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KINGDOM CONVERSATIONS RETURN

JIANA MARTIN ('26)

On Tuesday, Oct. 24, the second Kingdom Conversation will be held at 7 p.m. in Schaller Hall located in the Paine Center.

Professor Peter Meilaender and President Wayne D. Lewis, Jr. will continue their discussion on the classical debate between Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois regarding education's nature and purpose. The first conversation centered around Washington and his emphasis on vocational training in education. In the upcoming conversation, the speakers will examine Du Bois' viewpoint and his emphasis on a liberal arts education.

This series of three conversations is the first of its kind hosted by the university's new program, the Kingdom Initiative, in hopes of promoting academically oriented discussions.

"We thought a great way to introduce the initiative to the campus would be to start with an inaugural series of conversations,"



Kingdom Ambassadors with Professor Peter Meilaender

COURTESY OF MICHAEL BLANKENSHIP

President Lewis explains.

When thinking about the topic for the first series, Professor Meilaender wanted to work with President Lewis. He also searched for a topic that has academic seriousness drawing on classical discussions in American history. Together, they chose this famous debate, not only because of its importance in American history,

but also because it is a part of President Lewis' field of education. He has background and expertise in this area, and their works and scholarships significantly influenced his own.

Furthermore, Washington and Du Bois' debate continues to influence public discussions today around higher education. As a university, Professor Meilaender believes these

conversations provide a great chance to look at pieces of historical literature that discuss education.

"There's still a lot of relevance to what they are talking about," Professor Meilaender comments.

In addition, he hopes these events are a chance for people to learn more about Washington, Du Bois and this part of America's history and cultural heritage.

The Kingdom Initiative plans to hold many Kingdom Conversations in the future.

"The initiative is an effort to bring together several things that the college deals with in issues of race, diversity, equality, and God's kingdom in the broadest sense," Professor Meilaender states.

They do not have a planned schedule, but are open to suggestions relating to the above mentioned issues.

Along with this effort, one of their goals is to look at these topics through a distinctive and authentic Christian worldview. They hope the conversations will take people across cultural context and into different issues, in order to explore diversity in all its forms.

President Lewis wants to see the campus community come together and engage with rich ideas, history and literature to have conversations that explore different viewpoints.

"I think we can create something really beautiful

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Student Performer Series

ISABELLA BRATTON ('26)

The Sophomores' Student Performer Series begins at 8 p.m. on Oct. 25 in the CFA Recital Hall.

The Student Performer Series (SPS) intends to prepare students for performing in recitals at the end of the year, and their future capstone recitals. It gives music majors (typically music performance and music education) the chance to become more comfortable with performing.

Dr. David Clem who is the Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music, explained that the performance, "exists to provide students with the opportunity to work through the



Pianist from Junior SPS

COURTESY OF SAVANNAH STITT

challenges of performing, such as performance nerves and anxiety, and to grow accustomed to performing, well before they have to give a capstone recital. From experience, I (and the rest of the music faculty) can attest that the only way to get to a place where you are comfortable performing is to do it repeatedly, and the

SPS is a pedagogically sound way of doing that."

Sophomore Katrina Kaufman ('26) is looking forward to both performing for and watching her own classmates perform.

Kaufman says, "A classmate mentioned to me recently that he is working on a complicated saxophone piece, and a vocalist is preparing a

popular Broadway piece for next week as well! You can expect to get a mix of both vocal pieces and instrumental pieces from next week's performances."

Kaufman explained that each SPS, this year, is separated by class year. The seniors and juniors have already done their performances, and the week after the sopho-

mores is the freshmen performance. This new division prevents an extremely long SPS that lasts hours.

Kaufman says that while it makes sense logistically, it could take away from the quality of the performance that they would have with more time.

"Having a limited amount of time to prepare for a performance is part of being a musician," Kaufman adds.

Dr. Clem explained that the most experienced students should be the most prepared for an early recital, and that's why the seniors go first and freshmen go last. There is also a fifth performance for people who had to miss their classes, or who wanted to do extra performances.

Kaufman really enjoys seeing others perform, since they are typically on

See **PERFORMANCE** page #2

Professor John Rhett's "Self-Evaluation"

KELSEY CURTIS ('27)

This October, Houghton's Ortlip Art Gallery will host a retrospective exhibition of art by Professor John Rhett. The exhibition, titled "Self-Evaluation", will open on Friday, Oct. 27, starting at 6 p.m., and feature a gallery talk with Rhett at 7 p.m. The reception will also offer an opportunity for students to earn Around the Table credit for their attendance. The exhibition will share select works from Rhett spanning nearly five decades in art.

Gallery Director, Professor Linda Knapp expressed her excitement for the show, praising Rhett as "such a gifted painter." Knapp shares her love of Rhett's perspectives illustrated in his paintings with Rhett's long-time coworker and friend, Professor Ted Murphy.

Murphy says he looks forward to seeing the progression of Rhett's art and that it is valuable for students "to appreciate a painter's evolution in skill, depth of ideas, experimentation, and maturity."

Commenting on Rhett's eye for subject matter, Murphy appreciates how he "paints the ordinary, banal landscape but finds

great beauty in the edges and margins—parking lots, street lights, and roadway intersections."

Professor Rhett's process of painting these ordinary landscapes contributes to their beauty as well. For many of his works, Rhett travels and paints what he sees, making an adventure out of his process. He says it forces him to "sit there and work until it is done."

Murphy and Knapp expressed their gratitude for Rhett's presence at Houghton and appreciate his contributions to the university.

Professor Rhett finds both professional and personal benefits in his exhibit. Rhett acknowledges that it celebrates his milestone of over 25 years with Houghton, and gives him a chance to reflect on his numerous years in art. Rhett says that although it was an "odd feeling to look back" it was valuable to see how he had progressed over his career.

He explained that looking back has helped him consider his failures and learn to move beyond pieces he hadn't finished. Mentioning a river study he had done, Rhett realized even though he felt frustrated while painting it, he discovered the value of his work when he saw it apart from his reference. He found this as an example of,

"getting out of your own way" and still being able to make something worthwhile.

Rhett drew attention to a set of smaller ink paintings he had done from photos. He recalls enjoying them and said, "Boy, I wish I could paint like that!" Even in his critical appraisal of many of his works, he is still able to appreciate successful moments in his creations.

Rhett will show work that has previously never been seen on display, as well as work from faculty shows over the years. He views his exhibition as a way to show more than just the curiosity and craft of a local art teacher. He believes that artists even in the smallest of communities, like Houghton, have the same integrity and skill as those found in large cities and the exhibition will mirror this idea.

"Self-Evaluation" will be in the Ortlip Gallery until Dec. 15, open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ★

PERFORMANCE from page #1

their own in practice rooms, saying, "Seeing others play in SPS has been inspiring to me personally and has given me ideas for techniques that I want to implement into my own playing."

Kaufman herself will be playing a Bach Fugue next week, along with a Chopin piece the following week.

She also enjoys the fact that SPS gives her a chance to perform without the added pressure of being graded on her performance, saying that, "At juries, I am usually thinking about the fact that making mistakes has an impact on my grade. But at SPS, I can focus more on the joy of getting to share with a supportive audience and not worry about being graded."★

KINGDOM from page #1

at Houghton," expresses President Lewis, "when we bring together our diverse community through a decidedly Christ-centered lens and consider the gift of diversity."★

Answers from Last Week

Medium

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

Fiendish

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

Puzzles

Confusing Crosswords and Stumping Sudokus.

Send your completed puzzles to star@houghton.edu to join our puzzle leaderboard!

Congratulations again to **Josey Ikker** for maintaining her Puzzle Master title by completing last week's puzzles the fastest. (Answers will be printed in next week's STAR)

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Tricky

Provided by Sudokuoftheday.com

Crossword Questions:

Across:

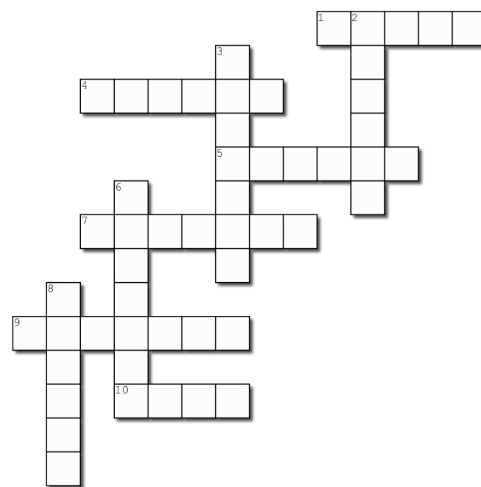
1. A fun tradition for Freshmen, the most recent batch of _____s were handed out during Homecoming
4. Near the Paine Science Center, there is a tree that is allegedly the descendant of _____'s famous apple tree
5. A key part of the campus is the creek stone, but what building is made completely out of it?
7. Did you know that Houghton has the tallest building in Allegany County? Which one?
9. Next to the tennis courts and the Ghost town of Shen, there is the Houghton _____, planted by the old Center for Sustainability.
10. In the Field of Dreams lays a strange, multicolored object that once lay in the quad, the _____.

Down:

2. The Houghton H is a well-known symbol of the University, but what campus building is it based on?
3. This feature marks the grave of the Seneca Native American Copperhead, and is also the name of our favorite yearbook. The _____.
6. This building stood where chamberlain is now, but was moved to a new location, like a giant Hot Wheels car.
8. In the entrance of the chapel is a mural of the history of the world. Who, however, painted it?

Crossword

Do you know these 10 odd facts about the Houghton Campus?



First Impressions: Houghton Through the Eyes of a Freshman



ABIGAIL HOOVER ('27)

Well, Highlanders, we are already halfway through the semester! The time has just flown by, and before you know it, it'll be finals season, and we'll be saying goodbye to one another until the new year! But before we jump too far into the future, I wanted to take some time to reflect on the year we've had so far. So, let's get started, shall we?

Let me start with my story. I am a freshman in college. I am majoring in Adolescent Education and History so that I can become a U.S. History teacher someday. And I did not want to go to Houghton, at least I didn't a couple of years ago. On Columbus/Indigenous People's Day in my junior year of high school, I visited Houghton with my family and my best friend. While I loved the campus and the people were so welcoming

and friendly, I was not convinced that this was the school for me.

You see, my parents went to Houghton, as well as my grandma. They all wanted me to go here—the price had just gotten cut in half, and it wasn't too far from home after all. But as their enthusiasm for me going to Houghton grew, mine diminished. You see, I didn't want to do what my parents wanted me to do—I wanted to pave my own path. I had felt that throughout my life, I had always agreed with my parents and just simply made decisions based on what they thought. Not because they didn't want me to have my own opinions, it was actually just because I trusted them to always be right. But as this important decision in my life came looming over me, I was determined to decide for myself where I wanted to go,

"Since being here, God has only confirmed to me that this is where I am meant to be."

and not to listen to what other people wanted. And what I wanted was to not go where my family had gone. Like I said, I wanted to make my own path. I wanted to go to a big school, like Liberty University. It

"Houghton became the only college that I wasn't utterly terrified of attending. There was a peace about it that could only be explained as being from God."

was shiny and trendy; everyone knew of it—Liberty seemed more impressive than a little college in a little town in Western New York. I grew up in a small town; I went to a small church and a small school. Everything in my life was so small. I just wanted to do something big for once.

But that wasn't what God wanted for me. Slowly but surely, He showed me that Houghton was where I be-

tending. There was a peace about it that could only be explained as being from God. And soon enough, He started opening doors for me as well. The price of tuition being cut in half just in time for me, the Founder's Promise Scholarship being first introduced to my class, the greater emphasis being put on being a Christ-centered college rather than just a Christian one—everything was just lining up perfectly for me to be able to attend Houghton and the school seemed to just be getting better and better (Thanks President Lewis!). You see, God knew what I couldn't see. He knew that despite it also being my parent's alma mater, it really was the best fit for me. He knew that I didn't actually belong in a big college where I would get swallowed up by the crowd. He knew that I needed to go to a small college in a small town where the people really care about me and where I can be a part of a tight-knit community. He knew that I wouldn't actually like being so far away from my family without the opportunities to go home or to my aunt and uncle's every few weekends. God, as He always does, knew what was best for me even when I couldn't see it.

I'm so glad He did. Being here, my faith has only grown. Through Koin, MercySeat, Communion, my Biblical Literature class, and chapel services throughout the week, I have

had more opportunities to spend time with Him than ever before. We pray every day in my classes, and I have been reading my Bible a lot more often than I did before college. This place has provided me with the chance to really harvest and grow in my faith. While I know Houghton will change my life by granting me a degree and life-long relationships, this will be the most valuable thing I gain out of college. I feel so very blessed to go to such a Christ-centered college where I can really grow in my faith, and I cannot wait to see all the ways in which God continues to work in me during my time here.

This place is really filled with so many Godly, wonderful people, and I feel so lucky to be a part of the Highlander community. Since being here, God has only confirmed to me that this is where I am meant to be. Throughout all my doubts and fears about Houghton and college in general, God has always confirmed this to me. This is the place where I will make great friends and great memories, become closer to Christ than ever, and see growth in myself like I have never seen before.

See all that God has done in your life, how He was there for you through it all, and how He always will be there for you. Remember that He loves you. This will give you the strength to keep going throughout all of the inevitable ups and downs that college brings. ★

Abigail Hoover is a freshman from Chittenango, NY. She is majoring in Adolescent Education and History. She also loves singing, writing, and praising Jesus, and recently she joined the Heartsong Acapella group. She volunteers in her church's nursery, children's church, and worship team. She hopes to someday be a U.S. History teacher, author, mother, and wife.

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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Reviews

Barbenheimer

Caleb Tiedemann '25

Oppenheimer is nothing short of a masterpiece. Christopher Nolan delivers in every possible way. This movie was my first ever IMAX experience, and WOW, what a picture! From start to finish, Nolan thrusts you into the harrowing stress of Oppenheimer's mind. His obsessions, his passions, his regrets, his sadness, and all of his deepest emotions are on display for the audience to see. Cillian Murphy plays Robert J. Oppenheimer and gives an awe-inspiring performance. There is so much conveyed in his silence, his blank stares, and his remorseful mannerisms. Robert Downey Jr. plays Lewis Strauss, and also gives an excellent performance, rivaling Murphy's quiet genius with vengeful jealousy. Nolan managed to make every single actor bare their heart and soul on this screen. Very few movies impact me the way that this did. The contrast of joy from the masses happy that the war ended against the realization of the evil that was created by the atom bomb. This contrast of morality and ethics is where the movie truly shines.

Never before have I understood and related on an emotional level the catastrophe and horror of an atomic weapon. This movie has some of the best camerawork ever. The editing is stellar- the pasting-together and switching perspectives on a dime encapsulates a feeling of stress and anxiety. Ludwig Goransson's score permeates every single scene. It is loud and prominent, and it raises the tension and stakes to the max. The contrast of color and black and white gave a whole new layer to the film; it added to the political game and power plays that get used to achieve such devastating power. The juxtaposition of color and passion in such a project that would help win the war contrasted with the black-and-white harsh reality of its after effects drove certain elements home harder than Nolan had any right to. The mere fact that any government has these weapons at their ready and can start a war or annihilate millions in a matter of seconds is horrifying. This movie masters every single technical aspect in a way that I do not think I have ever seen before. I very strongly encourage everyone to see this film as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will leave you thinking about the morality, the ethics, and the philosophy behind such a weapon. ★

Oppenheimer: 10/10

Kat Wojsiat '24

Now, normally, movie reviews are Caleb's thing. However, the Barbie review obviously had to be written by a woman, so here I am. The Barbie movie, directed by Greta Gerwig, took the world by storm this summer. I spent the summer interning in London, where there was a Barbie pink telephone booth on the bank of the Thames River for a week! I have never seen such astounding, impressive, and overpowering marketing as I have with this movie. It did wonders for the color pink. It brought a sense of community to all women in a way that was desperately needed after the division brought on by quarantine- and yes, I did get dressed up in pink to go watch it.

While in the movie, I was thoroughly entertained. I thought it was cute, hilarious, and very enjoyable. The set was highly impressive, the acting was great, and the plot was fascinating. However, the more I reflected on the movie, the more problems I found. The plot, however, had a few holes (how on earth did a grown woman dressed as a pink cowgirl just walk into a school?!), and I think that America Ferreira's speech did not live up to its potential- that is just a personal opinion, though. But my biggest problem with this movie is actually quite controversial- I think it was rather anti-feminist. Hear me out! In Barbieland, men basically hold the position that women did just a few decades ago. The Kens aren't even allowed to have houses to sleep in! After the Kens try to earn some equal treatment (and unfortunately take it too far), instead of trying to find some middle ground of equality, the Barbies' response is just, "You are Kenough." They aren't even allowed to have representation in the Supreme Court! If the beg for equality between men and women had no further outcome than "you're enough" in the real world, I wouldn't even be allowed to write this review right now! (And yes, I understand that it took many attempts and centuries to get to where we are today, but keep in mind that Barbieland is meant to be a perfect world.) I think the movie had a chance to express feminism in a real and meaningful way to those not impacted by it, and it missed that opportunity. Other than these few shortcomings, I think the movie was a great experience and an excellent performance by all (especially Michael Cera as Allen!) ★

Barbie: 7/10



Artist of the Week

Evan Babbitt '25



Evan Babbitt is a sophomore with a BFA in studio art. When working with pastels he tends to call attention to things in the world that would go unappreciated but not focusing on realism when doing it.

This is put into practice by playing with light and perspective. When he is not working in pastel you can find him sketching other students doing various activities on campus or clicking away in the Mac Lab making stylized video game characters.

