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Students Plan Lobbying Trip for March

EMMA CARPENTER

This March, a group of Houghton students will travel to Washington, D.C., to lobby on the issue of mass incarceration.

“America has the highest incarceration rate in the world,” Stephanos Bibas writes in his article, “*The Truth about Mass Incarceration*,” published in the National Review. He added that the United States houses almost one-fourth of the world’s prisoners, despite the fact that our country constitutes only one-twentieth of the global population.

Lauren Bechtel ’16 is organizing the trip to Washington, D.C. “I’ve spent a

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Data Science Students to Attend Superbowl



COURTESY OF COLLIN BELT

During October break, data science students traveled to Hilton Head, South Carolina to work an amateur golf tournament. Some of the same students will, once again, travel to Clara, California to work with the NFL at the Superbowl.

MARY CRONIN

Last weekend, the finalists for Super Bowl 50 were set. On February 7 at 6:30 p.m. Peyton Manning and

the Denver Broncos will face Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers. While many Houghton students are sure to be watching the game in their dorms or Big Al’s, sev-

eral data science students will experience the game live at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Jacob Dunnett ’17, Anna Coryell ’18, Ashley Schenk

’16, Theresa Taggart ’18, Ethan Duryea ’18, Isaac Hess ’16 and Bjorn Webb ’18 will team up with Dexter Davis of the University of Tennessee-Martin (UTM), and his sports management students to do a mix of volunteer and compensated work for the National Football League (NFL). Davis said, “Current and former players (typically Hall of Famers) come to the hospitality events and do “meet and greets” with the attendees.” Broadly, “The students will function as ‘personal assistants’ for these players. Duties will include making sure they have the correct materials for autograph signings, making sure they have water, soda, and helping move them from venue to venue as needed.”

Several students will have tasks specific to data science and sports management as well. According to Carmen McKell, Founding Director for the Center for Data Science Analytics, Dunnett will

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Music Industry Approved as Major

LAURA JOHNSON



COURTESY OF LAURA JOHNSON

The music industry major, a Bachelor of Science degree, was approved by New York State and the National Association for Schools of Music in December of 2015.

The major’s coursework is built on four main cores. The first core ensures foundational knowledge in music theory as well as experience in performance. Students are required to take advanced theory classes and participate in an ensemble each semester which reflects the grounding in classical training for which Greatbatch is known.

The second core focuses on involvement in music technology, business, management and the completion of an internship. One way students gain experience is by being a part of the on-campus tech team that handles events such as big concerts like TobyMac and Tenth Avenue North and weekly Chapel services. Additionally, students

receive instruction in economics and business which provide a strong background in that side of the industry.

Students in the major also have the opportunity to specialize according to their skills and interests. Classes such as Introduction to Pro Tools and Pro Tools Production 1 provide hands-on experience with Avid Pro Tools, which is the most widely used recording software in the professional audio world. Such a track would be attractive to someone interested in mixing and audio engineering. Other courses such as Sound Design and Processing for Film, TV, and Video Games and Introduction to Lighting and Design are essential for those going into film scoring or stage management. This autonomy allows students to take classes that best fit their career goals.

In fact, a degree in music industry can prepare a student for a plethora of jobs. Some

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Hall Brawl Replaces Purple and Gold Week

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

With Purple and Gold Week now taking place during Homecoming week, a new event Hall Brawl, will take place in the spring semester. This year, Marc Smithers came up with the alternative of Hall Brawl, a week of competition between the four residence halls. Krista Maroni, Residence Director (RD) of Lambein Hall, described the event as “Harry Potter” style, with opportunities for students to earn points for their affiliated hall in events ranging from “funny” to

See **BRAWL** page 3

National // Snowstorm Jonas Hits East Coast



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

On Friday, January 22, winter storm Jonas began in many East Coast states. Jonas, which cleared up Monday morning, brought large amounts of snow, flooding, and heavy winds to areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York City, Long Island, West Virginia, New Jersey,

North Carolina, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky. According to the Huffington Post, 11 states declared a state of emergency.

The storm began on Friday night. The first night of the storm, according to CNN, resulted in more than 500 vehicles trapped on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. In addition to Pennsylvania, both West Virginia and Kentucky also had motorists stranded on major highways for many hours, some into early Saturday morning.

In addition to traffic pile-ups, airports and Amtrak cancelled and postponed all incoming and outgoing services to the East Coast. New York City experienced cancellations of a different kind. When Jonas caused power outages in several widespread locations, the city was forced to cancel Broadway shows for all of Saturday. Also without power Saturday were parts of New Jersey and North Carolina. The Associated Press reported more

than 150,000 businesses and homes in North Carolina and over 90,000 people in New Jersey had no power for parts of the day on Saturday.

Jonas also brought severe flooding to parts of New Jersey. According to the Huffington Post, Wildwood, Cape May, and Ocean City experienced a record-breaking 9.4 feet of water as a result of the storm. The flooding is said to be worse than what New Jersey endured during Hurricane Sandy in the fall of 2012. While Delaware escaped severe flooding, they reported winds upward of 75 miles per hour (mph), speeds that are typically seen in tropical storms. Also reporting winds at that speed was Virginia's Langley Air Force Base.

According to the Huffington Post, Jonas also set records in six different areas for being the single biggest snowstorm. In Allentown, Pennsylvania, 31.9 inches fell; Baltimore-Washington International Airport re-

ceived 29.2 inches; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania got 30.2 inches; LaGuardia Airport in New York dealt with 27.9 inches; and at JFK Airport 30.5 inches fell. The snow also caused U.S. federal government offices to shut down, and schools to close across the East Coast.

The storm claimed many fatalities. The first reported, according to CNN, was an 82 year old man from the Washington D.C. area who died while shoveling snow. While snow shoveling seemed to be one of the main causes of death, hypothermia, vehicle collisions, and even carbon monoxide poisoning were all reported causes of death during the snowstorm. The New York Times reported three instances of carbon monoxide poisoning due to the storm, a woman and child in New Jersey, a man in Pennsylvania, and an elderly couple in South Carolina. The Associated Press reported that, as of Sunday night, the total death toll had risen at least to 29.

While snowstorm Jonas is over, cities continued to recover from the damage caused by the storm early into the week. In Washington D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser continued to advise people to stay off the roads Monday as they continued to be slick and dangerous. While the Long Island Rail Road opened 12 of its branches for the Monday morning commuter, 20% of its branches will stay closed to repair damages caused by Jonas. Also on Monday, airports attempted to dig out of the snow and offered limited flights. Additionally, government offices in Maryland, U.S. federal government offices in Washington, and schools across the East Coast also remained closed on Monday as efforts to clear roads and snow continued.★

Dani is a junior communication and writing major with a minor in political science.

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lot of time studying injustice in other cultural contexts and in other countries,” said Bechtel, who is an international development major. “From that experience I’ve really started to realize how much work needs to be done in our own country,” she stated.

Bechtel commented on the challenges that former inmates face when they leave prison, “If you take someone out of a place where they have family, friends, relationships, that depend on them, and you take them out of that context and put them into a place where they don’t make any money, they don’t

have a real sense of purpose ... and then you isolate that person from those that they care about the most, what’s supposed to motivate them to be a positive contributor to society when they get out?”

At a four-day event called the Spring Lobbying Weekend, Houghton students and other young adults will work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker group which has lobbied on a number of issues including sustainable energy, the Syrian refugee crisis, and campaign finance reform.

According to Bechtel, participants will spend the first day of the Spring Lobbying Weekend learning about the issue of mass incarceration, the second day learning about the policy surrounding mass incarceration, and the third day learning about the mechanics of lobbying. On

the fourth day, participants will have the chance to put what they have learned into practice by lobbying for The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015, a senate bill introduced by a group of bipartisan senators.

A summary from the Friends Committee’s website states that this bill “focuses on non-violent drug-related crimes, separating them ... from violent crimes and the more serious drug trafficking crimes.” Despite this, the bill proposes reducing mandatory minimum sentences not only for second and third convictions of drug possession, but for certain violence-related felonies and crimes of violence. The intent of these reductions, according to the Friends Committee, is not simply to reduce sentences, but to allow judges to exercise more discretion in

sentencing, giving them the opportunity “to take into account the criminal history of individuals being charged ... and the relative level of their involvement in the crime.”

Emma Brittain ‘16 said she is interested in going to D.C. for the lobbying weekend “because I know that as a Christian I need to be caring about justice and that means even caring for those who have done something wrong.” She also commented on issues of corruption and discrimination in the criminal justice system, “[T]here has been data that suggests racial profiling and monetary incentives cause more people to be sentenced to jail for longer, harsher terms than what is probably fair.”

Jackson Wheeler ‘17 said participating in the lobbying weekend will give him the opportunity to see how

he can apply his education to the sphere of American government. “The U.S. justice system, of course, does plenty of good,” Wheeler said. He added that it then becomes “our goal as citizens, as voices in our communities, to do our part in trying to highlight its facets that are in need of reform.”

Bechtel echoed this sentiment and stated, “If you have a voice, and you don’t use it, you’re wasting your opportunity to speak out against injustice. If you have a voice and you do use it, that’s not only empowering for you as an individual, but it also is a part of a way to enact real change.”

The trip to D.C. runs March 11-15. Those interested in learning more may contact Lauren Bechtel at lauren.bechtel16@houghton.edu.★

VOCA to Hold Spring Career Fair

MARY CRONIN

With the spring semester underway, Houghton College’s Vocational Opportunities and Career Advising (VOCA) center will host the Spring Career Fair on Wednesday, February 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Now is the time for seniors to begin thinking about

their plans for after graduation and for underclassmen to think about their plans for the summer,” VOCA director Kim Pool said.

According to Pool, there are three general guidelines for students beginning the job search. First, a significant factor for a potential employee is an online presence. Pool stated, “VOCA can help you set up your LinkedIn

profile and make sure you have a professional online presence.” Aside from this service, VOCA offers resumé critiques and workshops, as well as assistance connecting current Houghton undergraduates with alumni. The VOCA center will even help prepare students for job interviews, according to Pool.

While these services are offered throughout the aca-

demic year, the Spring Career Fair will likely be the best opportunity for students to connect with potential summer or full time employers. Over 40 employers will be present at the Career Fair. “Twenty-five of the business or entities will be camps seeking college students for summer positions,” Pool said. “16 are non-camps with both internship and full-time

positions”.

Students are also invited to visit the LinkedIn photo booth, which will be in the same area as the Career Fair. Students can have a professional headshot taken for their LinkedIn profile on Wednesday from 12-2 p.m. The Spring Career Fair will be held in the Van Dyk Lounge in the Campus Center.★

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work as the overall event coordinator while Hess will be “heading up the scheduling and scoping of meetings with executives.” Meanwhile, Coryell will be collecting data as part of a data science/business research project and Schenck is gathering data from meetings with executives for an independent

study. The other students will spend the rest of their time engaging in sports business and data analysis activities alongside the UTM students.

Davis added the students “are also going to work a shift at the NFL Experience, which is the “fan zone” for the Super Bowl. Thousands of fans a day pass through this interactive activity area that is set up for their entertainment.” Through this experience Davis said, “Students will have an opportunity to observe how the NFL

meets the needs of its many fans [who] will not have an opportunity to attend the actual game.”

All participants will also meet with representatives from Tableau, a software company that produces interactive visualization products focused on business intelligence. The objective of this meeting is educational as Davis stated the group hopes to learn about the company’s data animation tools “up close from some [data science] industry leaders”.

Webb, a participating student, expressed his excitement about the learning opportunity of the upcoming trip. He said, “I hope to learn a lot by asking questions and simply observing what goes on from a business perspective at an event like this. I am most looking forward to seeing how the NFL treats the people who pay the ‘big bucks’ and how they control the atmosphere.”

Davis emphasized that while the staff and students will certainly be near celebri-

ties, any attempts to interact with them will result in being stripped of Super Bowl Week credentials and expulsion from the premises. “it’s not about interacting with [celebrities],” he said. “It’s about making sure that everyone has a good experience.”

According to McKell, Center for Data Science Analytics staff will produce a video documenting the students’ and staffs’ experience. The video will be released shortly after the group returns.★

BRAWL *from page 1*

“strategic.”

Smithers’ idea “is a blend of what many other institutions are currently doing,” explained Shenawana Residence Director, Jason Stephens. Houghton’s Hall Brawl event will borrow from what other colleges and universities have successfully done, combining it with the creative ideas of Smithers and the campus RDs. “With RDs coming from various institutions, we have been able to take many of their ideas to come together and make it fit within the Houghton context,” Stephens said. “Other campuses have class competitions,” Smithers said, but at Houghton he feels students have greater affinity with their residence halls.

With the competition occurring between the four residence halls, each RD will oversee an activity. “The activities are touching on cre-

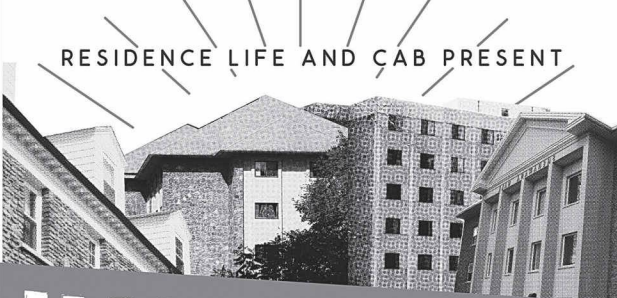
ativity, trivia, adventure,” said Smithers. Stephens described Shenawana’s event as “a challenge between the different buildings to protect your RD while attacking other RDs and trying to get them out.” Stephens noted “all my RA’s are really excited about it.” Maroni, noted the various “active events,” and explained Lambein’s trivia night, which she hopes will attract students “who wouldn’t come to the active events.” Maroni noted that Lambein’s event will not only award points for the overall Hall Brawl event, but have separate awards as well. Gillette will be hosting a game of human checkers, and Rothenbuhler will host a box sledding event down Roth hill.

Not all students, however, live in one of the four residence halls. The townhouses play a large role in Houghton’s residence life and though they are not part of the main competition, they will be hosting their own event. They will hold a knock-out competition during the halftime of the men’s

basketball game that week. The townhouse residents themselves will participate by competing for the residence hall with which they most identify. In addition to the evening residence hall events, Smithers himself will be in charge of what he calls the daily “Hall Brawl Hunt.” The hunt is an opportunity for students to earn 60 points for their residence hall by answering a question.

Maroni said the intention of Hall Brawl is “healthy, friendly competition that brings students together,” as “a positive way to build identity.” Stephens noted, “We are hoping to allow students to feel more connected to the building,” and in effect, be more connected to Houghton. “I’m excited to see how interested students are in it,” Smithers said. He explained that events such as SPOT have been propelled by student interest. He and the residence directors hope the event will become a tradition. Smithers said “The biggest thing is to help students feel more connected to this place and each other.”★

RESIDENCE LIFE AND CAB PRESENT



HALL BRAWL

GILLETTE

LAMBEIN

VS

ROTH

SHEN

A COMPETITION OF
EPIC PROPORTIONS.
WHICH HALL WILL BE
VICTORIOUS?

DESIGNED BY MASON WILKES

Hall Brawl, a “Harry Potter” style week long event between the dorms, will have opportunities for students to earn points for their affiliated hall in events ranging from “funny” to “strategic.”



MASON WILKES



MASON WILKES



MASON WILKES

Saturday, January 22, the Houghton indoor track and field team hosted the Highlander Invitational. The invitational brought more than 700 athletes to the Kerr Pegula Field House (KPFH). The athletes represented 14 different institutions. During the course of the invitational 12 Houghton athletes set personal records (PRs), three of which earned their top marks in multiple events.

Sports: Scores and Highlights

Men’s Basketball, 1/23/16
Houghton v. Alfred University
W, 93-79 Houghton Shooting %: 54.5%
Hilbert Shooting %: 48.4%

Women’s Basketball, 1/23/16
Houghton v. Alfred University
W, 59-40 Houghton Shooting %: 42.1%
Hilbert Shooting %: 29.8%

Houghton College Presents *A Doll House*

SOPHIA ROSS

After four years of Houghton College's only official college theatrical productions being musical theater and lyric theater, the college is putting on a dramatic play directed by a professional director. Over three performances from February 5th to 7th, Houghton students will present Henrik Ibsen's play *A Doll House* in the Rosemary Tysinger Auditorium at Houghton Academy.

The idea to organize an official college play originated in a discussion between faculty in the English, Writing, and Communications departments last year. Together, the faculty members wrote a proposal to use revenue from the Van Gordon Chair--the endowed chair shared by their departments--to hire a professional director and provide resources needed for a play. Once the proposal was approved, they advertised for a professional director, and ultimately hired Kevin Leary.

Leary is a professional actor and director who has performed in four national musical theater tours, and has directed several shows at the Lancaster Opera House. He is currently employed by the University of Buffalo as the assistant to the director in their arts management program, but saw Houghton as an outside opportunity.

"I knew that they were looking for something in a Christian context," said Leary of applying for the position. "I don't think that only means Jesus plays. It's more about the social dynamic of plays, which could be a for-



COURTESY OF AVA BERGEN

The cast of *A Doll House*, pictured above, is putting on Houghton's first dramatic play in four years.

ay into a wider discussion about themes in a Christian context that the play has already dealt with. Theater exists for social justice and for the concerns of larger society in general."

Leary and Houghton faculty members worked to choose a play that reflected these values, and would also challenge students. The play they chose, Ibsen's *A Doll House*, was originally published and performed in 1879 in Norway. It follows the character of Nora Helmer -- a woman who grew up depending entirely on her father, and now depends upon her husband, Torvald. The action centers on the fallout after another character discovers that Nora once engaged in fraud without Torvald's knowledge in

order to save his life. The play's exploration of gender roles was considered revolutionary at the time, and remains a staple in the study of modern and contemporary drama.

"It's a classic play, and one of my personal favorites," said Douglas Gaerte, professor and chair of the Communications department, who was involved in the decision. "The ending is ambiguous enough that I think it can inspire some interesting discussion."

Leary held auditions following Thanksgiving break, and assembled a cast that features four female and three male students. He also held interviews for a creative team of students, which includes a production assistant and

marketing director, a dramaturge, an assistant director, and a stage manager. Once all of these roles were filled, he held three rehearsals the week before finals, and then officially began rehearsals at the start of the spring semester. While the majority of the cast has had little theater experience, Leary has worked diligently with them to develop their characters in an honest way.

"Kevin hasn't been pandering to us because we're inexperienced," said junior Jakin Rintelman, who plays the character of Krogstad. "He's been making sure that we're on the ball and that we're doing our best. He tells us to really live as the characters rather than simply pretend to be them."

Assistant director Colleen Shannon, a junior with past theater experience, also praised Leary's directing style as collaborative and challenging.

"He brings a professional, yet completely open and welcoming atmosphere," she said. "He's all about discovering those golden moments that are compelling. He really brings the best out of people."

Students involved with the play have also expressed that this experience has been a valuable learning experience for them, whether or not they plan to go into theater as a profession.

"I'm learning how to utilize criticism to further my role as an actor, and how to listen to people around me effectively," said junior Ava Bergen, who plays Mrs. Linde in the show.

With only four weeks of rehearsals, the cast and creative team of *A Doll House* have devoted a significant amount of time to creating a production not only for Houghton community members, but also for an audience that extends farther away. According to Leary, the team hopes to reach people as far as Geneseo and Olean. He believes it is an important play for this community to see, not just because it is a source of entertainment -- which it is -- but also because of its message.

"It's such a pertinent story," said Leary. "A hundred years later we're still dealing with women's rights and minority rights in a male-dominated white society."

A Doll House runs at Houghton Academy February 5th and 6th at 7:30 p.m., and February 7th at 2:00 p.m. ★

Houghton and Beyond: Exploring Life Through Film

THOMAS ECKERT

At a round table in Java, Olivia Graziano furrowed her brow quizzically and said, "Am I an artist? Hm. That's a good question." She sat back and thought for a minute, "Yeah, I guess I am."

When she talks about her work, Olivia has the exuberant physicality of an active artist. Her films offer glimpses of vivid passing images. They take the audience for a ride from frenetic snapshots to slow, breathy moments. She refers to her technique as a conversation between the characters and objects in the frame with the perspective of the camera itself. This is apparent when watching her work. The camera is always hand-held and moving. If the camera isn't moving, a character is moving softly across the frame or a landscape of grass is tilting in the wind.

Artists from whom she takes inspiration include Terence Malick, Leonardo Dalessandri, and Ludovico Einaudi. While the former two are also directors,

the third is a musician. Olivia believes music is "60 to 70 percent" of what makes a short film great. For her, the editing process is centered around pushing and shaving the film to achieve an exact rhythmic interaction between sound and image.

She began her work very recently. This past year she wanted to take a photography class, but couldn't fit it into her schedule. She took Digital Video I instead and enjoyed it more than she expected. This past Spring semester, she submitted one of her earlier pieces "Wasting My Young Years", a music video, to the Houghton College Film Festival.

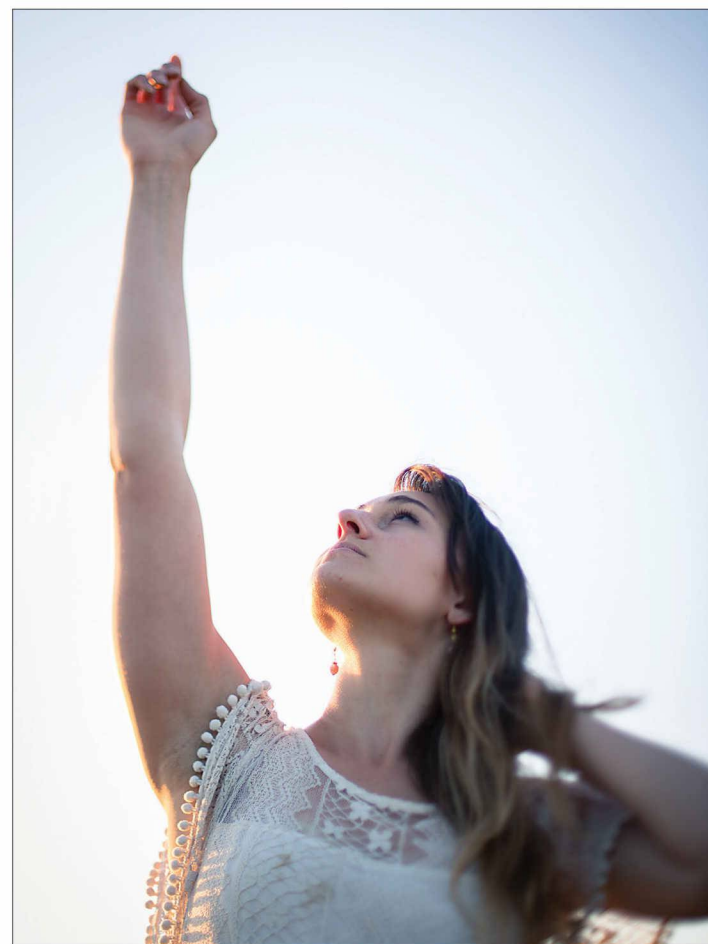
This year, she is a finalist in the VideoBlocks Student Film Competition. Her film "Interim" is one of six pieces selected from undergraduate and graduate level submissions from all over the world. The finalists were judged to select an official winner. The judge, director of photography Arthur Albert, has worked on *ER*, *Breaking Bad*, and *Better Call Saul*. All six finalists received a cash prize. Olivia used hers to buy a camera.

Looking forward, Olivia

wants to explore work in film after graduation. Her focus is more on creativity than money making alone. She prefers the world of indie film to more corporate enterprises. Her adventurous attitude is perfectly suited for self-employment. Among her future projects is a "Humans of New York"-styled interview series featuring videos of Icelanders she meets on her upcoming trip.

"I think I look at everything as though through a 'camera lens'. I'm always thinking 'that would be a good shot'," she said, making a frame with her thumbs and index fingers. Her intent is to capture in simple images, ideas that are important to her. Her films are a reflection of her personal growth, observations of her friends, and her own personal philosophies.

Her film "Be Here Now", is a meditation on being mindful. The work is made to have a surface meaning that is clear through the narration, but allow each person to understand it in a unique way. The piece is a mirror, held up to the audience. It is a poetic reminder to pay attention to the present. ★



COURTESY OF JAKE VOGAN

Graziano hopes to pursue independent filmmaking after Houghton.

A Day in the Life of a Maintenance Worker

BETHANY CHESEBRO

“We’re girls in a boy’s world” Kim Lawson, Maintenance Secretary, said as she began a tour of the maintenance building. Lawson and Linda Perry, or as they call themselves “the maintenance moms,” sit behind the front desk and handle the organization of the maintenance department. After the tour Lawson made a call over the radio and before I knew it I was invited into a big, white maintenance van, ready to start my day as a maintenance worker.

“Well I’ve got to be in Gillette because one of my workers called off... again” the driver said. “After we drop you off I’m taking her to the flats” the other woman in the passenger seat said. The van pulled into Gillette, the driver got out, and the new driver said “You can move up front if you want.” Her name is Correne Goodenow.

Goodenow works as a full-time custodian and her jurisdiction includes guest housing – usually the college flats – the library and half of the Center for the Arts building. Each custodian has their own building(s) and they hire student workers within their areas. Custodians are “supposed to have a daily schedule” she says, but when student workers don’t show up they have to cover their work. According to Goodenow “when things come up, we do them”.

We arrive at the flats and head into a lounge full of towels, cups and soap, used to prepare rooms for the upcoming cross country guests coming that weekend. “Yeah”

she said while stuffing a pillow case, “my life is boring, but it’s kind of fun because I’m an introvert.” Goodenow, who is originally from Jamaica, now lives in Rushford with her husband and three-year old daughter and said “There’s not much job-wise very close” so she sought a position at the college. She attended a college with the same atmosphere as Houghton and she “wanted to be in that kind of family again.”

After preparing the rooms we hopped back in the van and headed back to campus. The van pulled into the Chamberlain parking lot and while scanning the lot for a parking spot, Goodenow said “The benefit of driving a maintenance van is you can park anywhere you want.” After vacuuming the library stairwell, Goodenow asked, “Have you ever been in the archives?” The archives needed dusting that could have waited, but she went in anyway to give a tour. Goodenow pointed out the old typewriter donated hundreds of years ago and shuffled through painting after painting displayed in cases, in awe as she circled the room.

After finishing in the library, Goodenow got another call on her radio. “Oh yeah, on top of all of this, I’m also a certified pool operator” she said. So our next stop was the pool to test the chlorine level. Only a few people on staff are certified to do this test, so she often gets requests that call her up to the pool. After finishing that task it was time to break and for Goodenow to pass me on to another worker, this time from the maintenance area. So she gave Frank Eszes a call on the radio. “Well we’re gonna be up on the roof... is that something she’d want to do?” Frank asks over the radio.

Before continuing on to our duties, Frank and I sat in the



ANTHONY BURDO

Members of the maintenance staff from left to right: Correne Goodenow, Kim Lawson, and Frank Eszes.

truck for a few minutes before he asked “So you want to know my life story or something? Well I’m a transplant from California.” Eszes is from Santa Maria, California, and he “transplanted” to Cuba, NY, where he and his wife bought a house. In June 2014, Eszes heard about an opening for a custodial position at Houghton.

According to Eszes, “There’s nothing wrong with being a custodian.” He is a retired fence contractor and has a contractor’s license so he wasn’t getting to do much of what he loved in his custodial work. But after a month and a half of his time at Houghton he got transferred to a maintenance position and gets to do some elements of his previous career in his work. Eszes opens the door to the science building when he said, “I’m also a big motorcycle guy. Here let me show you a picture” as he pulls out his phone to show me

a photo of his own motorcycle. Approaching the third floor of the science building, Eszes described that unlike custodial where each worker has their own area to tend to, maintenance workers get assignments that vary each day depending on the order of demands. “We just go places and check things” he said “and we’re always encouraged to, if we see something wrong, to fix it or find someone who can.” He pulled out his clipboard and started looking for room numbers. His job today was to check the air inside the fume hoods in all of the labs.

“Sometimes I like to listen to music when I’m doing a job like this, but I never know if other people want to listen to my kind of music” he said, gesturing toward the few students working at some lab tables. He shrugged and said “I’m kind of old school.”

Eszes likes the people he has

met at Houghton and has “no complaints.” He said “Houghton does a good job of providing a nice environment, all the way from professors to custodians to people working in the cafeteria.” Eszes said he has had positive experiences with students and because the maintenance department doesn’t have many student workers, he only interacts with students when he’s out doing jobs around campus. “I haven’t met one student I don’t like. Although because I’m an adult, some people don’t talk to me” he said with a chuckle and elbow nudge. “They might complain because I yak too much” he said as he scanned his list to mark off another completed task. He smiled and there was silence for a few seconds. “Ooh, let me show you a picture.”★

MUSIC from page 1

possible specializations are music technology and production, music business, worship arts, music industry, recording and broadcast engineering, label marketing, artist booking, songwriting, music publishing, tour management, live sound engineering, tour support, concert promotion, film and video game composition, and performance law. The versatility of the music industry is echoed in the components of the major which provide in-depth understanding of the industry as a whole.

Houghton students preparing for such careers have access to some of the top instructors and equipment currently available. The college has invested about \$80,000 in a new music technology lab. This lab is equipped with twenty student stations and a teacher station equipped with the latest Mac computers, M-Audio controller keyboards, PreSonus recording interfaces as well as the latest recording and composing software — Pro Tools 12, Sibelius 7.5 and Ableton Live 9. Professor Jackson

said of the Houghton music studio, “If you visited a top-notch studio in Nashville, Los Angeles, or New York City, you would find that same equipment here at Houghton. This allows the students to practice their craft on the same gear that professionals are using every single day in professional recording and post-production studios worldwide.” Music industry student, Chelsea Lee ‘16, is studying to become an audio engineer with a specialization in editing, a skill she practices here at Houghton in the music technology lab.

The combination of education and access to top of the line educators and technology is what makes this degree so special. Armenio Suzano concluded saying, “Under the leadership of Professor Kevin Jackson and with the support of the Houghton College administration, the newly approved music industry major will train and empower the next generation of music producers, sound and recording engineers, and music managers that will impact this world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the Kingdom of God.”★

Photo of the Week

MATT MUNKITTRICK ‘16



Investigating Genetically Modified Foods



ANTHONY BURDO

THOMAS ECKERT

There is much confusion and mystery surrounding food. Despite its necessity, the modern consumer can be easily befuddled by contradictory statements about what foods are “healthy.” Is organic a marketing ploy or a genuinely better way to eat? What does “organic” actually mean? How can you have yogurt that is “chemical free”? Buzzing in this cloud of needlessly innovative lingo is “Non-GMO”. I wanted to figure out what that meant, so I did some research.

Almost all crops since the advent of agriculture have been genetically modified in some way. Our ancestors

developed better yields and more resilient plants through the aid of anthropogenic evolution. We selected plants with the traits that benefitted us and helped them to produce more offspring. Many organisms today are considered in codependence with humans because if we did not deliberately seed them, they would die off.

One crop whose continued existence depends on farmers is maize. We commonly call maize “corn” because of a British tradition wherein “corn” was used as a general term for any grain-like crop. The closest biological relative to corn is a Mexican grass called Teosinte. The seeds of this grass are not ones humans would readily eat. Nevertheless, Native Americans cultivated the grass, selecting from the crop, the best specimens in each generation for planting. This grass turned to the Taino mahiz, to the Spanish maize, to the modern American corn. Now, 90 million acres of corn is planted each year in the United States. The fact that this even happens, is owed to the ancient farmers of the same

There are incredible benefits that can be achieved through bioengineering.”

lands.

While the genetic manipulation of agricultural products once took generations to reach fruition, the same effects may now be achieved in a laboratory and in a much shorter time span. This technology, which produces what we consider to be “Genetically Modified Organisms”, is neutral in its moral implications-as all technology must be. However, there is some question as to whether the manipulations performed are detrimental or beneficial on the whole.

Genetic modifications are performed by injecting modified DNA on microscopic gold particles into plants or by infusing bacteria with an ability to alter the genetic code of the crop into the soil. The intent is most often to

produce immunities in the crop to herbicide and insecticide. This allows for a more liberal application of chemicals which, while protecting the crop, can harm the environment. However, this does lead to a greater yield of food, upon which a growing population is dependent. Even today, genetic modification serves to provide answers to world hunger. In addition, the loftier goals of many in the biotech industry include drought resistant and healthier food for a future in which water and food may become scarcer resources due to climate change.

Genetically modified food is not considered dangerous within the scientific community. There have been no studies to demonstrate ill effects of the food itself to human beings. Nor have there been any incidences of health concerns to the general public for the past twenty years. GMOs have been on the market. Today, nearly 80% of the processed food we eat contains ingredients that are genetically modified through artificial processes. So far, everyone is fine.

Regardless, the secrecy with

which agricultural corporations create the frankenfood is alienating and disconcerting to consumers. I believe this is a true fault in the companies by not being straightforward with the public, especially the scientifically literate among them. Nothing about bioengineering is worth hiding aside from fuel for semantic arguments of what is and is not “natural”. There are incredible benefits that can be achieved through bioengineering, on par with the development of maize, but within our lifetime. Such technology could one day become necessary for our survival. It is important that we, as consumers, educate ourselves with a great degree of skepticism. Most often, the information available to us is biased.

An excellent mode of research is to read articles from a variety of sources and to investigate peer-reviewed scientific journals, many of which are available to students for free through the Houghton Library. It is perfectly fine if you want to avoid GMOs when you grocery shop, but if you do, be sure that your reasons for doing so are based on sound evidence, not sensationalism. ★

Thomas is a senior physics major with a minor in mathematics.

“Almost all crops since the advent of agriculture have been genetically modified in some way.”

Mental Illness: What is Wrong with Us?



ANTHONY BURDO

JOEL FIERSCHNALLER

Mental illness surrounds us. 1 in 4 people suffer from some form of it. Personally, I have severe anxiety, and I suffer from depression. I am not saying this for sympathy, but because I want to talk about mental illness and the way it is portrayed in the Church.

The Church stigmatizes mental illness: it is our personal fault that we suffer from it—a result of our personal sin and our character flaws. In regard to these opinions, the Church is partially

right—yes, mental illness is the result of sin. However, it is not due to individual sin, but rather to collective sin.

Mental illness came into the world in the same way as pain in childbirth: as a direct result from the Fall. Yet, Christians do not condemn mothers who cry out in the pain of birth; instead they reach out to these mothers and comfort them. Furthermore, Christians stand by their side and celebrate when the painful process of birth is complete. So I ask you, why is that not the case with mental illness? It comes from the same place; why can’t we work in the same way?

Instead of providing support, Christians cast aside those who suffer from mental illness. They are the ones that Christians cannot and should not have to deal with. The Christian community wants them out of their lives and out of their congregations until they are ‘healed’. Many of the church leaders I have encountered will refer someone to someone else who can help a

“As Christians we should be fighting the secular world to stop stigmatizing mental illness instead of the other way around.”

little more—which is good, there is no problem with that. But it is problematic when these church leaders then wash their hands of the person until they are ‘normal’ once again. Abandonment is not the answer; people dealing with mental illness need someone to talk to and someone to go to battle with them.

What is wrong with the Church?

As Christians, we are supposed to comfort and support those who are struggling; we ought to be the ones they can feel comfortable reaching out to. We should be there for them. We came to Christ because we know that we are broken. He is there

for us, and if we are called to be Christ-like, should we not be there for those who reach out to us when they are broken?

As Christians we should be fighting the secular world to stop stigmatizing mental illness instead of the other way around. I saw something on Facebook the other day that really made me think. It was about Eeyore in Winnie-the-Pooh. “He’s basically clinically depressed, [but] he still gets invited to participate in adventures and shenanigans with all of his friends. And they never expect him to pretend to feel happy; they just love him anyway, and they never leave him behind or ask him to change.” A.A. Milne gets it. Nearly a century ago. In a time when any sort of mental illness was ignored or justification for imprisonment in a psych ward, he understands what people need. The new Pixar movie Inside Out is the same way. At first, Joy (that’s Christians) wants to change

Sadness because she doesn’t fit in with how Joy thinks she should act. Yet, by the end, Joy is just there for Sadness, giving comfort and understanding in light of differences. This is what we should be.

Something else I saw on Facebook: a meme that says “1944: 18-year olds storm beaches, jump from planes, charge into almost certain death; 2015: 18-year olds need a safe place. Because words”. This was not the first time I had seen this. Almost every share and every like came from a Christian. 2015 is not the same world as 1944. If we were in a situation where we needed 18-year olds to storm beaches, believe me, I would be right up there with them, fighting for something I believe in. But we aren’t. We have a greater understanding of mental illness, and words do indeed hurt. Words can spark thought trains that lead to very bad places—I know because I went through it.

The Church doesn’t seem to understand that mental illness is through no fault of the individual. It’s brain chemistry—we cannot control it. But the stigma remains. Let’s try to change that.★

Joel is a junior communication major with a minor in history.

“Instead of providing support, Christians cast aside those who suffer from mental illness.”

The Injustice of Mass Incarceration



ANTHONY BURDO

ALLYSON MURPHY

According to United Nations Human Development Report of 2015, the U.S. has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. Our prison system incarcerates at a rate of 716 people per 100,000. This number is greater than the sum rates of the top seven countries on the Human Development Index. In other words, we incarcerate at a higher rate than the top seven developed countries in the world combined.

With this information, one must ask, why are U.S. incarceration rates so high? And what should we, Christians, as individual citizens and as a nation, do about it?

There are multiple reasons why so many people are daily incarcerated in the U.S. At the forefront of these reasons lies systemic racism. According to The Atlantic, African American men growing up in the 1970s had a 70% chance

of being incarcerated during the prison booms of the 1980s and 1990s. Let that sink in for a minute: a 70% chance of being incarcerated. In 2010, black men in the U.S. were six times as likely as white men to be incarcerated in federal, state and local jails (2013 Pew Research Center Study).

You may now wonder, what are the repercussions of such blatant racial disparity? The answer: 1.2 million African American children in the U.S. today now have a parent in prison. Children with an incarcerated parent are at greater risk for diminished school achievement, behavioral problems, depression, and acting out (The Atlantic). Any education major at Houghton will tell you that these factors directly affect the classroom environment, making it harder for children to progress in school. Yet, restorative aid has been withheld from a marginalized group of Americans whose liberty was never fully established. Racism still exists and it runs deep within our “justice” system.

Moving on from these staggering facts of systematic racism, I now call the reader to take a look at how offenders are judged, once they have been charged. Regardless of race, offenders must fight overwhelming odds when

seeking to reenter society due to multiple reasons.

Presently, most offenders receive harsh punishments that place them in long-term confinement. Due to overcrowded prisons, many inmates are left idle without the ability to contribute to society. Furthermore, crowded prisons mean that inmates are often housed with offenders of varying degrees: for instance drunk drivers may be housed with rapists and murders. These crowded prison systems thus become a breeding ground for gang violence and continual criminal behavior (The National Review).

Due to these unhealthy prison conditions created by mass incarceration, many are now calling for quicker and less harsh punishments to be enacted. Conservative political news source, the National Review, suggests, “if we make punishments immediate and predictable, yet modest” this will instill a sense of quick threat in the wrongdoer’s eyes; this will make it less likely for the wrongdoer to commit further crime.

For example, Hawaii’s Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) is an intensive-probation program that deals with serious drug offenders. This program forces patients to face random drug testing with

threat of immediate imprisonment if probation is violated. Reports from HOPE claim that, “even habitual drug users usually go clean on their own when faced with the immediate threat of two nights in jail” (The National Review). Of course, one example of success cannot and should not be taken as a sure answer to a huge problem, yet shouldn’t steps be made towards seeing if methods such as those carried out by HOPE may indeed be more successful for helping criminals learn from their mistakes?

In relation, getting rid of the mandatory minimums currently in the judicial system could lessen incarceration rates. Presently, in a court of law, the judge is often pigeonholed into sentencing drug offenders to a mandatory minimum. This “minimum” only takes into account the amount of drugs on hand as well as whether or not this is the offender’s first arrest; it does not account for variables such as age, background, level of participation (i.e. leader, member, lookout, etc...). Therefore, the judge is unable to make a neutral case-by-case decision, which could take into account numerous variables involved (Friends Committee on National Legislature).

Currently, in Federal and State law, the prosecutor decides what crime or crimes the accused will be charged with. This means that in cases of minimum sentencing, the power lies with the prosecutor deciding the crime to be charged; a party that is definitively not impartial. However, if mandatory minimums were eliminated, impartial judges would have a greater ability to individualize punishment.

Overall, the U.S. incarceration system is drenched in racial inequality and unjust sentencing laws while simultaneously failing to help welcome past criminals back into society.

Mass incarceration must end. Prison systems must stop funneling inmates into packed cells. Sentences should be lessened for those whose crimes were smaller. Money saved should fund rehabilitation inpatient and outpatient programs. Lastly, educational opportunities and work should be better facilitated and established in order to promote moral growth and responsible citizenship.

With this understanding of our country’s systemic injustice, I now challenge you, the reader, to an ethical call for action. As a fellow American citizen and as a Christian, I challenge you to act on these skewed issues of the law. As reported in the news section of the STAR this week, Houghton students are lobbying in D.C. on this very issue of mass incarceration on March 11th-14th. To use an old cliché, you can be the change you wish to see in the world.

Contact Lauren Bechtel at lauren.bechtel16@houghton.edu if you wish to be a part of a social-justice movement in desperate need of a true Christian call for justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation.★

Allyson is a senior English and visual studies art major with a minor in psychology.

“These crowded prison systems thus become a breeding ground for gang violence and continual criminal behavior.”



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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// sophomore biology and studio art double major



ANTHONY BURDO



“The dignity of the artist lies in their duty of keeping awake the sense of wonder in the world.”

– G.K. Chesterton

Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Untitled, *ceramic*

Border Crossing, *mixed media*

Silent Chime, *mixed media*

Amaryllis, *watercolor*

Untitled, *mixed media*

