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## HOUGHTON CHOIR 2023 TOUR

JOSEY IKKER ('24)

Over Spring Break from Feb. 24 through Mar. 3, the Houghton University Choir traveled around New York, to Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia for their Choir Tour.

Each night, the Houghton Choir had the opportunity to spread the message of Christ through music in Salamanca, Hamburg and Webster, NY; Bird In Hand, Greencastle and State College, PA; and Sterling, VA. The choir also had the opportunity to work with local high schools in PA, VA and MD, participating in workshops, chapel services and rehearsals, as well as performing excerpts of their concerts.

The Houghton Choir is the only ensemble in the Greatbatch School of Music that consists of students who are sophomores and above and have been practicing traditional choral music since the beginning of the academic school year.

Dr. Kevin Dibble, the conductor of the Houghton choir and director of choral activities at Houghton, ex-



Houghton Choir tour performance

COURTESY OF ANDREW REITH

presses his thoughts on Tour, stating that his favorite experience was "spending time getting to know all of the students on Tour."

Rebekah Scharf, a second-year graduate student in conducting, and the assistant conductor for Houghton choir, also expresses her thoughts, stating, "I loved getting to meet people and just getting some good bonding time with the choir."

The Houghton Choir's statement of mission states as follows: "As the Houghton Choir, we seek to glorify God personally and corporately by upholding and extending a rich tradition of excellence in choral music. Through a diversity of choral literature, we aspire to minister the life-transforming power of God's love and grace to all who hear us. We strive to live

humbly as a community of individuals who love and value each other because of our desire to reach others for Him and our understanding of Christ's love for us as His children. Soli Deo Gloria; Latin for To God be the Glory.

Many favorite pieces of repertoire from the program include composers by Elaine Hagenberg, Stacey Gibbs, Alice Parker, Dan Forrest, and

Larry Fleming, as well as a premiere piece written for Tour and composed by Ethan Carr, another 2nd-year graduate student.

"I Went to the Woods" was written by one of my closest friends [Ethan Carr] and it was wonderful getting the chance to conduct it," says Scharf, who was mentioning her favorite pieces from the concert.

Her other favorite piece is "O Love", although she was uncertain exactly why it was meaningful to her.

"It just touched me more and more and it was also one of those pieces where we had choral members from other churches join us," says Scharf.

Dr. Dibble also listed his favorite repertoire.

In "Christ the Apple-tree", "I was reminded that all of the students have shown me the goodness of God and I think about all the students as fruit and the goodness it has shown," says Dr. Dibble. "Great is Thy Faithfulness" is a fantastic hymn of the faith all

See **CHOIR TOUR** page #2

## Czech Republic Mission Trip

VICTORIA HOCK ('23)

Houghton students were busy over Spring Break. Some went on vacation, some traveled for sports training, others relaxed at home, and then there were the Eight Houghton students (including one December graduate) who went on a mission trip to the Czech Republic.

This trip was run through Global Partners, which, according to their official website, is an organization that works towards "Amplifying local church mission for global transformation."

Junior Sarah Rider was one of the students who traveled on the trip, noting that she and her group members "all learned so much about the importance of authentic relationship building



Czech Republic mission trip team standing together for picture

COURTESY OF CINDY AUSTIN

as a part of starting and growing churches."

Rider further adds that attendees had the opportunity to learn "about the history of Czech culture," and that they were able to meet and make friends with a lot of Czech people, who she described as "wonderful."

Students on the mission trip were hosted by two Houghton alumni, Kevin and Cindy Austin.

Senior Kendra Evans, another mission trip at-

tendee, commented on the impact the Austins had, stating, "Both of them have shared extreme hospitality with our team while we were in the Czech Republic."

Junior Hope Willert, another student who went on the mission trip, also shared the impact that the Austins had on their trip. "We got to see a lot of what missions look like for them, which we learned is based pri-

marily on building relationships and sharing the faith through them."

Students had the opportunity to participate in many different activities while on the mission trip. "We visited local schools, helped out at a church youth event, had Czech lessons, traveled to three different cities (including Prague!), tried lots of Czech foods, and so much more," says Willert.

Evans noted that students were able to visit places like

Pogřebrody, Kutna Hora, and Brno, in addition to Prague. She also added that they were able to assist with a conversation club to teach English to adults in Brno, as well as a "youth hangout with high schoolers."

Helping out with a few Christian organizations was another opportunity that Evans mentioned.

"It was great to see and help the Christian organizations in the Czech Republic," says Evans. "Mijak" (which means lighthouse in Czech) and Remedy (a church of twenty people). Christianity is kept on the down low due to the Czech Republic having the highest concentration of those who do not associate themselves with a religion."

Evans also discussed that they saw "the effects of the war in Ukraine, and they became friends with Ukrainian Refugees."

Overall, attendees seem to be in agreement that they were positively impacted by their mission trip, with Willert stating

See **MISSION TRIP** page #2

## SPORTS: Highlander Spring Athletics

CALEB WELKER ('26)

Houghton University's Spring Athletic Season has officially begun. The Highlander Baseball, Softball, and Men's tennis seasons have started, while the men's and women's track and field season transitions from indoor to outdoor. It has been a long wait for many, and the wait is finally over as last week the contests began for our spring athletes.

Houghton Baseball's season has started with an up-and-down trip to Florida. The preparation for the season mainly consisted of indoor practices in the KPAC due to weather, but the Highlanders worked through the circumstances to prepare. When the time came for them to compete, the Highlanders seemed to start flat. Before the trip, Houghton played an impromptu game versus Pitt-Bradford, in which they lost 11-3. Then, a week later, they lost the first two games of their Florida trip. However, they eventually were able to ramp things up, putting together a three-game win streak; but after that, they lost their next four games. Despite narrowly losing their first game on the last day of the trip, the Highlanders used the momentum that they had built from a late-game surge to push past Norwich by the score of 17-6. Throughout the trip, several players stood out on both sides of the ball. Offensively, Senior Zach Parr and Junior Ian Slate led the team in batting average on the trip,

collecting 22 of the Highlanders' 90 team hits in the first eleven games. Meanwhile, Freshman Pitcher Aiden Talcott led the team to two victories, including a seven-inning complete game against Chatham.

The Highlander Softball Team struggled during their first stretch of the season, falling short in each of their eight games in Florida. Like Baseball, most of their practices were indoors, but the softball team wasn't able to schedule any games before their trip, so their first action was in Florida. They fought hard in each of their games against tough opponents, as their best game came against Adrian College, in which they fought hard until the very end, but unfortunately came up just short of the Bulldogs, losing 4-3. Leading the way on offense for the Highlanders was Junior Carlee Miller. Miller hit .429 with three doubles over the trip. Alisabeth Crandall ('24) and Kayla Loomis ('23) led the way on the mound with four strikeouts each while Jen Burrows ('23) tacked on three strikeouts.

Men's Tennis came out of the gates well, with a 2-3 start to their season. The Highlanders had previously battled with Allegheny in the fall, and Ithaca before February Break, falling to both of them to start the season 0-2, but they strung together two wins to open their Spring Break and lost to St. Bonaventure to close it out. Two of their first five matches were on the home courts of Houghton's Kerr Pegula Field House, where tennis has spent most of its

time practicing. When the weather cooperates, they will compete up the hill at the tennis courts near the Nielsen Center. One of the highlights of the week was the Highlanders' impressive 9-0 rout of Wilkes University. The Highlanders blew the Colonels out of the water, not surrendering a single set. Four Highlanders, Sam Bonisteel ('26), Nolan Zach ('25), Marcello Garcia ('26), and Adam Brown ('23), had perfect sets in the win.

As the indoor track season comes to a close, the Highlanders look forward to the Spring Season. The Highlanders men's and women's teams combined for ten podium appearances at the Empire 8 Championship event on Feb. 24-25. These appearances include two first-place finishes. The first is from Senior Amanda Burrichter, who won the Women's 3,000-meter championship with a time of 10:15.82. The second is from Graduate Student Malachi Yeager, who won the heptathlon with a Houghton University record of 4,464 points.

Finally, as spring sports begin, one more Houghton Winter Sport has yet to come to a close. Women's Basketball will head to Indiana next week to compete in the National Christian College Athletic Association's Division I National Championship tournament. They will be guaranteed three games with more information as to who they will play coming soon. ★

**MISSION TRIP** from page #1  
that after talking with the people who went on the mission trip, she feels that they "have all been changed for the better because of this experience." She further added that "God clearly worked through the people there to open our eyes to the new culture and the missions field there. Coming home, we are all inspired to find more ways in our lives where we can serve God in both big and small ways." ★

**CHOIR TOUR** from page #1

of our audiences and singers can relate to. 'Give Me Jesus' has meant a lot to me since I was a student [at Houghton] and continuing that tradition has been a privilege."

All are welcome to come and worship with the Houghton Choir at their free concert "Christ Our Home" on Friday, Mar. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Chapel. ★

### Last Week's Solutions

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

Join MANRRS as we visit several maple tree farms

## Maple Farm Visit

**Saturday, March 18th, 10am-3pm**  
Please arrive at the CC by 9:30 am

Please RSVP at least a week in advance on campus groups. Limited number of spots

Hint's Red Roof Maple  
Rosser's Ridge  
Maple Tree Inn - Lunch covered by MANRRS

## Puzzles

### Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

PROVIDED BY SUDOKUOFTHE DAY.COM

Send the completed Sudokus to  
STAR@houghton.edu to join our Puzzle  
Leaderboard!

Solutions will be printed in the next  
copy of the STAR.



# Hustle Culture Has No Place Here



ABBY WEEKS ('23)

As I wrote this during our spring break that happens during the winter—Why don't we call it winter break?—I found myself struggling to rest. I've worked tirelessly for my entire undergrad career, and now I face my last semester and I have yet again overloaded my schedule. Factoring in extracurriculars and accelerated half-semester classes, the workload comes to around an ill-advised 20 credits. And for what? I have plenty of reasons with which I won't bore you. I could've taken the easy route, as I only needed six credits toward my major to graduate. Yet, like so many others, I must hold captive any spare time in my schedule and fill it with something "productive".

Why do so many of us as

young adults feel the need to push and shove until we're all burnt out, drowning in our school work? When was the last time you were able to truly rest outside of a scheduled academic break? Of course, there are things required of us to accomplish for our academic careers, but I'm mostly talking about extracurriculars.

As students living in a hustle culture, many of us have felt the need to always keep busy. I personally have never made it a priority to rest. I've been working every summer since I was 16, and I have always found a way to do more work over academic breaks. Until coming to Houghton, I didn't think Christians really honored the Sabbath. It was never something instilled in me to do growing

*"If saying yes to a good opportunity jeopardizes your well-being, it isn't really good, is it?"*

we have let culture influence what is Good and Holy. The Sabbath day is a gift to us to restore, recollect, and reflect. It allows us to quiet our hearts and rest in God. Why do we ignore it? Furthermore, why is it so hard for us to take a few hours to rest, let alone an entire day?

I think there is something inside of us that is afraid of being lazy. It measures our

capacity, I'm automatically lazy, which to me feels much greater a sin than not resting at all. Oh, what a great lie this is. Overworking myself to the point of burnout doesn't make me special. It doesn't make me better than my neighbor. It doesn't set me apart, and by not honoring a time to slow down, I end up dishonoring my Creator.

In a way, this drive to overbook ourselves has a tendency to lead us to ignore the people right in front of us and divert our attention inward. How many times have you not checked in with someone because you're running late or because you're thinking about how much time a 30-second interaction will eat up the little space you have left in your schedule? I know I am guilty of this. Perhaps the funniest thing about this is that all of this self-serving yet harmful behavior occurs in a Christian environment that is supposed to go against the grain of secular culture. So, what then is Christian about an environment that leaves us unrested and utterly burnt out? Should we blame the "system" and play the victim for our inability to rest? I think not. We have the ability to evaluate where we stand in our lives. It may come as a shock to the overachievers out there, but we are al-

lowed to say no to things and still love God with all of our minds and hearts and beings, and love others, too. Loving others does not mean saying yes to every opportunity. Serving others becomes an impossible task if we are consumed by our own to-do lists.

The Bible's teaching that we must boast in Christ alone and not in our works is a pretty stark contrast to academia's view that without our work, we are nothing. We must learn to look to God for our source of meaning, not our lengthy to-do lists and activities. When we learn where our true value comes from, it will be so much easier for us to separate ourselves from the hustle of our lives. If you truly feel called to an opportunity, we have a faithful God that can see you through, but if saying yes to a good opportunity jeopardizes your well-being, it isn't really good, is it? Saying no to someone or something does not make you sinful; it is saying no to God that does.

Next time you find yourself with some space in your schedule, consider honoring God through resting so you can have more strength to serve God and serve His kingdom. ★

*Abby Weeks is a senior biochemistry major with minors in art and psychology. She is a lover of ceramics, food, languages, and God's creation. Sometimes Abby likes to make silly songs and play on her violin.*

*"We have let culture influence what is Good and Holy"*

up, despite coming from a Christian background. So if this thing that I'm supposed to do—that we are all supposed to do—as Christians is in the Bible, why is it so hard?

Here's a quick answer:

self-worth in the number of things we accomplish and the amount of times we tell people we are "too busy". After all, we are told to do whatever we do with all our hearts, right? If I'm not being productive in some ca-

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  
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## STARchive

## College Charters and Centennials

Written By: Christian Welker ('24)

Did you know the Houghton STAR is one hundred and fourteen years old? To put that in perspective, The STAR reported through the Great Depression, both =World Wars, the Cold War, and nineteen U.S. presidencies. As the Resident Expert in STAR Lore™, it is my self-imposed job to study the STAR's Archives and find exciting and funny moments from throughout the history of Houghton University and the STAR itself.

Time for another fun fact (and one that has more to do with the article). Do you know how long Houghton University was Houghton College? Ninety-nine years!

Isn't that annoying?

In 1923, Houghton Seminary received its charter from the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges (MSASC. Rolls right off the tongue).

The cool part is that it has been a hundred years since Houghton became a college.

The less cool part was we were impatient and jumped the gun on the whole "University" thing (How epic would it have been to be like "After 100 years of being a college, it's time for the next chapter"? Missed opportunity, President Lewis).

Anyway, rants aside, in the April edition of the 1923 Houghton STAR (yeah, they were only a monthly publication back then, wild, right?), an article was published titled "Final Victory Won! Houghton now a Chartered College" declaring the good news to the Houghton body, and today, 100 years later, an article titled "College Charters and Centennials" is doing it again.

#### Final Victory Won! Houghton now a Chartered College

Again, through the mercy of God, we have gained another rung in the ladder of achievement which has been elevating us to that plane on which stands the chartered college of this state

Following the action of the Board of Trustees, authorizing this Seminary to apply for a charter, the next step was to make the formal application to the Board of Regents of the State of New York. This was done a few weeks ago, President Luckey going to Albany and presenting with the application a catalog of general information regard[ing] the school, setting [forth] the plan [proposed] if the charter be granted.

April 7, was the date set for the meeting of the Board of Regents, and at that meeting the application from this Seminary was to be considered. President Luckey again journeyed to Albany on that date and was present at the meeting of the Board, answering one or two questions which arose.

As requested by President Luckey, his home-coming on Monday evening, April 9, was not the hilarious demonstration which accompanied his return from the meeting of the Church Board. The occasion at this time was of too solemn nature to allow any such program as was followed before. Instead, the students gathered at the church and a committee was delegated to meet the President and escort him to the church where a service of praise and thanksgiving was held, Prof. Whitaker taking charge.

A telegram which was received here Saturday evening, stated that a provisional charter had been granted [to] Houghton Seminary. That word "provisional" puzzled us a little at first but the enigma was solved in a short talk by President Luckey at the service Monday evening. "Provisional" only means that for five years we are on probation. During that time we must prove to the State Board of Regents that we are worthy of our charter by keeping up the prescribed income and fulfilling the scholastic standards.

The President further stated that the honor and glory at this time of victory, all belongs to God, not to man. It was the hand of God which gave the vision at the beginning and that has led all through the long and laborious campaign, and which is still leading. He also emphasized that with added opportunity comes greater responsibility.

After several prayers filled with true thanksgiving to God for his great goodness and wise leadership, a hymn was sung and the meeting dismissed.

From the church the students went to the college campus where a large bonfire was burning. Gathering around this an hour was spent in singing school songs and giving yells. As the fire burned low the crowd made their way homeward, their hearts being filled with praise to God for the wonders he has wrought through his servants who have kept close to Him and done His bidding.

---J. Harold Douglas



Alexis Klohr is currently a senior and majoring in applied design and visual communications. "There is a lot that goes on in my brain. My mind is often in a state of day-dreaming or imagination. If you know me personally, you know my mind is constantly imagining and creating random scenarios. My outlet is to draw and put some of my imagination down onto paper and bring it to life. My art is a glimpse into the world that exists within my mind."

## Artist of the Week

## Alexis Klohr ('23)

