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## THE HOUGHTON WIND ENSEMBLE

ABIGAIL BATES ('26)

On Feb. 11 - this Saturday - at 7:30 p.m., the Houghton Wind Ensemble (HWE) will perform their first concert of the 2023 spring semester in the Wesley Chapel. Conducted by Dr. Timothy McGarvey alongside two guest ensembles, the Fillmore Senior High Band and Genesee Valley Concert Band, the performance will be free of charge with a focus on community engagement.

"So, for this concert, we have been told that we are also performing with a couple of high schools from the area," Freshman Sarah Hoppough explains.

The Houghton Wind Ensemble claims a major part of the concert, with sections delegated to each of the guests. In addition, all the ensembles will collaborate together on a piece called "Consensus," written by the Dutch com-



The Houghton Wind Ensemble gathered for rehearsal

COURTESY OF GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

poser Jan Van der Roost.

Before going onstage, the ensembles only have one rehearsal together.

According to graduate student Derek Jaques ('22), "the piece itself is about the concept of consensus and so it'll be kind of interesting to play that in consensus, if you will, with the high schoolers; sort of all getting to play

that together."

It'll be a test of their collaboration, and an opportunity to bring high school students on stage with college students who are pursuing higher education in music.

The highlight of the Wind Ensemble Concert is the war piece "Firestorm," composed by Stephen Bulla and played by the

Houghton Wind Ensemble. Bulla composed the piece in 1991 for the United States Army Band, which, for the Houghton Wind Ensemble, is a high energy, technical piece at the center of the performance.

"It's definitely the showpiece. It's very, very fast, and it was written about a war," Hoppough remarks. She plays alto

saxophone in the ensemble, and is excited to perform the piece. "It's pretty difficult," she adds, "It's definitely the most difficult one we're doing, but it's very worth it."

All the pieces prepared for the concert Saturday are ones the Houghton Wind Ensemble has been working on since the beginning of the semester.

Jaques emphasizes that, "in all of our Wind Ensemble performances we seek to make music that's beautiful and that's honoring to God and ultimately points to Him and glorifies Him, and that's the main takeaways that we want the audience to have with it and everything that we do."

All are invited to attend and listen together to the collaboration of the Houghton Wind Ensemble, Fillmore Senior High Band and Genesee Valley Concert Band. ★

## Women in STEM Day

TIMOTHY RASMUSSEN JR. ('22)

This upcoming Saturday (Feb. 11) is International Women and Girls in STEM day, and to commemorate this, the members of Sigma Zeta's all-female cabinet will be hosting an event tonight called "Women in STEM", from 7-8 p.m. in the South End dining hall.

Sigma Zeta President and Senior Skye Chaapel noted that Around the Table Credit is available for this event, and all are welcome to attend.

Chaapel further explains that this event was designed to "promote equal access of the sciences to women"

Sigma Zeta Treasurer and Sophomore Faith Coolbeth expressed agreement with Chaapel's statement, saying, "The STEM Field has long been predominantly men which gives women an experience worth sharing."

Junior and Sigma Zeta Vice President Abigail Wheeler emphasized that the professors who will speak at the event are all professors in STEM-related fields at Houghton University: Dean of Natural Sciences & Mathematics and Associate Professor of Mathematics Dr. Jill Jordan, Assistant Professor of Physics Dr. Katrina Koehler, and Professor of Chemistry and the Alan & Florence Johnson Distinguished Chair in Health Sciences Dr. Karen Torraca.

Chaapel also states that the Women in STEM event focuses on listening to the professors talk about their experiences in STEM. When asked about the various benefits the

event has, Chaapel said, "You can learn more about some of the science faculty on campus as well as supporting students in science who are overly underrepresented."

When asked about the type of discussions that will take place at the event, Sigma Zeta Secretary and Junior Cedar Smith emphasized that women in the STEM faculty will talk about "how their faith plays a role in their mission/passions."

She also mentioned the fact that the "event aims to highlight the inspiring women in STEM faculty."

Wheeler states that she and Sigma Zeta want to show how much they appreciate this important day, as well as the work they've done with Dr. Jordan.

If you have any questions about this event, get in touch with a member of the Sigma Zeta. ★



Sigma Zeta Poster for Women in STEM

COURTESY OF ABIGAIL WHEELER

## FEATURE: Life Together Groups

ANNA CATHERMAN ('24)

Bible studies, book studies, and basketball are just a few of the opportunities that exist for spiritual life outside the Chapel doors.

"Life Together" groups began last semester as a way to support students' return to in-person spiritual life activities after the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Chair of Religion, Associate Dean of the Chapel, and Adjunct Professor of Youth Ministry J.L. Miller, there was a lot of folklore surrounding small groups in the past. "There are a lot of small groups on campus" was a frequent mantra, but they often lacked publicity. The Life Together program was designed to bring these groups to the forefront of campus life as well as to provide an organized support system, with the chapel office providing counseling and publicity to leaders.

These groups vary widely in membership and content: some are single-gender, others are co-ed. Morning, afternoon, and evening times are all available.

Numerous Bible studies make up a large portion of the "Life Together" groups. Meeting in the Paine Greenhouse from 3-4 p.m. every Tuesday, led by Junior William Tormey, "Caring for God's Creation" is a co-ed study for those interested in a Biblical

look at sustainable living.

All men on campus are welcome to study the book of Acts at Roth's Bible study led by Junior Will Allen, which meets in the first floor lounge, Echo Base, from 8-9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. On Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m., the Ezra and Nehemiah Bible Study group led by Sophomore Matthew Foster also meets at Echo Base.

"Life Together" groups are more than just Bible study groups, though. There are also fellowship, support, and book study groups.

"Bible and Basketball" Co-Founder Isaac Little said the group is a "unique competitive fellowship that you cannot get anywhere else on campus."

From 7-8:30 p.m. every Sunday night, men and women come together in Nielsen for a brief devotional followed by a game of pick-up basketball.

"Tea and Porn" is a small group of men that meets from 8:30-9:30 p.m. every Thursday in Echo Base.

According to the group's leader, Senior Adam McCutcheon, "Open and honest discussion of an issue which is largely associated with shame is a first step in helping us realize through the acceptance of our family in Christ that we are not alone and that we are accepted."

There are also two book study groups this semester. "The Garden City", led by Seniors

Isabelle Murch and Zoe Utterback meets in the main room of the Dining Hall on Thursday mornings from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Over breakfast, the group discusses "Garden City: Work, Rest, and the Art of Being Human" by John Mark Cohen.

Women's Area Coordinator Raegan Zelaya and Senior Arianna Zampella are currently leading a book discussion group that meets in the Gillette RD apartment. Around a dozen women are reading through "Sexless in the City" by Kat Harris.

"There are a lot of different people with different beliefs and boundaries," Zelaya noted.

They come together to discuss living lives of integrity in a world ravaged by the extremes of hypersexualization and purity culture.

While the groups cover a number of different topics and interests, the program does have an overarching goal.

According to Miller, "Life Together" groups exist "to make sure we're being intentional in creating spaces that people can experience discipleship in small groups." ★

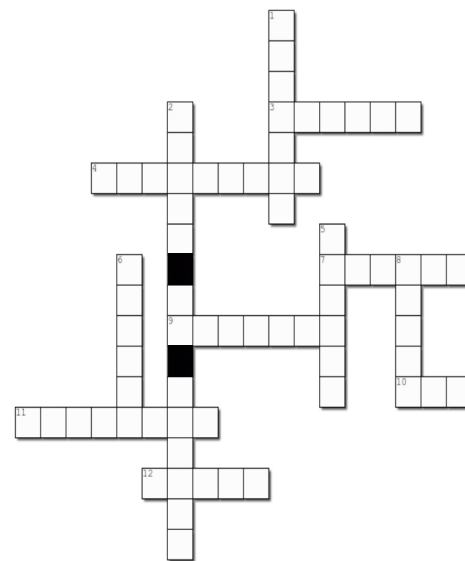
## Puzzles

Fiendishly fun puzzles for the Trivia-loving, number-crunching readers

(Warning: Some of these are Tricky! Don't use a pen!)

### Crossword

So You Think You Know Houghton?



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

#### Across

3. First President of Houghton College
4. What did Dr. Greatbach Invent?
7. Last name of the painter of the Chapel Lobby Mural
9. What is Houghton's Admission's Building Called?
10. Before it was Student Council it was

11. Before it was a College, Houghton was a
12. The Second President of Houghton College

#### Down

1. The Three Student Publications: The STAR, The Lantern and The
2. Where's the Rock?
5. President Chamberlain was the
6. The Third President of Houghton College
8. First President of Houghton University

## Interested in Contributing to the STAR?

### News-Opinions-Features-Columns

We would love to have you!  
Contributing to the paper can be a great way to get experience in media and journalism or just with expressing your ideas.

Even if you don't feel confident in your writing abilities, our editors can work with you to give advice and help polish your piece!

Come join our Super STAR Writers

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## Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Fiendish

Provided by [Sudokuoftheday.com](http://Sudokuoftheday.com)

# The Need for a Student Constitution



JOEY SCHUNEMANN ('23)

There is a disconnect at Houghton. At a school where student-faculty relationships are built strong by invested professors and eager students, the lack of institutional communication to students regarding campus life changes sticks out like a sore thumb. When university-wide changes are made that affect student life, something that has little impact on incoming students but all the difference in the world to Houghton's student body, it often feels like the last people to get consulted on those changes are the enrolled on-campus students.

I want to clarify right out of the gates that this is not a targeted piece meant to call out or accuse any faculty members of wrong behavior or even to prophesy

some unstoppable decline of Houghton culture—quite the opposite. I see a sickness developing at a school built on community. It is a slow infection that, if left to fester, seriously endangers the living body of Houghton.

There is a certain wonder to pleasant surprises. If I wanted to be generous, I would say maybe it is the pursuit of that same wonder that inspires campus-wide decisions to be made so frequently without the pre-informing of current students. It's time to acknowledge that it does not have that effect. When the Highlander Shop announces they are going to be accepting flex dollars from here on out, that's a pleasant surprise, one that isn't dangerous to keep quiet and was almost surely run by a student test

*"We need a document that stands alongside our moral community covenant, which by itself does not fully embody our Christian calling as an institution."*

happy to embrace a new season brought to us by a surprise change of environment. Instead, it leaves us, the tangible student body, feeling unvalued. The effect of making changes to student life without any student input, like the constantly complicated ice cream situation and the furniture change in Gillette, perpetuates the fear that Houghton

seem to prioritize student intake over retention and the donations of old passionate alumni over the creation of new passionate alumni.

It is this lack of transparent trust and feeling of powerless discontent that is creating a generation of Houghton students who define their experience as "what hasn't Houghton done to hurt me" instead of focusing on the loving student-faculty relationships and quality of coursework. Following the wake of COVID, it's a wonder we can survive this second hard blow at Houghton culture in a few short years, and the only visible solution is an open-handed abandonment of institutional secrecy and an acceptance of public responsibility. We need a Student Constitution.

We need a document that stands alongside our moral community covenant, which by itself does not fully embody our Christian calling as an institution. We need a Constitution. We need an agreement between staff and students that requires open and honest communication so that in addition to being a community based on a common moral goal, we are held together far better by a bond of trust and open understanding. If the institution does not give students the chance to know what we are losing before it

is gone, then self-sacrifice never comes into the equation and our Christian call crumbles into a stratified hierarchy of the knows and the not knows.

Despite this feeling of being tossed around and underappreciated by the Houghton institution, we cannot help but love this community and the people that fill it because of the mutual love we strive towards in our individual lives. This love only strengthens our fear that one day this thing that we have begrudgingly grown so fond of might disappear, and we have no idea how to refute that fear. When programs disappear, faculty shuffle around, and tuition seems only to go down and down, students are afraid that ultimately our Houghton is in danger, and that fear is validated by secretive changes and opaque policy. It's time for Houghton to open up, and for the vague spirit of "the institution" to ask the culture that is being unwillingly changed if it's ready for the next turn before it's too late. ★

*Joey Schunemann is a second semester junior studying Media Arts and Visual Communication with minors in Art and Music. He loves playing board games, recording space cowboy podcasts, and long contemplative walks on the beach. He is from southern New Hampshire where he is the youngest of four siblings and the son of two parents.*

Have an opinion  
you want to share?

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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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STAR

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## Reviews

## Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine

Grace Vuolo '24

Last week, on February 1, Houghton University had the privilege of hosting the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine in our very own Wesley Chapel, conducted by our very own conductor, Theodore Kuchar. President Lewis opened the concert, praying that it would be a blessing to all performers and visitors. His prayer was most assuredly answered. This concert was a surreal experience both for musicians and non-musicians alike. While this writer reviews from a musical background and technical perspective, regardless of the knowledge of the listeners, the effects of the musical magic enveloped the entire room. The unmatched rush of watching professional musicians tune as the lights dimmed was enough to encompass and enhance the already heightened anticipation.

The first piece performed by the orchestra was a chamber symphony for strings and a solo flutist by Yevhen Stankovych. The coordination between the soloist and the full-string ensemble was absolutely incredible. The flutist played rapid scales and arpeggios with precision and accuracy while the strings played with animation and an array of various techniques providing different sounds. The string's layered harmonies and flutes uplifting levels of emotion conversed to express a lively story filled with intensity and intention. Kuchar conducted with clear direction and enthusiastic involvement in each and every sequence.

The second piece played was a Brahms violin concerto. The violinists' bows moved in perfect unison on each note. Kuchar's conducting led to clear-cut dynamic changes in every instrument, from the soothing relaxation of soft strings to the intense acceleration of bursting brass. The communication between brass and strings during the call-and-response sections sent a vapor of perfectly synced music swirling about the entire chapel. While the orchestra worked beautifully together, the true star of the Brahms concerto was the

lovely and extraordinarily talented Vladyslava Luchenko. Luchenko believes that she sees "the musician's true purpose in being a guide to a person's most sacred, hidden unconscious...a profound healing tool, a bridge to the higher dimensions." The skill level that she displayed was on a level that I cannot imagine many musicians reaching in their lifetime--yet, her performance was nothing less than inspiring. Her movements were swift and precise and led the orchestra beautifully. The percussionist used the timpani to drive the beat perfectly into Luchenko's gorgeous notes and patterns. There must also be a special shout-out to Houghton's own graduate student Melissa Kleinberger who had the amazing opportunity to perform with the orchestra and played her cello magnificently. Congratulations, Melissa!

The third piece was Dvořák's ninth symphony in E minor which followed Kuchar expressing Ukraine's thanks to the U.S. for the intellectual and financial help it has sent, making it possible for the Ukrainian government to function and the orchestra to come perform at Houghton. The piece was played with such passion and emotion that the gratefulness of each and every player could be felt.

To top off the performance, the orchestra played a piece of entirely Ukrainian origin, showcasing the musical roots of the orchestra. As the piece came to a conclusive end, members of the orchestra held up a Ukrainian/United States flag. The entire performance was so filled with emotion and heart. Kuchar's pride and love for the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine was clear and passed through to the audience.

Thank you, Professor Kuchar, for sharing with us the gift of hearing your orchestra perform, and for treating us with the same love that you showed the musicians last Wednesday night.

## Artist of the Week

## Gwen Swanson '23



Gwen Swanson is a Senior at Houghton University majoring in Art and Inclusive Childhood Education. She loves working with a variety of mediums such as watercolor, oil paint, fiber arts, graphite, ink, and pastels. Gwen has been passionate about creating since a young age. She continues to pursue her love of art and strives to inspire others. As a future art teacher, Gwen is excited to work with students as they create their own art.

