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GRAD SCHOOL FAIR 2023

ISABELLA BRATTON ('26)

Houghton's Grad School Fair for the Fall 2023 semester was on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Van Dyk Lounge.

The Grad School Fair gives all students the opportunity to speak to representatives from different graduate programs.

Senior Kayleigh Verspoor ('24), who is considering online grad school for a master's in education, attended the fair and saw a good variety of schools represented.

Verspoor said, "There were options for programs exclusively online, exclusively in person and hybrid programs. Additionally there were programs available for a wide variety of content areas such as education, the health care fields, counseling and many others."

Senior Abigail Pixley



Grad School Fair photo

COURTESY OF CASEY CONKLIN

('24) found last year's Grad School Fair helpful in deciding what schools she wanted to apply for. Last week she was able to speak to the different representatives from the schools she applied to, and got an even better sense of what the schools are like.

Senior Lillian Turner ('25) said that she was al-

ready thinking about staying at Houghton to get her MBA, but going to the Grad School Fair helped solidify that decision and made her more confident that she was choosing the right option.

Turner also appreciated that some of the representatives she met spoke from personal experience, since

many are currently, or had been in, the program they were representing.

Verspoor commented that it would be helpful in the future for Grad School Fairs to categorize the schools in a list or organize the tables based on the programs.

"For example," Verspoor explained, "there were a lot

of schools representing healthcare programs exclusively which are irrelevant to me, but I didn't know that until I walked by their booth and talked to the representative."

One small criticism that was fairly common among students was the time the Grad School Fair took place.

"The timing of [the Grad School Fair] was right in the middle of classes," Turner said, "everyone has classes around lunchtime. And it was throughout the entire lunch block, so people who wanted to go probably [weren't] able to make it. I could barely make it as a worker. I think maybe having it after classes would be more helpful."

Verspoor said, "Sometimes in attending events such as these we become more aware of opportunities we didn't even know

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Social Division: Athletes and NARPs

SOPHIA VERNON ('26)

"[Athletes] are a clique because they all know each other," stated Abigail Franz ('25), adding that "sometimes it feels like because I'm not on a sports team, I'm on a different level, and there is a divide."

Franz exemplifies an overarching feeling of detachment and separation between non-athletes and the third of Houghton's student body that plays a sport.

Franz, a biology major, explained that "the bio



Sports division graphic

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

department is pretty overrun by sports people wanting to do exercise science." She stated that her experiences with getting to know athletes individually have been positive; however, "it's hard because of that initial divide."

On the flip side, Arija Grant ('26), a Houghton Women's Tennis player,

explained that she has often felt excluded from on-campus events due to practice and game schedules, highlighting specifically an away tennis match she had on the same night as a homecoming dance.

Jana Newberry, the Director of Student Engagement, emphasized that

"the distinction between athletes and non-athletes is natural" and that she does not "necessarily get mad at it." Echoing student concerns, Newberry stated, "I have a problem with athletes feeling excluded from things," pointing out that "there is too much distance." She attributes this problem in

part to both groups "not knowing what they don't know about how to get plugged in" and a "lack of understanding and stereotypes."

Newberry spoke on the natural divides arising from the lack of athletic representation and participation in the Campus Activities Board (CAB) events. She addressed that "sometimes the (CAB) events can be echo chambers," with the same people attending events, lacking expansion to wider audiences.

Enter Selah Kertz ('24), Tymber Wynn ('25) with Lander Nation. When asked about her experience with the social dynamics between athletes and non-athletes on campus, Kertz stated, "It feels really divided." She re-

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Inside the Board of Trustees

REBECCA DAILEY ('25)

The Houghton University Board of Trustees is a group of volunteers, mostly composed of alumni, who form the chief policy-making government for the university.

The board is broken up into nine committees: Advancement, Academic Affairs, Audit, Enrollment, Finance, Investment, Student Life, Trustee and the Executive committee, which is composed of the chairs of the other committees, the board chair and the board secretary.

James Eckert and John Lee, both board members, explained the Board of Trustees' undertaking as, less reacting, more planning and student focused.

The board's role is to support Houghton's president, and the president works with the university's administration to keep the school running smoothly. In addition, there is a responsibility for the board to represent the Wesleyan Church, which Houghton University is affiliated with.

Rev. Johanna Rugh, an ex officio board member and the Executive Director Education Clergy Development of the Wesleyan Church, stated, "Giving support to the president, administration, business and building maintenance is a combined effort between the president and board."

While the board checks in with President Wayne D. Lewis Jr. on what the administration is doing,

they do not have the ability to directly intervene with decisions made by the administration and the president.

President Lewis stated, "One of the phrases that gets used a lot is boards should have their noses in and their fingers out. Which means they should be asking questions, they should be making sure the [p]resident and administration are doing what they're supposed to do but they should not have their fingers on the actual admission and management of the university."

However, if the board believes the president is not meeting what needs to be done for the university, they can remove them.

Many of the concerns arising during board meetings are in relation to building maintenance, the number of professors and the ups and downs of student enrollment.

Gary Larder, Chairman of the Financial Board, said, "We go over the budget for every year and what is achieved financially. It's a challenge for a liberal arts university to get students for the meeting of financial targets. We try to look ahead, where we will be in the future in regards to students, professors and facilities."

The board also looks at and accepts audit reports, and reviews the financial progress in the fall and finish of the spring.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Jennings, Chair of the Board of Trustees, explained, "We do have open seasons in which

we invite resource people to the meetings . . . the vice president, representative from the student council, alumni board, the staff council and the faculty moderator."

Terms of board members are also reviewed and renewed during these meetings, along with the president's term. One of the main decisions for the Board of Trustees' meetings on Oct. 23-24, was the renewal of President Lewis' contract for the next five years until 2028.

Jennings said, "Dr. Lewis has worked tirelessly to help bring in a great incoming class this fall. We have every reason to think that we will continue to experience growth in enrollment . . . he and his team have made some great decisions and communicated the University's mission with compelling clarity."

The Board of Trustees' vote for President Lewis' contract renewal was unanimous, and they look forward to him continuing to serve Houghton.

President Lewis notes, "The relationship between the board and the administration, especially the president, is a really important partnership . . . working together in partnership there's so much you can accomplish together and we are tremendously blessed at Houghton to have that." ★

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lated her experience during her semester on the track team of eating dinner with the team and sitting on the "sports side" of the dining hall, but that "looking from the other side (non-athlete perspective), it feels very separate." She explained that this time on the track team assisted her in making athlete friends, stating, "I'm not sure I would have met a lot of the people I know without my previous connections to other athletes."

Resulting from the lack of community and spirit between athletes and non-athletes, Kertz and Wynn started Lander Nation, a non-Houghton-affiliated group on campus that works through on-campus events, themes and representatives for each athletic team to foster school spirit and community. Kertz explained that she knows a lot of "NARPs" (non-athlete-regular-person), and Wynn, a Houghton Women's Basketball player, knows a lot of athletes. The intention was to "bring NARPs in to participate in athlet-

ics," as well as "bridging the gap and having actual school spirit."

Grant explained how easy it is for athletes to feel excluded from school events and isolated to teams, stating that "there is a divide because of how much intentional time you spend with your team" and that "it's obvious you're going to get closer with people you spend so much time with." In troubleshooting the problem, Grant pointed out, "Houghton does a pretty good job emphasizing music and art, but there could be better advertising (for athletic events) on campus." She concluded that "athletes could be encouraged to support other areas, and it could go both ways." ★

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existed and it broadens our minds to think of new and diverse possibilities for the future."

Pixley had the same mindset, expressing how beneficial it can be for students to get their name into the graduate school system.

All three recommend for students to attend future Grad School Fairs, even if they aren't planning to go onto graduate school. ★

Puzzles

A Stupendous Selection of Perplexing Puzzles.

There was a close race between Puzzlers for last week's Section. **Josey Ikker** beat out **Jaeden Zabala** by mere minutes to maintain her puzzle of Puzzle Master!

Congratulations to both of our expert Puzzlers! Send your completed puzzles to star@houghton.edu to join the competition!

Last Week's Solution

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

Sudoku

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

Enjoying Houghton



ANNA CATHERMAN ('24)

"In for the Highlanders is #24, Hannahhhhh Smith!" I grinned and pumped my fist as my sinkmate jogged out onto Burke Field. Our friend Anna and I quietly "analyzed" the game, laughing at our soccer illiteracy. We walked back, amazed at the beauty and warmth of the October night. When Hannah got back, arms full of balloons and Senior Night gifts, she thanked me for coming. Later, I received a text from Anna: "Thanks for dragging me out of my hole :) it was nice to be outside." It was a wonderful way to spend a Wednesday night - one I

wouldn't have considered weeks earlier.

I had obligations on Wednesday nights: Student Council, then Jumping I Club Time. But three weeks into the semester, my life shattered. Literally. A freak fall off a horse sent me to the hospital with multiple broken bones. Once I got back to campus, I was left with a gaping hole. No more evenings riding under the lights. No more Saturday morning scrambles to the barn. My body demanded rest.

The change in routine has brought an unexpected blessing: an opportunity to rediscover the abundant joys of the

"Taking part in every aspect of the abundance that God has given us here at Houghton is impossible. But we can proactively seek to "energetically enjoy" the blessings around us."

in the Homecoming Parade. I listened to vocal performances at Studio. And for the first and last time, I watched a friend play soccer. These moments and a recent class discussion got me pondering how important "student engagement" is - and how little we students think about it.

me new things about the world, and made me laugh. They've encouraged me to pick up a second major, helped me grow my faith, and helped me through a frustrating, painful, one-armed semester. It's easy to "hole up" in our rooms, our favorite study spaces, our areas of expertise - especially as upperclassmen. But if we're too focused on our niches, we miss out on the rich, diverse experiences that Houghton has to offer.

My classmate Keiryn recently wrote an essay on the word "abundance." She noted that "[a]bundance, as a word, begs an energetic enjoyment of blessings." On our campus, "abundance" is 24 clubs, 17 sports, 46 majors, and six graduate degree programs. "Abundance" is floor events and Midnight Breakfast and chapel and SPOT and faculty lectures and Lyric Theatre and the rock wall and Koinonia. "Abundance" is 705 main-campus students, 58 teaching faculty, 11 non-teaching faculty, and 109 staff,

each made in the image of God, all with different stories, viewpoints, and skills. Of course, taking part in every aspect of the abundance that God has given us here at Houghton is impossible. But we can proactively seek to "energetically enjoy" the blessings around us.

The next time you're feeling stressed or burnt out, I urge you: if your diploma isn't at stake, take a break. Get out of your hole. Call that paper "good enough." Cancel your plans for an extra practice ride. Instead, find a friend to support. Stop by a professor's office just to say hi or thank them. Go for a hike. Sit with someone new at dinner. Attend an event outside your wheelhouse. And enjoy the abundance. ★

Anna Catherman is a senior double-majoring in Communications and Writing with a minor in Equestrian Studies. A transfer student, this is her third year at Houghton and her second as Student Organizations Representative, assisting and promoting clubs and organizations on campus.

"It's easy to 'hole up' in our rooms, our favorite study spaces, our areas of expertise - especially as upperclassmen."

Houghton community.

In the hours I would've spent in the saddle, I helped at Harvestival. I hung out at the English and Writing Open House. I marched

As a senior, I can look back and see how the events, clubs, and activities I've attended have shaped my time here. They've introduced me to close friends, taught

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
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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

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Review

An Echo in the Darkness

Julia Collins ('26)

Last month, we left off reading *A Voice in the Wind*, Francine Rivers' first book of the Mark of the Lion series. This week, we will be looking at the second book in the trilogy, *An Echo in the Darkness*!

Hadassah, a young Christian girl from Jerusalem sold into slavery in Rome, has survived a brutal attack after being betrayed by her master, Julia Valerian. Hadassah was rescued by a doctor, Alexander, who she begins to assist in his medical jobs. Personality wise, Hadassah is the same, but since the attack, she has scarring on her face that makes her almost unrecognizable (I say "almost" because she IS recognized- more on that later). Julia, meanwhile, is sick- actually, more than sick, terminally ill from an STD. She is in a relationship with a man who doesn't love her, and she is neglected by her friends. No one likes her, and she keeps getting sicker. But then she meets a servant who loves her and cares for her. What Julia doesn't realize is that this servant is Hadassah! Although Hadassah was recognized by Julia's now-Christian mother, Phoebe, Julia does not know that her new servant was the girl she had sent off to be killed!

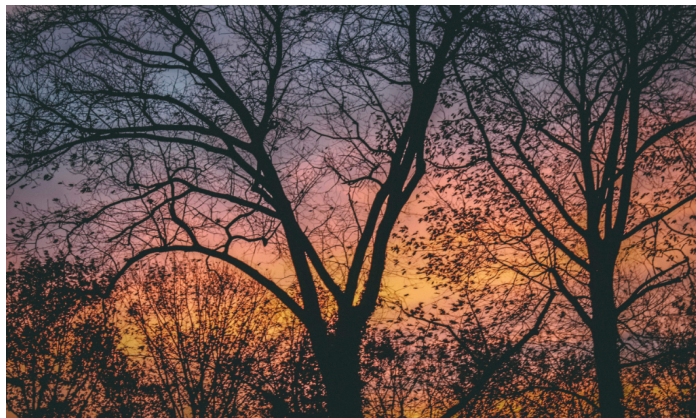
Meanwhile, Hadassah's almost-boyfriend/crush, Marcus Valerian, thinks she's dead, and he is heartbroken. To get closer to the memory of Hadassah, he goes to Jerusalem, and is eventually converted to Christianity. He eventually goes back to Rome after sensing that God wants him to go see Julia and forgive her for sending Hadassah to be killed. However, Marcus struggles with how to forgive. With his mother being sick, he blames Julia for not being with her. When he and Julia finally see each other again, things are bad. Can the two of them get along again?

The ending of this book, which I will not reveal myself, is a good wrap-up on the lives of Hadassah and the Valerians. The journey that the four main characters go through shows early Christianity, and how it impacted people's lives in unexpected ways and through interesting people.



Artist of the Week

Kaitlyn Avery ('25)



Kaitlyn Avery ('25) is majoring in applied design and visual communication and minoring in art business.

"I have decided to focus on graphic design and photography but I still like to play around with different mediums like watercolor. I love how photography can capture moments in time and highlight ordinary things that people don't often notice. I especially like capturing light and shadow in photos to create different compositions. In any medium of art I love experimenting with colors and compositions. "

