





# International // Disaster Strikes Indonesia



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL SIEVERS  
PAIGE COLLINS

Indonesia’s tsunami and earthquake aftermath shows death and destruction for those hit by the natural disasters.

BBC News reports that the death toll has risen to 1,347 after “The 7.5-magnitude quake struck just off the central island of Sulawesi, setting off a tsunami that engulfed the coastal city of Palu.” The New York Times reports that “officials fear the death toll could continue to rise as rescue teams continue the search for survivors.”

The New York Times states that the tsunami caused severe destruction and loss of life as in “some places [the tsunami] reached a height of more than 20 feet.” Many are in danger due to these natural disasters as “more than 1 million people live in the area affected by the dual disasters.”

A domino effect of dis-

ruption occurred as the earthquake lead way to the tsunami, which lead way to the disastrous mudslides, or liquefaction of soil.

The Washington Post reports that “The death toll is likely to rise even further, as victims who have been buried by mud in a nightmarish phenomenon called liquefaction — where sand and silt take on the characteristics of liquid — have not fully been tallied.”

These mudslides, liquefaction and land sinking make it difficult to count the loss of life, indicating that the numbers will likely rise.

Due to the sheer numbers of the death rate, those in the affected area are forced to bury the dead in mass graves. According to the New York Times, throughout the weekend truckloads filled with dozens of bodies could be seen driving to Poboya Indah cemetery to fill the mass burial grave site.

The search for survivors is becoming desperate, The New York Times reports that “More help and equipment were on the way, but the spokesman for Indonesia’s disaster management agency, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, told reporters that time was running out to find survivors alive.” More complications arise “With bridges down and roads destroyed, some heavily hit areas have been hard to reach, making it difficult to assess damage and provide

assistance.”

Those who survived the Natural disasters are still fighting to stay alive as the city of Palu is “now a place of fear: looters, lawlessness and a slow and difficult aid effort that has made food, fuel and water hard to come by.” according to the Washington Post.

Many in Palu are now homeless as the Washington Post reports that “more than 61,000 have fled their destroyed homes and are grow-

ing more desperate — setting up makeshift tents, eating fruit from the few trees that still stand and scouring for water — as aid remains scarce.” “Meanwhile, looters, bandits and armed thugs grow increasingly bold as the city sinks deeper into a survivalistic mode.”

Although foreign aid is on its way as over 18 countries, the United States Included, have pledged aid and other

help, it is likely the situation will get worse before it gets better.★

*Paige is a senior majoring in Intercultural Studies and Writing*



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provide an Electrical Engineering credits,” Dr. Yuly explained, “This takes some time to confirm with New York State, and needs to be finished by the time the first students finish the program. Having a transfer student take part would effectively remove one or more years from our time frame to attain this accreditation. Once Houghton is allowed, all the credits will be retrospectively granted to students.”

The introduction of Electrical Engineering provides Houghton with the opportunity to draw in more students that would not have come otherwise. As many as 100 potential students ask if there is an engineering program every year, according to Yuly. In 2015, approximately 350 students expressed interest in studying engineering at Houghton. The College Board also reported that about 10% of all high school students want to study engineering after graduation.

Within Houghton, about

half of the physics students go on to study some form of engineering after finishing their program here. “I think having an engineering major is a great idea. I’ve learned a lot from my classes here as a Physics major, and I feel very confident that I could head into higher education or the workforce.” said Jon Durbin, a senior physics student, “I’m sure that the Engineering major will give students the same feeling of confidence.”

Another student who preferred to be unnamed shared this sentiment, stating, “I believe an engineering program is something that Houghton has really been missing. While physics might help a student learn the material, engineering usually gives alot more hands-on practical experience. I’m pretty excited about that! It’s unfortunate that I wouldn’t be able to take part, but I am glad that Houghton is doing something to improve their academics for future students, I think that’s really important to do as a private christian school.” ★

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HOUGHTON COLLEGE



# FLOODING DAMAGES CAMPUS

DAVD KRALT

Heavy rains hit Houghton on Tuesday, October second, with several buildings either floodings or taking heavy water damage. The water affected Gillette, Lambein Shen, Luckey, and the Chapel. The chapel experienced the worst amount of damage, with as much as 2 feet worth of water amalgamating in some areas of Precier Hall. The majority of flooding was caused because the drains that surround the buildings became backed up and caused the water to move towards the building instead of away.

Thankfully, the majority of walls in the Chapel basement are made from concrete, and were not damaged by the flood. Some drywall sections were affected however. As well, several instruments including a grand piano were damaged by the flooding. The Houghton Maintenance crew worked to fix the backed up drains and clear the affected buildings of water. The volunteer fire department arrived to assist in mitigating the damage, but were unable to stay for the entire duration.

Lambien’s ground floor was also affected rather heavily. “Water just started pouring out of the door in the corner of the lounge. It was going pretty quick, and we had no idea why it was coming out of that door rather than on the creek side. I went to check on my own room and the laundry to see if those were flooding, and heard water rushing in the bathroom. One of the showers was full-on raining, pouring out water from everywhere except where water should be coming from.” exclaimed Emma Bruce, a Junior physics major, “In retrospect I think it might have come from the rainwater rushing down the hill in front of the building, which might have run out of places to go in such a heavy downpour.”

The rain stopped at around 5:15 on Tuesday, but the damages to the building had already been done. The school has plans to repair the water damage is the most heavily affected areas. In the less affected areas, the flooding caused minimal damage, and simply needs to be dried out with fans.★



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### THEATRE from page 1

Theatre Director, Amanda Cox. While the school may not be deep into developing the theatre minor right now, there is plenty of student interest in one. “I think it’s exciting that we are [thinking about] opening new avenues in the arts” said Libby Best, a participate of Lyric Theatre. She also mentioned that a theater minor “might help the music department by bringing [new] people in.” Best hoped that it would be more than just Lyric Theater which is “more or less exclusively rehearsal.”

Other students look at social reasons for why a theatre minor would be a good inclusion. Natalie Kyvik, who played Ado Annie in Oklahoma! last fall, stated, “I think the introduction of a theatre minor is awesome, especially for students at the Greatbatch School of Music wanting to pursue careers in musical theatre. At the same time, it’s a great thing to have for those who are necessarily

music students but love to act, like myself.” She continued, “It’s also a cool way to connect those who wouldn’t normally have classes together. When I was involved in Lyric Theatre’s production of Oklahoma! last spring, it was such an amazing experience to be surrounded by people I normally wouldn’t be around on any given day, seeing as I’m a biology major and live in the Paine science building.”

Students like Kyvik could get the opportunity to explore an interest over time, and earn a minor alongside it. The minor would require more specialized theatre classes to be created for the students and potentially extra staff on top of that. Yet it could very well prove to be an excellent addition to Houghton’s wide of range available arts for students to study.★

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consider it a success.”

Josiah Kratz and Jared Malone presented their research on Improved Modeling of Impeller Mixers Operating in the Transitional Flow Regime, in collaboration with Dr. Kurt Aikens. Impeller mixers are frequently used in chemical and pharmaceutical industries to blend liquids, and the team hoped to create a digital model that illustrated how to improve the process using a program called Computational Fluid Dynamics. A key piece of technology in improving impeller blending is called a baffle - these are described by dynamixinc.com as “long, flat plates that attach to the side of the tank to prevent swirling & promote top to bottom fluid movement”. In Kratz and Malone’s presentation they defined three types of impeller fluid movement, or flow - laminar, transitional, and turbulent. They chose to focus on transitional flow, the least

understood of the three in relation to baffles. To analyze this relationship, they applied the continuity equation for incompressible fluids and Newton’s second law of fluid dynamics. The data they collected fell into two types: the Reynold’s number, which describes where on the spectrum from laminar to turbulent flow the liquid is at a given moment, and the power number, which indicates how much energy is being spent to maintain flow. The team found that they were able to accurately determine the power number in non-time-dependent simulations using the computer program - a conclusion which the two students found satisfactory. Although Kratz noted that major divergences occurred at low Reynolds numbers, he concluded, “We match up pretty closely with experimental data.”

Sarah Olandt and Daniil Zhuravlev presented their research on stacking fault density in “thin silver films”, sheets of

pure silver used in electronic devices. Thin in this case means 2-3 nm thick: a stack of 50,000 would be about as thick as a sheet of paper, according to the National Nanotechnology Initiative. Olandt and Zhuravlev sought to study the patterns that occur in layered silver sheets, particularly the “faults” that appear when these patterns change. They calculated the total number of faults by measuring the distances between faults in the stacks using an x-ray diffractometer. These observations confirmed their prediction that temperature influenced the number of faults, with cooler conditions during deposition resulting in fewer than at high temperatures.

Caleb Lyon and Nate Parks presented their work with Dr. Steven Miller on Automorphic Representation Theory, a set of mathematical procedures that produces a three-dimensional set of matrices, which are used to store sets of numbers. While

they started with a 3x3 case matrix, they wrote computer programs to accommodate 5x5 and 8x8 matrices as well, using graph theory techniques to expedite the process.

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# Dr. Hopkins Joins Houghton Education Department



Dr. Laura Hopkins has returned to Houghton as Assistant Professor of Education

KAYLA SIMMONS

Joining the education department this semester as Assistant Professor of Education is Dr. Laura Hopkins, a 2004 graduate from Houghton. Born to missionary parents, Dr. Hopkins grew up in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and she came to Houghton as part of

here, describing it as “a time of really close, rich, and meaningful community, growing in my faith, and also being challenged intellectually and grappling with my identity and coming to understand who I was and what God was calling me to in the world.” Coming back as a professor, she gets to have “the opportunity to cultivate rich relationships with my colleagues but then also in a different way with students, mentoring their learning and growth as young professionals.”

She originally started her studies at Houghton intending to major in Psychology and Writing. “I was really interested in understanding more about how people work and how they interact with others,” Dr. Hopkins said. After two years at Houghton, she worked at a summer recreation program and had the opportunity to interact with kids and experience some of the work involved with teaching.

“I really enjoyed it more than I thought I would,” she said. “It really resonated with me, the work that I was doing and gave me insight into who I was and also how God might be able to use some of the gifts that I had to make a difference in the world.” Dr. Hopkins was able to graduate from Houghton with a double major in Psychology and Education, and went on to get her Masters in Education at Regent University and then her PhD at Michigan State University.

Dr. Hopkins, who works specifically with language and literacy, spoke fondly of adolescent literature, “books that are really well-written and speak to deep and enduring truths and complex issues of what it means to be a person, and to live in this broken world...I think a lot of books that are for kids really address these issues in really rich and meaningful ways.” She recommends *The Giver*, which her husband, Assistant Professor of Modern Lan-

guages, also referenced as an impactful book they read during their time at Houghton.

She has worked teaching kindergarten and first grade, as well as a middle school reading specialist. “As I think about working with kids at that level but also working with future teachers, both I see as a kind of apprenticeship,” Dr. Hopkins said. “My role in that is to provide rich experiences and a rich learning environment that are intentionally designed for my students to have an opportunity to engage authentically...for my future teachers here to grapple with things and engage with things that are going to really prepare them for the work they are going to do as teachers. Part of that work is mentoring and guiding them along that journey as someone who has had more experience.” ★

## Review // Smallfoot

KYLA NIES

Warner Bros. offers a new and amusing twist on a classic myth in the new animated movie *Smallfoot*, directed by Jason Reisig, director of *Shrek* and *Kung Fu Panda*, and Karey Kirkpatrick, director of *Over the Hedge* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Playing off of “bigfoot” lore, *Smallfoot* follows the story of Migo (voiced by Channing Tatum), an ostracized yeti on a truth seeking mission to prove the existence of the “Smallfoot” (i.e. humans).

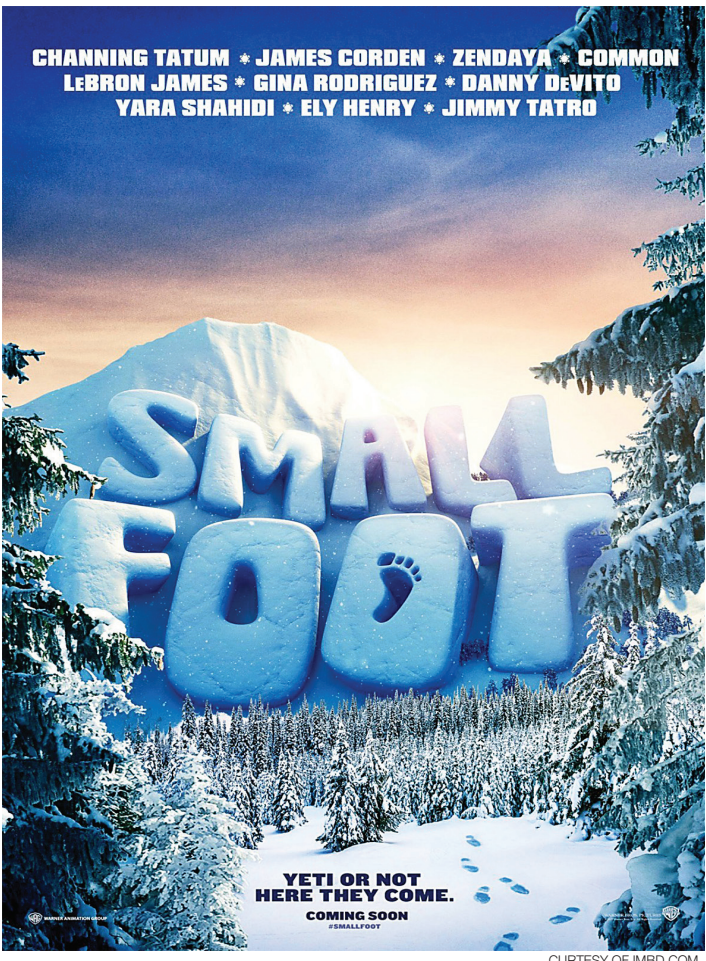
Migo comes from a tight-knit community of Sasquatch high in what appear to be the Himalayas. One fateful day, he finds what no one in his community believed to exist: a human. Migo tries to tell his village, quickly causing an uproar until the village leader, called the Stonekeeper, insists that Migo is lying and banishes him. Once banished, Migo is adopted by the members of the SES (Smallfoot Evidentiary Society) who join together on an adventure to prove the existence of humans. Along the way, they encounter a real life “smallfoot”; a cynical, down on his luck, wildlife documentarian, looking for anything that will make him a internet sensation. The unlikely group quickly bond and start to appreciate one another’s way of life, challenging the status quo that has taught them to fear anyone who is “different”.

In a time of political polarization and division in the real world, *Smallfoot* offers a quick and lighthearted reminder that our differences give us a chance to learn about each other and that peace can be made when we are willing to bridge the gap. Its “adorkable” humor and catchy musical numbers engage younger audiences and its themes can speak to all ages.

Although it has good themes, this movie has pretty standard characters with perhaps overly simplistic character arcs. The shallow man finds he has a soft side. The quiet daughter finds a voice of her own. The rejected outcast is welcomed home a hero. Additionally, we’ve already seen this plot time and time again in animated movies recently. A loveable protagonist goes on a journey to change the status quo of a skeptical community clinging to tradition, and is at first rejected but then welcomed back as a hero when the town becomes aware of their small-mindedness. Are we talking about *Zootopia*? *Hotel Transylvania*? *Smallfoot*? How to *Train Your Dragon*? *Happy-feet*? It could be any of these movies because all of them follow the same plotline.

That being said, this round of the same plot line is particularly well animated (featuring cute characters and sweeping mountainous panoramas) and at times laugh out loud funny. Its musical numbers could go either way because on one hand Channing Tatum is not known for his impressive vocals but on the other Zendaya (who plays the love interest and Stonekeepers daughter, Meechee) is a musical gift to the movie.

Ultimately, what *Smallfoot* lacks in plot is made up for in creativity and charm. It’s a kids movie, not a Oscar nominee and that’s okay. There is space for us to sit down with a bowl of popcorn and equally childish friends and enjoy a movie that is anything but abominable. ★



Smallfoot opened in theaters on September 28

# Write for the STAR!

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# PHOTO ESSAY

## Homecoming 1991

*This re-run column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history. This particular article is from Volume 84 Issue 4 of the STAR, published on October 11th, 1991*

The handle of the cup pierced his ear. Just kidding. Charles Bressler says he's always wanted to open something with that sentence, but it's never seemed quite appropriate. This article is actually about homecoming.

We could begin on Thursday, with the Study Break a well attended function with several men in drag, vying for the title "Ms. Houghton: Congratulations to Jeff Galusha and his tuba talents Friday night marked the opening of Still Life With Murph and the Taming of the Shrew by the National Shakespeare Company, packing the Chapel upstairs

and down. Fear of Isaac played the opening coffee house on the new mini-stages in the campus center, kicking of their highly acclaimed "Where's the Drummer?" tour.

Saturday's parade included the Medieval freshmen, sophomores from Rome, Norwegian juniors, Egyptian seniors, and the S.C.U.D. float from the Students Continuing Undergraduate Degrees(Houghton Lifers). Also featured: Pioneer Girls, Clown Ministry, Academy Reunion Class of '46, the infamous new ambulance, ROTC, the Volunteer Fire Department, and thousands of adoring fans gathered on the streets of Houghton taking pictures, gathering candy and cheering as the Dean Bence Sphinx rolled on in the morning sun.

The thousands of parade watchers then assembled on the quad, filling every square inch(sorry to Dean Bence and his organic barricades) to watch in anticipation as the crowning of the Homecoming Queen drew near. The drums rolled (ok, maybe it was only the crowd drawing in their breath) and Bruce Brenneman

wrenched the envelope open and announced Miriam Cochrane as the winner Flanked by half-naked Egyptian escorts in mini-skirts, Miriam was crowned.

King's College and our own Houghton Varsity Soccer team played the game of the year, Houghton bravely holding King's College away from scoring until the second half. The weather remained beautiful (slightly over cast as always) until the end of the game, when the heavens opened upon the crowd, sending them scattering with umbrellas up the hill and to the Homecoming Banquet.

Italian food, checkered tablecloths and Al's enormous sheet cake marked the celebration in food, grape juice and song. The winners of the float contest (Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors and Freshman, in that order) were announced and the Leaning Tower of Pisa cake fell at the knife into a thousand pieces. Closing Homecoming Weekend, The Rescuers Down Under replaced Cinema Pamdiso as the CAB Movie of the weekend, followed by the Spot, a can of worms this writer isn't going to open.★



## Photo of the Week:

Courtesy of Instagram

## Progress Towards a More Sustainable Community

JESSE RUCQUOI

As many members of the Houghton community may have heard, the Center for Sustainability (CFS) has quite an active presence on campus this fall. Aside from promoting student engagement through internship opportunities and Eco-Reps events, the center is making huge efforts to reduce our carbon footprint on campus. Brielle Kwarta, the Biodiversity Coordinator of the CFS, has designed new signage for every recycling bin around campus. We have recognized the confusion that many people face as they toss their rubbish away while rushing to class or another meeting. The signs previously posted on recycling bins were too wordy and we found that many people simply did not have the time to read them. Brielle did some research

and created posters with images rather than words, which should increase people's understanding and general recycling on campus to make it as easy as possible. There are now signs in Java as well, which explain which parts of the coffee cups are recyclable.

In addition to recycling, the college as a whole is working to reduce electricity consumption immensely by switching out all of the lightbulbs on campus for LED bulbs. Not only will this help push Houghton towards running more sustainably, but we will save money in the long-run. Brian Webb, Coordinator for the Center for Sustainability, is heading this project. Through his research and previous knowledge, he found that this campus-wide change would, after several years, pay for itself. Brian Webb states that "This project will instantly reduce the college's electricity usage by 10%, lowering our electricity bills by \$80,000 -

\$100,000 per year and saving 780,000 kWh of energy. The project requires no up-front costs from Houghton, and pays for itself over a period of 10 years through the future savings generated by the energy-efficient LED bulbs." The LED bulbs have a lifespan of at least double the average lifespan of other light bulbs. Once installed, the bulbs will reduce maintenance costs as well as the electricity bill. We are very excited to see this change implemented, as it will benefit the school in several ways and improve overall lighting of the buildings.

The Center for Sustainability hopes to encourage the individuals of the Houghton community to become more responsible as stewards of our earth. As you may have noticed, there are little signs adjacent to light switches, sinks, and water fountains on campus. They have trendy sayings such as "Turn off the Tap", "1 Minute = 1 Gallon",

# Religious Diversity in Houghton

PAIGE COLLINS

*The Religious Diversity in Houghton column hopes to explore the wealth of diversity on campus and give students a chance to express their beliefs.*

Carolyn Duttweiler is a 2019 Houghton College Student and is an Intercultural Studies Major. Carolyn is a part of the The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) denomination and attends Trinity Lutheran Church in Wellsville, NY

Carolyn explains that Lutheranism is what's considered to be a High Church setting. The pastor wears a white robe, acolytes light the candles, and an organ is played while hymns are sung. Liturgy is an important component to the service as she explains that "one; it's emphasizing the scripture, and two; it's emphasizing our role together as a community". She continues that confession, both part of the liturgy and silent confession, followed by forgiveness are important components to the Lutheran service. The apostles or nicene creed, communion, the Lord's prayer and the benediction are weekly components as well.

She continues that in the LCMS denomination "we worship and fear God and love God because He's deserving of the highest honor and highest respect. I like the reverence. We dress up to go to church, not a lot of people do that anymore. I like the tradition of it, and the respect and honor it gives God. A big emphasis is placed on the Gospel message. Lutherans are not legalistic, at least in my congregation. Every Sunday you're hearing the gospel and you're hearing that even though you're a dirty, rotten sinner Jesus died on the cross to save you. The whole focus of the sermon is on scripture and on God, not on ourselves."

However, Carolyn clarifies that "my congregation itself is slightly different than the LCMS church in general. Anyone who knows I'm a Lutheran and then looks up LCMS doctrine might be a little confused. Many LCMS pastors and congregations don't think women should hold positions of authority. My congregation on the other hand is very dif-

ferent than that. We're a very liberal LCMS congregation. My mom is an elder and my dad is the head elder, but that's just because he had more time than my mom." Generally those in the Lutheran Church believe that by faith alone one is accepted into heaven. Regarding this Carolyn testifies that "I don't really know where the sinners prayer comes from, or what denomination, but I've been asked a lot 'at what age where you saved?' No age, because I grew up in the church." She continues that once a cousin of hers "asked me if I said this prayer or if I had taken a specific moment in my life where I had accepted Jesus into my heart. I said no, I've always believed in Jesus and she told me I wasn't going to heaven." "...other than faith in God I don't believe that there's anything that I need to do other than believe and trust in God to get to heaven. I have believed in Jesus my whole life and I have believed in what He's done and I trust that he died on the cross to save me from my sins."

Carolyn took the 'Luther as Political Thinker: 500 Years Reformation' course in the Fall 2017 semester last year, in which the class went to Germany with Dr. Meilaender for the Martin Luther 500th year anniversary of the protestant reformation. Regarding the course she states that "It was really good to learn where the background of where my denomination came from because I realized how little I did know about his [Martin Luther's] actual teachings. I think it solidified my confidence in the denomination."

Explaining why she chose Houghton College, Carolyn states that "even though it's very different theologically, it's still Christian. And while I may feel more comfortable in certain denomination or a certain setting, we're all one body of Christ. I like to be surrounded by other Christians regardless of the denomination, because we're just one body of Christ."★

and "Save Light for When You Need It". The idea is that as people see them around, remember the sayings, and begin to take action. Even I, the individual who posted most of the signage, have caught myself right before leaving my room with the lights on. As Reverend Jonathan Staples said during this past Monday's chapel, this signage is "T & P" (tested and proven). Of course, as an employee for the Center for Sustainability and an avid tree-hugger, I have a bias. I want to promote the efforts of this (well-grounded and absolutely fabulous) center and encourage others to share my *enthusiasm*. However, to love God's creation is a very reasonable command for us to obey in response to the radical love that we receive from Him. The Center for Sustainability can implement projects and make signs, but it is up to all of us to step up to the plate. *Jesse Rucquoi is Assistant Coordinator with the Center for Sustainability.*★



# Learning How To Learn



MICHAEL SIEVERS

ANDREW SHERMAN

When I started college, I envisioned the perfect education as one which would simply transform me into more knowledgeable version of myself. As a theology major, I thought I would only learn things that supported my beliefs; I envisioned studying the Bible and great theologians of church history as an exercise that would beef up my head knowledge so I could use bigger Christian words when I preached. Of course, that was a problematic viewpoint. It assumed that the theologians were all in agreement with each other (and myself) and it effectively downgraded the Bible from the living Word of God to the best among a number of

theology books.

This is an extreme and personal example of a phenomena held by many students when they enter into higher education. I thought that I was just here to add more head knowledge to an already air-tight Christian worldview. And for that kind of education, nothing deeper needs to change.

But that kind of education is not realistic - not at all. Throughout your college career, your beliefs will and should be challenged. Additionally, if you leave Houghton with all the same beliefs and thinking all the

process of living that truth is more complicated than it might originally appear.

For example, what happens when we are confronted with an irreconcilable dissonance to the way we think about the world? If we must be open to changing our beliefs, it would be easy to say we should just accept the new viewpoint. But I also do not think our minds should be leaves in the wind, untethered to any core beliefs and values. We need openness and core beliefs together, and that's a hard balance to strike. How does that happen in the face of challenging ideas? My observation: the best response

“...the best response is simply not to panic. It will be okay. Sometimes we just have to hold on to different ideas at the same time”

same ways, you probably didn't get a very good education. I promise, you are wrong about something. We are all wrong about something, and if we are incapable of confronting our wrongness then we will never learn. That's pretty obvious, right? But obvious or not, the

is simply not to panic. It will be okay. Sometimes we just have to hold on to different ideas at the same time. We should resist being defensive and deflecting the new information/opinion, but we should also not make the mistake of trading one easy answer for another.

For myself, I've tried to make peace with that tension and allow the best solution to present itself over a period of time. This approach tends to land me in more moderate territory, and I'm becoming comfortable thinking of myself as a “moderate.” To be clear, I don't believe there to be any innate virtue to being moderate for moderation's sake, but I have noticed that most dichotomies are false dichotomies and that easy answers tend to be bad answers. And I'm still learning how to be a good learner, just as much as any other student.

It's not easy, learning how to learn. In today's culture it can be very hard to be committed to deep thinking. Sensationalism and partisan divisiveness prevail over balanced and fair wisdom in the media and in society as a

whole. We no longer have the luxury of receiving the kind of education that I expected when I came to college. Instead, the world needs people that are willing to stand in the middle of the world's many great divides without getting dragged into the oversimplified polarization with which our culture treats every single issue. We don't become those kinds of people by gaining all the right knowledge, but by deep formation of character, the sort that only happens when we are deeply committed to honesty with ourselves and those around us. We must be willing to ask questions, to revise our opinions when necessary, and, above all, to be wrong.★

*Andrew is a Senior majoring in Theology*

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# History, Hemlocks, and Houghton



MICHAEL SIEVERS

PHOEBE MULLEN

On Memorial Day 1920, three hemlocks were planted on the hill above where Roth now stands, in memorial of the three Houghton students who died in World War I. It was Laura Habecker, our archivist, who discovered a fourth veteran, Edward van Shaick. He was an alum who graduated in 1912. Our current theory is that it was an intentional choice on the part of the school at the time to only commemorate the men who were current students when they enlisted; however, in the years between this man was forgotten. And the precise location of the trees was also forgotten by most.

I heard this story while volunteering in the archives, helping prepare for displays on local history and on Houghton during the World Wars. This work is frustrating and glorious. The more I learn, the more I want to know, and the more I realize what we - as a college - don't know. We are surrounded by history. This is true no matter where in the world we are, but at a place like Houghton, we are privileged with access to that history. People before us have bothered to preserve it and we continue to do this today.

Our history has been preserved, yes, but we have a selective attention to that history. We tend to focus on the parts of Houghton history that concern us. We're interested in recent things; for example, we pay attention to the new circle of swings because most of knew the class of 2018 and are grateful for their gift. As a legacy student, I tend to pay attention to things that concerned

“Starting now, we need to be the kind of people who realize what we have before it's too late. We need to be the kind of people who care for our history; revel in it; keep it alive...”

my dad. He lived in Shen, sang in the college choir, and worked in the dining hall. This gives me a reason to learn more about these specific things. He graduated in 1982, so I think of him when I pass the Eagle Statue, because that was his class. I think of him when I see the plaque dedicated to the Stebbins Farm on the hill that leads down to the KPAC, because he lived in the long-gone farmhouse when he was a little kid and played where the KPAC now stands.

And often, even before we bother to learn about our

family's past, we pay attention to the things that we do. After all, everything that we do on this campus, from the clubs we form and the games we win and, faculty, the classes you teach, becomes part of Houghton's history; everything we contribute is part of the legacy we leave.

These things are all vital. But there is a third aspect that we often miss—the people, events, and details that shaped Houghton and reshaped over the last 130 years, which few of us have a direct connection to—and for that we have to dig deeper.

To start, our campus is littered with names. We name buildings, lounges, trails, benches—yet so few of us know the stories of the people who first bore those names. We might vaguely know that Luckey was Houghton's first president, or that Frieda Gillette was a history professor and the college's first

female division chair. But who is Irma Lambein? For whom is Roth named? Who was the Van Dyk behind Van Dyk lounge? The answers to these questions, and so many others yet unasked, wait for us to uncover.

The history that we already know is good. Family history naturally raises our curiosity and the history that's right in front of our eyes is the easiest to learn because we walk by a plaque or a bench every day. Let these histories not be an end in themselves, but become the seed that sows more questions; the spark that lights the fire of interest.

This November we are going to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, and someday soon we are going to replant and rededicate the memorial trees. But starting now, we need to be the kind of people who realize what we have before it's too late. We need to be the kind of people who care for our history; revel in it; keep it alive. And if we take this responsibility seriously, we ensure that the Houghton community of the future will not have to search for pieces of our history that have been lost.★

*Phoebe is a sophomore majoring in English and Writing*



# The Problem with “Fake News”



MICHAEL SIEVERS

LUKE HUIZENGA

Did you know that Katy Perry is a closet cannibal? Have you heard Malia Obama was caught buying drugs? Are you aware that Nutella gives you cancer? Hopefully, you figured it out by now: all bogus. In a world where the internet reigns, junk science and false rumors can become overnight news stories and nobody bats an eye. A politician performing pagan rituals? Maybe not, but it sounds fascinating. Joke articles such as these can circulate for weeks before reality hits and the truth comes out. These are examples of what I would call *fake news*.  
A second kind of news is *biased news*. These articles

are, while generally true, an unreliable source of news. Biased news is characterized by omitting significant facts, using similarly opinionated sources, or interpreting the story a specific way, ignoring different interpretations or outlooks. One other sign of biased media is a regular selection of news that presents one side in a positive light and the other in a negative one. These different tactics make up what people have to come hate about Fox News or CNN.  
The third kind of news is written from a *political perspective*. Stories like these are as accurate as possible, with multiple peer-reviews and thorough fact-checking. This is when news sources provide reliable news, but write from a certain political standpoint. The difference here is that their standpoint is much more subtle than biased news sources, and they retain all the facts of a story, not just the ones they

“Being aware is good, but to shave away quality journalism completely, simply because you disagree with the direction it’s taking, is embracing ignorance.”

need to push their agenda. Examples of news sources with political perspective are *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.  
Unfortunately, the American public has begun to mix these three groups into something they’re not. With the President leading the charge, people have been encouraged to label anything they disagree with as “fake news”. If you don’t like *The Times’* coverage of an issue because it leans one direction, it must be fake. The same goes for biased news. While generally unreliable, most biased news sources contain at least some

elements of truth. Sadly, what *should* be called fake news just gets thrown in and muddled with the rest, adding to the chaos and confusion.  
Here are some numbers that should emphasize the severity of the “fake news” problem. According to a 2016 Pew study, only 18 percent of American adults trust national news organizations “a lot”, while three quarters believe news organizations are politically biased. As the White House administration continues its frequent attacks on the media, it is safe to assume that our nation’s mistrust is steadily growing stronger. This discord produces a consequence that jeopardizes some people’s very livelihoods. Credibility is a journalist’s most powerful tool, and when a journalist no longer possesses credibility, their entire career is at risk. If their work cannot be trusted, why should they get paid? A lack of trust in good journalism is one of the reasons the news media

is hurting so badly right now.  
In short, fake news exists. I recognize that. However, there is a significant difference between news that contains no truth and news that is entirely or mostly honest. Right now, it’s really hard to find a news source that doesn’t write with some kind of political slant, but if we can recognize where that slant is, we can discern the truth also. Being aware is good, but to shove away quality journalism completely, simply because you disagree with the direction it’s taking, is embracing ignorance. When you are quick to call something “fake”, you run the risk of becoming too little—or just wrongly—informed about the world.  
Bob Woodward is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist known for almost singlehandedly ending Richard Nixon’s presidency with his investigative reporting of the Watergate scandal. At the 2017 White House Correspondents’ Dinner, he said simply: “Mr. President, the media is not fake news.” ★

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

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2018

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2019

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of the  
Week

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Maggie McDonald Is a Senior Studying Applied Design and Visual Communications. While she works in mediums of ceramics, watercolor, collages, and graphic design, her preferred creative outlet is photography.