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Women's Athletics

ANNA HUIZENGA ('26)

This upcoming Saturday, three Houghton athletic teams will be up against Russell Sage College, Hartwick College and Utica University.

The women's tennis team got a big win against Utica when they defeated them 9-0 last Saturday, which was an encouraging start to conference play after a tough season last year.

"I am most excited for conference matches this season to see how much we've improved since last fall 2023," Arija Grant ('26), a member of the tennis team, shared. "I love working hard with such a great group of people where we all encourage and push each other to be better tennis players and people. Van rides with the team are also a highlight of [the] tennis season."

Their first win was last Saturday against Utica where they "snapped an 18 game loss streak." Head



Women's Soccer, Women's Tennis, Women's Field Hockey

COURTESY OF JASON MUCHER

Coach Jordan Crouch said the tennis team was on their "way for a great season."

"It's been a long time coming," Crouch said, "but this team has been working hard to build upon the rich athletic history here at Houghton."

With a 5-0 record, women's field hockey is already proving themselves to be a dominant team as

they enter conference play this weekend. Hartwick has been a tough opponent in past seasons, making this upcoming match extra intense.

"I am so excited to see how far our team can go," Deborah Cross, a senior on the team, shared. "I truly believe that we can win the E8 championships!"

The field hockey team has been practicing hard to

improve different skills. Cross said that they are seeing a lot of progress on the field, giving them reason to believe that they can push harder and achieve their goals this season.

The women's soccer team is also off to a promising start. In their first conference game last Wednesday, they beat Hilbert 5-0 with goals from

four different players.

Head Coach Esther Pellegrino has confidence in the team's ability to succeed this season, mentioning the team's great results when they won against No.25 Penn State Behrend last Saturday.

"It's always the most fun as a coach to see how the new players fit in and also to see the work that the returners have put in in the off season paying off," Pellegrino shared. "I'm encouraged by the amount of growth I've seen on the field as well as off the field already. This team shows up each day to compete hard and invest well."

Aivery Shuck ('26) appreciates being a part of the women's soccer team and the wider Houghton Athletics community. "Houghton athletics is such an important part of campus; it brings people together and unites many of us with our shared love of sports," she

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Feature: Ransom Poythress

LYDIA MERRILL ('25)

"If you've ever been a student in one of Dr. Ransom Poythress's STEM classes at Houghton University, you probably know that he is enthusiastic and dedicated," Lydia Zampella ('25) said. Yet, there's so much more to Poythress than what's seen in the classroom. From his journey to Houghton and his life beyond academia, to the story behind his childhood stuffed animal, Froggy, there's a wealth of experiences and passions that define him.

Growing up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA, with his brother and family pets, Poythress had a Christ-centered childhood with the support of

his parents. The intellectual environment that his parents provided inspired him to get a Biology degree, and later a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from Boston University. His diverse background in faith (which includes multiple denominations) and the rural location of Houghton led him to teach in the university's biology department. Beginning with his first job at a toy store called Zany Brainy, where he enjoyed organizing the LEGO section, Poythress discussed some of the experiences that shaped him into who he is today.

"I went through a time in my early 20s where I kept trying to find value and worth in things other than Christ," Poythress said. "First it was intelligence, then athletics, then relationships, then finances, and God kept chastening me by taking these things away. It was

an incredibly painful period of life, but I can see now God's loving care through it all. He disciplines those he loves and he really wanted me to trust and depend on him alone by removing the idols in my life (Hebrews 12:4-11)."

Although Houghton is home to Poythress, he finds it interesting to think about where life could have led him. When asked about his potential alternate career, Poythress shared his passion for writing on the intersection of Christianity and science.

"I've really enjoyed writing about apologetics, especially presuppositionalism, and how it applies to all facets of life and work," he explained.

Even if some Houghton students haven't had him as a professor, it is likely that they have found him on



See **POYTHRESS** page #2

Ransom Poythress with liquid nitrogen

COURTESY OF HOUGHTON INSTAGRAM

Question of the Week!

Do you think aliens exist?

Weekly questions open to anyone affiliated with Houghton University; students, staff, faculty, etc.

Survey results will appear in both the STAR's next issue & online.



SCAN ME

Do you have questions that keep you up at night?

Curiosities that gnaw at your soul?

Let us know!

(...And perhaps the mysteries of the world shall be solved.)

Puzzles

All sudokus provided by sudokuoftheday.com.

Difficulty: Easy

		6	2		4	8		
			1	3			2	9
3					8	6		1
	2				7		4	6
6	8		4					3
8		5	9					6
2	6			8	3			
		9	6		5	2		

Difficulty: Medium

7				2	8			
				9	1	6	2	
		6						9
		4						6
	9	8	4	2	5	3	1	
3							5	
	5						7	
		2	8	9	7			
				5	2			4

Join our Team!



Do you think you can make the STAR a better paper? Then we want you! Apply to our News Editor position.

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said. "We have built a program based on love and integrity, and the knowledge that all the glory we gain on the field goes to God."

This weekend will be full of great competition as the Highlanders give it their all on the courts and fields, with women's tennis playing Russell Sage at the outdoor courts at noon, women's field hockey is going up against Hartwick at Burke Field at 1 p.m., and at 3:30 p.m., women's soccer is facing Utica on at the field. ★

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the quad demolishing the competition in ultimate frisbee—one of the many hobbies Poythress enjoys. Otherwise, his interests in board games, reading, watching movies and spending time with his four kids keeps him occupied.

"We are so blessed as a community," Emma Ryan ('25) said, "to have an influence like Poythress here with us to share York Peppermint Patties from his office and a strong faith based education with students."

Poythress never fails to make distraught students feel better since, admittedly, when asked whether or not he considers himself a silly goose, he shared: "In certain circumstances with certain people, absolutely." ★

EVENT CALENDAR

SEPT. 20 / Great Gillette Race

SEPT. 21 / Highlander Games / Ready, Set, Go!

SEPT. 22 / After Party Small Group

SEPT. 23 / First Year Election Speeches

Check CampusGroups for additional information.

God and Your 20's



DR. CRAIG WHITMORE

It's my opinion that your 20's are your most formative years. Now, I thought about writing a piece on politics, church leadership, or some other non-divisive concept, but I really think this topic is more worthy of your attention. Your 20's are crucial to forming the person you will become. I am not discounting the importance of earlier stages of life. Childhood experiences often have an incredible influence on your future self. In my own life, I trace my decision to get serious about following Jesus to my time in middle school. You can probably look back to experiences in high school that helped shape your journey here, to Houghton.

But the 20's, where you are now, in my opinion, are working at a whole other

level. This is when many of us first get to live our lives how we want. We start choosing when we go to sleep (I'm sure none of you reading this ever stay up past 11pm on a school night), if we eat breakfast, brush our teeth, wash our clothes (please decide to do all of those, your future self will thank you), and what habits we want to continue into our future.

Despite the exhilaration of all this freedom, I've often thought of the 20's as an extended version of the *Lord of the Flies*. Most of my poor decisions in life trace to these years. God graciously guided me through so many potential pitfalls that I've seen many 20-somethings fall into. I have a family friend who attends another college here in New

York who has already seen three students in her dorm complex taken away by either ambulance or police since the beginning of the semester. Freedom is great, but without the choice to act responsibly, it seems to al-

"The 20's are perhaps the most difficult, fantastic, challenging, formative time of life. God used the experience of volunteering at a local youth group to pull me from the doldrums of 20-somethingness and into the person I am now."

ways lead to problems.

One choice that I would argue is of paramount importance is what you choose to do about "church" in your 20's. I once heard the results of a study that found Christian university students used more water (to shower) during church service times on Sunday mornings than any other day of the week. I haven't been able to verify

"It's my opinion that your 20's are your most formative years."

the accuracy (nor even the existence of this study), but I would imagine that the concept wouldn't surprise many of you. I can remember when I was a 20-something undergrad deciding that I would attend the

"Church of the Fluffy Pillow" instead of making the trip to a local church.

My own journey through my 20's was very... tumultuous. I struggled with understanding my place and purpose in life, even as a life-long Christian. Depression, losing my sense of self, and struggling to make friends were all part of this magical experience. I attended five different schools trying out several different degree programs along the way (including teaching, which it took five years to come back to). I stayed moderately involved with local churches, but it wasn't until I really started serving in a youth ministry that God "grounded" me in a good way. I found that serving others at church helped me better understand myself, what I wanted to do, and gave me clarity on where God was leading me. I'm pretty sure I got much more from being a youth group volunteer than the youth did. Including a wife: finding my spouse at church, someone who was heading the same way that I was in life, has been the greatest blessing God has sent my way.

And here is where I would make my appeal to you as a once-was-20-something, current father of three 20-somethings and a part-time youth director (well,

mini-director at best - we only have 30 5th-12th grade students): find a way to stay plugged in with a local church. Whether you just attend on Sundays (the pastor will probably memorize your name the first week), attend their college group (staffed by people who, oddly enough, want to minister to 20-somethings), volunteer in children's programs (they will think you are OLD, but you will definitely be loved on), or serve in some other capacity, God will use it to help shape who you will be for the rest of your life.

The 20's are perhaps the most difficult, fantastic, challenging, formative time of life. God used the experience of volunteering at a local youth group to pull me from the doldrums of 20-somethingness and into the person I am now. You also might find that plugging into a local church helps set you up for the rest of your wife... er, life. ★

Dr. Craig Whitmore moved to Houghton from Bakersfield, California (which is definitely not LA) two years ago with his wife and three of his five children, two of which are now away at college. He works in the Education Department sharing his experience from 25 years teaching middle and high school students. He enjoys long walks, reading science fiction, and playing guitar for worship services. Also renovating the house he just bought because there was hidden water damage and frogs in the basement. (Does anyone know how to underpin a foundation? Asking for a friend.)

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO star@houghton.edu



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

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The Houghton STAR

2024-2025 Staff

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Review

Deadpool & Wolverine (2024)

By: CALEB TIEDEMANN ('25)

Warning: Spoilers

Deadpool and Wolverine is a whole lot of fun. Admittedly, quite a lot of the movie was spoiled for me before I saw it, because I didn't think I'd see it in the theaters and frankly, I didn't care too much about the movie being spoiled. That being said, anyone who did go into this movie blind must've been astounded by the number of cameos in it. As much as it was fan service, it was a lot of fun to see some of those original characters back on screen.

Chris Evans returning as Human Torch, despite being greatly underutilized, was really fun to see. Wesley Snipes as Blade is always a win though he was very different from his original portrayal. Snipes was much thinner, didn't rock the trench coat, and only had like one medium-sized blade. (Don't play around Marvel, give him the sword!) Channing Tatum as Gambit was actually really cool to see on screen. Even though we've never had a movie made about him, his brief utilization was enough to make me interested in the character.

The story was nothing crazy. The Disney-Fox merger and using the Void to contain all the forgotten Fox characters was a fun idea, but it wasn't groundbreaking. Despite Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman's great characterization, they didn't add anything new. Reynolds is the same humorous wise-cracking merc. Jackman is the same temperamental Wolverine albeit with a bit more depression. On the negative end of the spectrum Emma Corrin's Cassandra Nova is a bleak villain with no interesting motive or backstory.

The cinematography and camera work was decent. The single-take dolly shot fight with all the Deadpool variants was great and I can't wait to watch that scene again and notice even more hidden details. I think the action was really well-shot and interesting as it highlighted every character and their corresponding abilities. The soundtrack was really fun! NSYNC, Madonna, and Green Day? Sign me up! The song choice and application to the movie added a lot of uniqueness to the action sequences and elevated the silliness factor. Speaking of which, I don't know if I grew up or just got bored, but this movie wasn't nearly as funny as previous entries. With all that being said, *Deadpool and Wolverine* is a treat, but seriously struggles with pacing and certain story elements. ★

The STAR Staff are dedicated to reporting campus news and being the voice of the students on the Houghton Campus. We are excited to work with you this semester and encourage you to bring any news-related concerns to us!

Rebecca Dailey
Opinions Editor

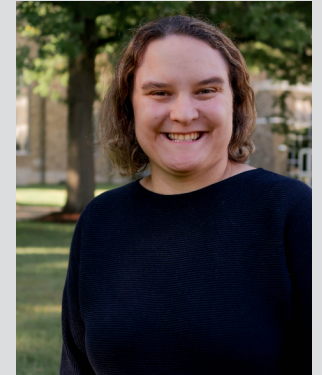
Rebecca Dailey is a senior English and Adolescent Education double major who is constantly all over campus for events and class. When she is not doing homework (student teaching) or editing the opinions section in the STAR, she enjoys reading, spending time with her friends or working on her next big story idea.

**Meet the Team****Abigail Bates**
Co-Editor-in Chief

Abigail Bates is a junior majoring in Writing and Political Science and works in the Writing Center. In her spare time, she likes to read, mainly fictional works from a wide variety of genres, write her own fictional stories or short pieces, and learn unfamiliar concepts. Abigail also likes to drink tea, go for long hikes and paddle board on the West Coast.

**Victoria Arndt**
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Victoria Arndt is a senior studying communications and is the Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Houghton STAR this semester. This is her third year working for the STAR. When not studying for classes, she enjoys writing stories, watching movies and television, reading, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.

**Kaitlyn Avery**
Photo and Media Editor

Kaitlyn Avery is a Senior majoring in Applied Design and Visual Communication with a minor in Art Business. She serves as the photo and media editor for the STAR. When not running around taking photos you may find her playing board games or watching movies with her friends.

**Caleb Tiedemann**
Columns Editor

Caleb Tiedemann is a senior majoring in English and Writing, with plans to explore a future career in law after college. He works as the columns editor and, when not reading or writing for his major, can be found working in the dining hall, the library, or watching a movie from his nearly endless collection.

