisheries in Zambia with the Peace Corps. He lives in a remote area of the country without electricity or indoor plumbing.

**Jennifer Perry** is a researcher/analyst with the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency. Recently she served on a reporting team with Landmine Survivors Network at a meeting at the United Nations.

### P.A.C.E. alumni

**B2** **Bob Holliday** completed an MBA at Medaille College in Buffalo in May 2000. He is associate director of product training at Novartis Pharmaceuticals, overseeing a team of five managers. He and his wife, Gina, had their first child, Amanda Marie, on January 31.

## Down the aisle

Tyler & Kristy (Sahli '01) Aiken	05-24-03
Blake & Nicole (Hayes '02) Arensen '04	08-09-02
Macus & Jessica (Rudl '01) Carlson	06-21-03
Tobias & Erin (Galloway '03) Cushing '03	08-09-03
Jerome and Michelle (Manuel '97) Garciano	07-05-03
Kenneth & Deb (Siegrist '86) Harrison	01-12-02
Bob & Heather (Givens '97) Herrmann '96	10-05-02
Brian & Hannah (Gordon '00) Klinetob	01-11-03
Brian & Shoshana Kvasnica '95	04-04-01
Tim & Janet (Wagner '03) Mayhle '00	07-12-03
Michael & Deborah (Bogdon '89) Moran	07-13-03
Craig & Heather (Mazzullo '96) Pawluk	07-12-03
Joel & Adria (Willett '98) Pearson	03-22-03
Benjamin & Lisa (Bush '99) Rockcastle '00	02-08-03
John & Maria (Behrns '02) Scheleen	08-02-03
David & Melissa (Smith '00) Shaw '00	07-19-03
Michael & Rebecca (Gee '97) Sitterlet	04-07-01
Jeremy & Kari Wilton '01	07-12-03
Dan & Sasha (Kates '98) Yanda '01	06-21-03
Erik & Christina Young '99	08-02-03

**Correction:** The summer 2003 issue should have stated that Kristin (Leach '00) married William Palmer on 03-22-02, not 2003. Milieu regrets the error.

## A call for stories

Have you received an organ transplant or been placed on a waiting list? Have you donated an organ? If you are willing to share your story with *Milieu*, we'd like to hear it for a possible future story on alumni. E-mail [Cynthia.machamer@houghton.edu](mailto:Cynthia.machamer@houghton.edu) or write to her in care of the college, 1 Willard Ave., Houghton, NY 14744 before December 12.



# Mom's life lessons

by Roberta (Longacre '69) Olbrantz

My mother, **Gwendolyn Stratton Longacre '43**, grew up on a small dairy farm in northern New York with her four siblings. She recalls the Depression years as not particularly difficult; her family had never had much cash anyway, and they were able to grow their own produce and raise livestock to feed them all. Working her way through Houghton, she met and fell in love with a gangly, serious youth, a classicalist who planned to be a preacher. She liked the idea of being a preacher's wife.

A three-year engagement for seminary studies followed, during which Gwen taught in a rural high school. When it was time to go home for the wedding, Bob told Gwen his plans had changed: in the seminary he heard about pioneer missionary-linguistic work in the country south of the U.S., work that envisioned preserving and codifying Mexico's native languages and improving the lot of their speakers. The work seemed custom-made for **Robert Longacre '43**, who had kept his diary in Latin during high school. The two went off to Canada for linguistics studies—on their honeymoon—before arriving for work in a mountain village in Mexico. The tribe of native Mexicans, called the "Triques," had been exploited since the Spanish Conquest and was suspicious of foreigners. They appreciated my parents learning their language and supplying basic medical aid.

Bridging the two cultures didn't happen overnight, and the young American couple was often discouraged. Mom found that having her infant daughter



*"Working her way through Houghton, she met and fell in love with a gangly, serious youth, a classicalist who planned to be a preacher."*

was helpful because the village women brought their babies, and a rapport developed.

Mom had to carry all water from a

spring up a hill to the house. An outhouse took care of toilet needs, while a tin tub and water heated on the stove served for a once-a-week immersion bath. Two burners fueled by kerosene lit the Coleman lantern. Mom had to hand-wash all the laundry; Dad helped wring out the cumbersome bed sheets. Gwen made bread in the little oven that sat on the kerosene cooker.

As the children became school-aged, Gwen's work increased. Her years of work as a schoolmarm helped her teach her children with confidence. She felt that her children should not take second place to the work with the Triques. She loved the outdoors and often took us to the woods for lessons, propped on a fallen tree, breathing the rarified air of 8,000 feet altitude.

We paraded with brooms and sticks to the tune of "March of the Wooden Soldiers" on our wind-up Victrola around the small sitting room heated by the wood stove Dad built out of a 55-gallon drum. Some nights Mom's cocoa warmed our bellies while Dad took us outside for a lesson on the constellations.

My mother, at 82, is still ready to play. A survivor of primitive, isolated living, she made memories for her children.

*Olbrantz lives in La Mirada, Calif., and wrote this as a Mother's Day gift last year. Her mother is retired and lives in Texas.*



**26 Ruth (Rockwell) Almeter** died June 18 in Shell Point Village, Fort Myers, Fla., where she had lived since 1986. An active member of The Wesleyan Church, Almeter had worked in insurance with her first husband, who predeceased her. Her second husband predeceased her as well. Seven stepchildren, 32 grandchildren, and 49 great-grandchildren survive.

**27 Bertha (Williams) Mather** died May 4. She earned a master's degree from Columbia University in 1932. She taught high-school math before she married in 1934, and subsequently raised two children, who survive. From 1951-68 Mather

taught math at Pennsylvania State University. She became the first recipient of the Brevard Commission's "Women's Champion of the Year" award in 1984. Besides her husband, William, and children, survivors include two grandchildren.



Bertha (Williams '27) Mather

**33 Loyal S. Wright** died July 13 at the CVPH Medical Center in Chazy, N.Y. He served in the U.S. Navy in the Hospital Corp. Later he represented Montgomery Ward in Europe and was senior purchasing agent at Ayerst Labs for 20 years. Wright worked at the Plattsburgh YMCA for 16 years. He retired in 1989. Wright volunteered with the Boy Scouts, as well as with other organizations, and served on numerous civic boards. Two daughters, one brother, **Richard Wright '38**, one sister, **Arlene Gardiner '41**, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren survive.

**44 Shirley (Hoag) Hesketh** died February 19 at Tri-City Medical Center, Calif. She

lived in Oceanside, Calif., for 30 years. Her husband predeceased her in 1995. Her sister survives.

**James S. Martin** died on October 27, after a long illness. In 1948 he earned a master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary and became a pastor. In 1951 he entered the Army and served as a chaplain for 20 years. Several medals adorn his military record; he retired in 1971 as a lieutenant colonel and, until 1992, served as a veteran affairs counselor in Newark, N.J. He continued to serve in pulpits throughout his life. Besides his widow, **G. Jean (Marble '45)**, survivors include six children, including **Deborah Cook '78**, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandson.



James S. Martin '44

**46 Gerald E. Wightman** died June 17 of an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Two sisters survive, including **Frances Sprague '42**.

**48 Truman O. Ireland** died June 15 in Hamden, Conn. A retired United Church of Christ minister, Ireland earned a BD from Eastern Baptist Seminary and attended Asbury Theological Seminary. After ordination in 1951, Ireland served in the Air Force and fought in WWII in Italy and southern France. Later he served five Congregational Christian Churches, retiring in 1972 due to ill health. His wife, **Jane (Hogben '48)**, survives, as do a son and a daughter.

**50 Howard F. Smith, Jr.** died June 26 after a long illness. He had worked as a teacher of agriculture and a high-school guidance counselor. His widow, **Guendolen (Stewart '49)**, survives, as do five children and a brother.

**52 Frank Bertolino** died June 24 in his sleep at his home in Montpelier, Vt. He studied writing at Breadloaf, of Middlebury College, and served with the Army in the Korean War. Bertolino taught in New York and enjoyed writing, gardening, and the New York Yankees. Survivors include a sister and four brothers.

**John Stewart** died on June 20 as a result of a fall at his Georgia home the day before. He was a research virologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 39 years. Stewart was an elder at Gwinnett Bible Chapel. He volunteered at Camp Hope, a Christian ministry to young people. His wife, **Madeline (Woodhams '58)**, survives, as do three sons, a daughter, 15 grandchildren, and one brother.

**58 Douglas E. Porter** died May 18 at the WeCare Nursing Center in Wildwood, Fla. He was 74. He retired in 1992 after serving as a pastor in the New England Conference of the Free Methodist Church. Porter served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. His widow, **Florence (Anticiff '51)**, survives.

**70 Joyce (Roberts) Whitehead** died March 14 in Zephyrhills, Fla. She was a secretary for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and a member of C&MA Church. Survivors include her husband, Russell, two stepsons, and a brother.

**78 Harold Howes, Jr.** died June 15 at Stanford Medical Center in California. He was operations manager for Guardian Security Agency for the past 10 years. Howes was a member of Golden Hills Community Church. Three children, three grandsons, his parents, a sister, and a niece survive.

*Correction: The summer 2003 Milieu stated that Ron James '53 earned a degree in classical philosophy from Harvard University. It should have said he earned a master's in classical philology. Milieu regrets the error.*





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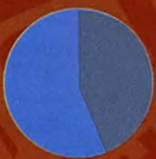
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# How students “grow up”

By Cynthia Symons

“WHAT DO YOU WANT TO be when you grow up?” Students typically answer this common question by describing a job. They focus on doing. Most of their important decisions focus on the final product, the concrete outcomes. They think about the salary they’ll get. They think about the kind of life they will build.

What students don’t consider is how they will change. Gradually they become the unique products of their experiences as they work through problems, test ideas against people they respect, and analyze situations in the light of information they acquire.

Students at Houghton get a lot more than job skills. I see students come year after year, dreaming of what they will do. I wonder if they are surprised in the end, at who it is they come to be. I wonder, because I know that they cannot come to this place and live here for four years and leave it quite the same. No matter what their place in the Houghton community, they’ll encounter people who have a genuine interest, not just in what they want to do, but in who they will become. Faculty and staff are interested in helping students develop the gifts and skills that God has given them. They are interested in helping students develop their intellect and personality to their fullest potential. They are interested in helping students find their place in the kingdom so that they can serve. They are people who are in love with

*“I want to become the person that God wants me to be. There’s no better place than Houghton to figure out who that is.”*

our Lord and who want students to know the sweetness of relationship with Him.

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” I still don’t know the answer to that question. I want to become the person God wants me to be. There’s no better place than Houghton to figure out who that is.

*Professor of Psychology Cynthia Symons came to Houghton in 1994. She holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from Syracuse University.*







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by David Huth '95

Mixed media  
shallow-frame  
construction; wood,  
string, polyform  
clay, acrylic, oil,  
collaged paper;  
16" x 20" x 5"

Exhibited under two  
names, this  
construction took  
shape as a simple  
study of a figure in  
a landscape. Huth  
later returned to the  
work to express the  
tension between the  
realities of our  
bodies' inevitable  
decay and the hope  
that there's more to  
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