



# HOUGHTON

*fall/winter*2012

HOUGHTON COLLEGE  
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## CORRECTIONS

We make every effort to ensure that information presented within this publication is accurate and timely.

In the spring 2012 issue of *Houghton*, we ran a feature obituary for Bonnie (Wheeler '77) MacBeth and made several mistakes in the listing of her siblings. The last paragraph on page 38 should read "...sister of Becki (Wheeler '75) Iamaio, Laura (Wheeler '78) Johnson and Bethany (Wheeler '89) Durys. Preceding her in death was sister Lonnie (Wheeler '81) Price."

In the 2011 fall/winter issue of *Houghton*, Nancy (Boyd) Kennedy was mistakenly listed as class of 1978. She was in the class of 1979 (page 27).

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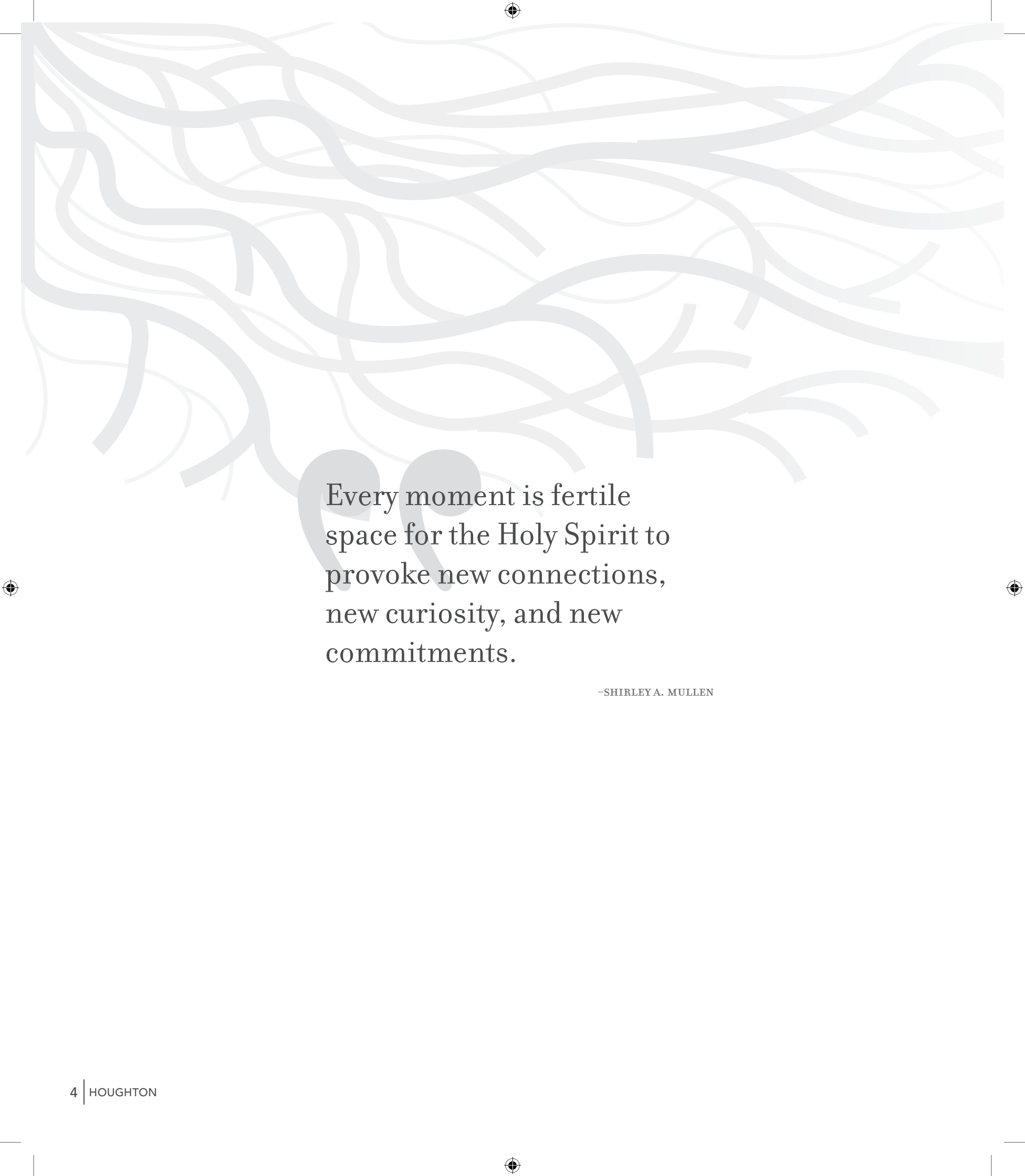
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# impact





Every moment is fertile  
space for the Holy Spirit to  
provoke new connections,  
new curiosity, and new  
commitments.

—SHIRLEY A. MULLEN


## PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

If you are a Houghton graduate, you are more than likely living a more interesting and adventurous life than you ever expected. The culture tells us that education is about getting a job. At Houghton, education is about getting a life.

The power of a Houghton education rests in three fundamental assumptions. First, our education is not about us. It's not about getting ahead. Houghton students know that they are stewards of their education. They've been given gifts, the opportunity to develop those gifts, and the privilege of sharing those gifts with others.

Second, at Houghton, true learning is linked to doing. It is lived learning. The founding of Houghton was a key element in Willard J. Houghton's passionate drive to "fix up the world." While his particular turn of phrase strikes some today as too "post-millennial" or even "imperialistic," it is the same commitment to make their learning available to God's redemptive purposes in the world that sends Houghton students to be a part of community development projects in Latin America and Africa, to tutor refugee children, repair homes in Buffalo's west side, to do cancer research in the Bay Area, or to participate in legislative lobbying on Capitol Hill.

Third, at Houghton, learning is integrated into all of life. It is inseparable from our relationships. It is inseparable from our Christian faith. It is inseparable from leisure and recreation. The classroom, the laboratory, the Forsyth Learning Commons, chapel, the library, the athletic field, the residences, the coffee shop, internships, off-campus programs, choir rehearsal, the Equestrian Center — all are contexts where Houghton students are invited to learn and grow. More accurately, they are pushed to learn and grow by fellow students, faculty, coaches, and staff mentors. Every moment is fertile space for the Holy Spirit to provoke new connections, new curiosity, and new commitments.

A Houghton education sets us on a trajectory of lifelong learning and engagement with the world. It invites us to discover and to prepare for a life as large as God's calling. 



Shirley A. Mullen  
Class of 1976





# Why Ordinary matters

Deborah A. Johnson '11

As I contemplate the months that followed my graduation from Houghton, my thoughts turn to my fellow classmates and to alumni from years past. A question forms in my mind: “What have I done that is worth sharing with them?” I’m not a full-time missionary. I’m not doing relief work overseas. I’m not working with refugees in an inner city.

## WHAT, THEN, AM I DOING? WHAT DO I REPRESENT?

Looking back at my day-to-day life over the past year, I believe I represent Ordinary. My life is like countless others. Neither my home nor my job is particularly exotic, but I’ve learned that exotic isn’t what matters. It’s what we do with what God gives us and how we live where He places us that counts. Ordinary, I’ve come to find, is an adventure.

When I graduated from Houghton in 2011 with a degree in inclusive childhood education, my walk across the stage was bittersweet. It was difficult to leave after learning so much, thinking so deeply, and developing so many friendships with professors and classmates. I knew I would miss the community which for four years had catalyzed both spiritual and academic growth. However, like scores of other college graduates and teaching hopefuls, I dutifully gathered recommendations, spent countless hours filling out job applications, and waited with bated breath. I knew that jobs were scarce, that I was young and lacked experience, and that my odds of being hired were slim at best.

God surprised me. In the August following graduation, I was hired to work as a special education teacher in a little town called Bainbridge, N.Y.

With two gas stations, three antique stores, a Dollar General, and a Great American that’s gasping its dying breaths, Bainbridge is not unlike many rural towns. In the spring, the maple trees lining the streets are tapped, spigot-plugged, and bucket-hung. In the fall, I step out the door of the school and inhale the pungent, earthy smell of smoke from a woodburning stove.

This area cannot be solely defined by its quaintness, however. It has other faces that can be described with words like poverty, neglect, abuse, addiction, apathy: all words that are a nagging whisper in a number of my students’ lives.

The students I work with every day are burdened with labels: Autism, ADHD, Learning Disability, Emotional Behavioral Disorder. However, the more deeply I come to know my kids, the less their labels matter. Kids are kids. For all of their differences and disabilities, their *abilities* continue to astound me. At the risk of sounding sappy, each student truly is a treasure.

Take Derek [pseudonym], for example. A fellow special educator said she’s never known a student like him in her 20-plus years of teaching. He has too many labels for one small boy—high-functioning autism, ADHD, obsessive compulsive tendencies, and a suspected mood disorder. As a beginning teacher, I knew that I was about to get

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It is in these little  
things that I see  
the face of Christ  
and know that  
He cares about  
my Ordinary.

a lot of what more seasoned teachers refer to as “experience.” It took all of last year to get to know Derek. Truthfully, I’m still unearthing parts of him that I never suspected existed. During that first year there were occasional moments of breakthrough when I could see vulnerability in his eyes and knew we were connecting. There were far more moments, however, when he would be belligerent and unpredictable and make me want to pull my hair out. In all of this, though, I found that I was learning patience. I was learning to be quiet and gentle and positive even when I didn’t feel I had it in me.

And Derek is just one student.


Without doubt, teaching is the most difficult thing I have ever done. Under the pressure of state expectations and feelings of disillusionment, I sometimes wonder if students have been reduced to mere brains and bodies. *Where’s the soul?*

In these situations I revert to what first motivated me to become a teacher: my love for children and my love for learning. There is so much in our world that fascinates, that puzzles, that affronts. As we learn about the world around us, we also learn to know ourselves better, to know others better, and to know God better. To learn is to avoid self-satisfaction and complacency and to strive to be wiser, kinder, and humbler in the future than we are in the present.

I take courage in the knowledge that good teachers have existed for centuries under every educational model and in all corners of the globe. This indicates a common denominator that cuts through educational models and theories: a love for students, a love for learning, and a love for teaching. It encompasses a willingness to be unorthodox. It demands purpose and vision. *It requires soul.*

#### WITH MY CONVICTIONS ABOUT TEACHING, WHAT DO I HOPE TO CONTRIBUTE?

I am too much of a realist to believe that I am going to inspire every student who comes into contact with me. My ambition is rather to inspire those students I can. Joy in the teaching profession can be found in the little things: the page being read, the unexpectedly profound comment from the lips of a 10-year old, the slow-but-sure progress of the laggards and the strugglers. It is in these little things that I see the face of Christ and know that He cares about my Ordinary.

I’ve often heard it said — and I believe — that living for Christ is all or nothing. I think sometimes we perceive “all” as something exotic, and since we aren’t doing that, we settle for “nothing.” What we fail to realize is that “all” encompasses wherever we are *right now*. I am inspired by those working overseas to create social change and spiritual awakening. I admire those who impact the world in such big ways that they make the headlines. However, I also believe that making a difference can be subtle: smiling at the cashier in the grocery store, becoming involved in our communities, getting to know the person who lives in the house next to ours. If we take a look around us, I think we’ll realize something important. Making a difference can look a lot like Ordinary. 





*Sacred*

Kate Ambrose '08

# sharing

I've been wrestling recently with a variety of texts, conversations and narratives in order to come to a place of greater understanding regarding the historic figure of Jesus.

Much to my own surprise, a fascination with the implications of emulating someone who "became word and flesh and moved into the neighborhood" has failed to lead me to the colorfully crowded, heartbreaking alleys of Mumbai's red light district, as I initially anticipated upon my barefoot departure from Wesley Chapel's commencement stage in 2008.

With a dual degree in English and intercultural studies in one pocket and a burning curiosity about this Jesus so poignantly described in Eugene Peterson's translation of John's gospel, I found myself researching and applying to a variety of faith-based community development organizations several years after graduation, eagerly awaiting my arrival in an exotic world known as... Houston? I moved into inner-city Houston in 2010 in partnership with Mission Year, participating first as a team member and then as associate staff in 2011; intentional community, neighborhood

continued ›



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but with us.

outreach, simplicity, Christian discipleship, integration of faith with the arts and active service are some of the key components to their year-long urban ministry program. While Texas certainly was not the original destination of my dreams, this fall marks the start of my third year calling this place “home” — and I couldn't imagine a more diverse, humbling and altogether dynamic locale to tangibly encounter the promise of Emmanuel, God not just for us but with us.

The problems of “the poor” are no longer limited to hierarchical interactions in the controlled environment typical in a 9 to 5 volunteer position, however compassionate or well-meaning that role may be. Instead, beloved Miss Pearl and I talk every morning on the way to work as we wait together for the always tardy 52 bus. I listen with tears running down my face to the raw mixture of grief and joy in my homeless friend Angie's voice as she tells me the birth story of her daughter, Hope, while the Harris County Jail's scratched plexiglass wall separates her outstretched palm from my own. Marcelina's experience in cooking for the three generations of family members acts as a constant guide for me when I attempt to plot out relatively nutritious meals for our own household of six on a shared grocery budget of 82 cents a meal per person. I swap jokes with Old Man Willie while waiting in line for an available laundry machine at the cigarette smoke-filled washeteria around the corner. Tiny arms wrap themselves around my leg and, to my helpless horror, we watch my neighbor's house disappear in

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a cloud of orange flame and black plumes three blocks down. This urban community is now home, and “their” has become translated into the tangible reality of “our.”

A good deal of the shine has definitely worn off those untested daydreams conjured up by my sophomore self during Paul Shea’s missiology lectures. I think I’m finally beginning to realize, however, that the process is just as valuable as the outcome when it comes to grasping hold of and bringing to life some of the profoundly mysterious, transformative and altogether relevant truths relayed by Jesus. “Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind and strength,” He instructs His followers, “and love your neighbor as yourself.” Here’s the thing: the steady rivulet of tears and snot running down my next-door neighbor’s face as she bawls into her open beer can and bemoans the infidelity of her abusive boyfriend for the fifth night in a row is not a particularly beautiful sight. Savoring the sacredness of human relationship is the last thought on my mind when a co-worker at the local community center where I work forgets to replace the toilet paper roll for the umpteenth time, leaving me fuming with annoyance. When the ever-present Houston heat is pounding off the pavement into sandaled feet already swollen with mosquito bites from yesterday’s walk to the bus stop, it seems almost impossible to feel loving toward anyone, let alone toward homeless Mr. “Bushwhacker” as he throws a string of spit-drenched nonsensical words into my face with no apparent provocation. And when I come after a long day of ups and downs spent with some of the Latino youth and homeless individuals in our community, hoping to collapse into the blessed oblivion of our large sofa only to find that our already small living room is buried underneath a mountain of debris, dirty clothing, books and other discarded objects, a grateful “hallelujah!” is not the first word that teeters on the edge of my mouth.

As philosopher-turned-activist Simone Weil once observed, “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.” I flip through the pages of the Gospels and I see this deceptively simple, astoundingly profound gift shared with heartbroken prostitute, eager parent, dying criminal, inconspicuous widow, sanctimonious priest, suspicious city official and incorrigible child alike. Jesus recognizes hunger and partakes in both the giving and

receiving of sustenance. Treks on steep, winding roads and boat-cluttered beaches become invitational moments to share stories and delve into the meaning of life-changing mysteries. Hands are grasped, feet are washed, men hidden in trees are noticed and the one crouched down low in the dust is embraced. “Jesus became word and flesh, and moved into the neighborhood” — and it is in this messy, ordinary, sacred sharing of life with all of its small tragedies and simple joys and unexpected gifts that transformation begins to take place.

So. I’m learning. I’m learning how to throw back my head in helpless laughter before building a pyramid out of the empty rolls on the back of the toilet when the T.P. goes missing. I’m learning how to ask for forgiveness and take ownership of my own times of forgetful sloppiness, how to be a prophetic voice calling out the goodness, kindness and creativity I see buried deep within my neighbor, how to navigate the deeply rewarding but unceasing demands of the non-profit world, how to be both a recipient and a giver of welcome to the stranger, how to value relationships more than an uncluttered living space — yes, all of this and more. I’m learning not because it’s inherent within my nature or because it’s easy and glamorous or because I’m any further along than anyone else on this journey; I’m learning because Jesus is asking me to do as He does. I’m learning because I have to. [Hill](#)



A portrait of Brenda VanHorn '00, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a black and white striped cardigan over a black top. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a patterned wall with dark, swirling designs.

# New World of Opportunities

Brenda VanHorn '00

**Like so many people,  
I didn't start out with a  
specific career in mind.**

An abiding interest in history and a love of travel eventually fostered an interest in international trade. After completing an associate's degree at Genesee Community College, I worked as a sales assistant, responsible, in part, for paperwork requirements for international shipments. From that came more work in international trade and the potential for promotion to a management position. My lack of a bachelor's degree was the only thing holding me back.

It was during this time when a former colleague told me about Houghton College P.A.C.E., a program that would allow a working adult to complete a bachelor's degree in an accelerated format. For a single mom with two kids and a full-time job, this seemed too good to be true!

Houghton's adult education program accepted my associate's degree and allowed me to apply for life learning credit that incorporated my acquired knowledge about international trade. Finishing my degree at Houghton wasn't easy, but with the help of my family, colleagues and fellow students in my cohort, I made it! After 18 months I received my diploma – and the promotion – and continued to work in the field I loved.

Throughout my private sector career, I collaborated with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Foreign and Commercial Service. The Commercial Service is an

agency within the International Trade Administration that provides a range of services to help American companies export goods and services. Through a network of international and domestic offices, the Commercial Service helps U.S. businesses identify trade opportunities, find local business partners, promote products and services, obtain valuable market research reports, and protect American business interests. During a meeting with my local trade specialist, I learned that the Commercial Service would be looking for new officers — something that happened only once every two to three years. Working and living overseas was something I had thought about, and this was the push I needed. After a lengthy vetting process, I was sworn in during February of 2009. My first post was a domestic assignment with the Buffalo Export Assistance Center, and from there I was assigned to Warsaw, Poland.

It is hard to describe the work I do here as commercial attaché, because every day is so different. Perhaps the best way to relate my work is to walk you through a recent week on the job.

On Monday, I drafted remarks on corporate social responsibility for a speech that the ambassador was to give at a business event.

Tuesday, I met with a small-business owner who was in Poland looking for a distribution partner for the energy-saving building product his American company produces.

Wednesday, I conducted a performance review and then participated in a send-off celebration for a student intern who spent

several months in our office learning firsthand about the role of government in the free enterprise system.

Thursday's work included gathering information from an American firm that thought they might have been unfairly excluded from a public tender opportunity and advising them on the next steps they should take.

Friday, I attended an anniversary celebration and grand opening of a training center for a well-known American business where I spoke with local Polish leaders about the potential benefits of using American technology for upcoming projects.


In addition to these types of duties, it is my primary responsibility to manage the Commercial Service staff of 11 in their day-to-day work and interactions.

The management degree I obtained at Houghton College has proven invaluable to effectively interrelate with not only different personalities, but different cultures as well. I function as a liaison between our locally employed staff, the embassy community and the American businesses operating here in Poland and back in the States. I credit Houghton College with giving me the business and academic education to do this work. More importantly, however, I am grateful that my education also included ethical and interpersonal studies which gave me a solid grounding in my own values and belief system.

Like Thomas Jefferson, I have always believed in peace through commerce. From my earliest days working as an international

clerk, to managing international sales for a global corporation, to my current position in Poland, it is clear to me that commerce is more than just a means of increasing wealth; it can also be a mechanism to build bridges between cultures.

My original motivation for enrolling at Houghton College was to earn my degree so I could be promoted within my company. The knowledge and experiences gained at Houghton created a whole new world of opportunities for me. Now, instead of helping one company export, I directly or indirectly help thousands — and best of all, I do this in service to my country and fellow citizens.

Despite long hours, homesickness and the stress that comes from being in America's "Other Army" (the Diplomatic Corps), I am thrilled to be here. The work of commercial diplomacy is vital to our national prosperity, and I am driven by knowing the work I do helps American businesses, creates American jobs and presents America in a positive light to the world community. I never forget that while I am here in this country, I represent America. I never miss the opportunity to tell people that America is more than what you see in the movies. It isn't just New York City or Los Angeles; it's also a small town in Western New York — home to a college that gives life-changing opportunities to those who are willing to put in the hard work to achieve their goals. 

*Brenda VanHorn '00 graduated from the adult education program (formerly known as P.A.C.E.). She was a member of the K3 cohort in Jamestown, N.Y.*





# *Living* Vision

Shelley (Smith '93) Noyes



**Reverend Dr. Harry L. Thomas Jr. '65**, director of Come Alive Ministries International and co-founder of the nation's largest Christian music festival, The Creation Festival, walked out on the stage in Morocco and saw 3,000 Muslims in tuxes. "It was like the Grammys," said Thomas, who was there in 2004 presenting a human rights award to one of the Kingdom of Morocco's outstanding women. Thomas had been invited to the Muslim nation with several other evangelical Christian leaders from the U.S. to talk with top government officials and religious leaders about democracy and religious freedom.

"When they introduced me as an American Christian clergyman, the place fell silent," said Thomas as he recounted his story. "I got up there and I said, 'First of all, I wanted to say that I've never experienced such wonderful hospitality in all of the world. I mean, it is unbelievable! And the second thing I wanted you to know is that I have been praying for your country. I know some of the hard things that you have gone through in the North Country [recent earthquake off the northern coast of Morocco], and thirdly, I want to let you know that I'm not Kenny Rogers.' And the place FLIPPED out! — it broke up — they just started laughing — and then I paused and I said — 'but I am Santa Claus!' And they just laughed and laughed... It was through a translator, but it still worked!"

"Pastor Harry," as he is affectionately called by everyone who knows him — including the wait staff at his favorite local restaurant, The Bonefish Grill in Marlton, N.J. — isn't really Santa Claus, though his snowy white hair and beard, plus his rather twinkling eyes and gentle, yet jolly, demeanor might lead one to believe otherwise. He is a pastor and a pioneer, a bridge-builder and an evangelist. He is peaceful and passionate at the same time — a grand storyteller with a mischievous sense of humor.

When Thomas remembers his Houghton experience, you can hear the fondness in his resonant voice. "The first thing that pops into my mind when I think of Houghton is that is where I met my wife, **Margery (McKinney '67)**." Thomas was in the next room when he heard Margery playing the piano in Gaoyadeo Hall. "I didn't even see her," he says, warming up to his story. "I didn't know what she looked like — but I heard her play. So I said to my friend Terry, 'Who is playing that piano? I gotta meet her!'" The two have been married for 47 years and each has been the other's primary ministry partner.

For Thomas, many of the experiences he had as a college student directly impacted his future ministry. Thomas and fellow '65 grad **Terry McLaughlin** formed an extension team called "Harry and Terry," and together they traveled as far as Ohio giving concerts. "We began to have a real evangelistic ministry going to churches and youth group events. This was the beginning of my musical outreach, and it put me in touch with the Christian music world and prepared me for future music ministry and for concert promotion."

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I had a vision of thousands of kids on a hillside. I felt that was fulfilled really in 1979, and I would have been content then. But the Lord wanted to go beyond that.



After graduating from Houghton, Thomas attended Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now called Palmer Theological Seminary) and was ordained through the American Baptist Church. In 1971, Thomas received a calling to reach young people for Christ while driving through New York City. He tells the story this way: “I felt compelled to pull over to the side of the road and pray. When I did so, I had this split-second vision of thousands of young people sitting on a hillside. I didn’t know what that meant, but I knew at that moment that God was calling me to reach thousands of young people.”

Thomas began preaching in churches, leading youth retreats and writing and recording music. In 1973, he and Margery founded Come Alive Ministries Inc. as a way to reach young people with the new styles of music coming out of the Jesus Movement. The musicians were former drug addicts and “converted ‘hippies’ whose lives were radically changed by the Savior,” remembers Thomas.

He launched a radio program called *The Come Alive Show* featuring “Jesus Rock,” accompanied by a short evangelistic message to get this new music out to the general public. He also brought the “Jesus Musicians” to New Jersey for concerts. “One evening in 1978,” remembers Thomas, “I produced a concert in Haddon Heights, N.J., that had been booked by a young concert promoter named Tim Landis. I invited Tim to my house after the show, and it was at my kitchen table that Tim and I discovered that we had a similar desire to reach youth and that we both had the desire to do a larger event: a Christian music festival. Margery suggested a name for the festival with the word ‘Creation’ in it.” That night the Creation Festival was born, and the next June 5,000 people attended Creation ’79 at Muddy Run Park in Quarryville, Pa.

Now approaching its 35<sup>th</sup> year, the bi-coastal event has become the largest of its kind, with a combined attendance of 100,000 people coming out to Creation Northeast, held in Mt. Union, Pa. in June, or Creation Northwest in Enumclaw, Wash., held in July. “I had a vision of thousands of kids on a hillside. I felt that was fulfilled really in 1979, and I would have been content then. But the Lord wanted to go beyond that. Each year we would pray and ask if we were going to do the festival again the next year. It has gone beyond anything I ever expected,” says Thomas. The Creation Festival has been featured by many mainstream media outlets including CBS News *Sunday Morning*, VH1, CNN, FOX News, *Details* magazine, and the *New York Times*. In 2004, Thomas received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the

Gospel Music Association — an honor that recognized the Creation Festival’s major contributions to the gospel music industry.

Next summer, Thomas will be turning 70 — but he has no plans to retire anytime soon. On his plans for the future, Thomas quotes Psalm 71:18: “Even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who are to come.”

“As long as I can, I’m going to keep on going. I can’t see any reason to sit around,” chuckles Thomas. He has concerts to promote, festivals to run and lots more world traveling to do. “We’re expanding the festivals internationally,” says Thomas. “We bring musicians and medical teams from the United States, and we try to incorporate the local musicians.” Since 2005, Come Alive International has organized events in Morocco, Ghana, and Sri Lanka. “We’re planning one in the Dominican Republic in 2014, as well as heading back to Ghana in 2014.”

And the thing that lights up Pastor Harry the most? “Oh that’s simple. It really is seeing people come to Christ. Whether it is my Moroccan friend wanting to be baptized at the Creation Festival or 3,000 Hindus rushing to the altar in Sri Lanka — that is what it is all about...lives being changed.”

A man with short brown hair and a goatee, wearing a dark brown velvet blazer over a white button-down shirt, stands in the foreground. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a soft-focus autumn scene with trees showing orange, red, and yellow leaves. The title 'Life's persistent questions' is written in a large, white, serif font, with decorative grey lines trailing from the word 'persistent'. Below the title, the author's name 'Brian Reitnour' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# Life's persistent questions

Brian Reitnour

As a 17-year-old college freshman, I was convinced that I was going to play professional baseball. I discovered, though, that when a 5 foot 10 inch 150-pound kid says something like this out loud he's bound to get some interesting looks. While my dream remained, I knew I needed to find a different answer to the "What are you going to do with your life?" question.

continued >



Wrestling with questions about my talents and preferences — coupled with Christian ideals about vocation, calling, and a desire to make a difference in the world — proved to be a difficult and ongoing struggle. These questions persist throughout our lives and require re-answering on a regular basis. Fortunately, I have had a community of individuals, wise and experienced, who have helped guide me in that questioning and evaluation process.

In the Career Services Office at Houghton, we strive to provide this same kind of community for students and alumni, both through our individual relationships with them and by helping to connect them with tools and individuals that can help guide them through their own questioning and decision making.

## LIFE AT A STANDSTILL

Like many students, “John” prefers to have his life carefully planned out, everything from what he’ll wear tomorrow to what job he’ll hold when he’s fifty. Although only 18, he thought for years that he wanted to work in a chemistry lab, but for some time had been unable to shake the feeling that he was missing out on some great adventure by being in school. He is unable to concentrate on assignments, listen to lectures or cultivate friendships. The metaphorical walls of his life, which had seemed so stable only weeks before, now seemed to be collapsing.

He filled out a career assessment and we talked through the results during several meetings. While I know he hoped to quickly discover answers that would allow him to regain some sense of normalcy in his life, the process has proven more painstaking as we dug deeper into the ways in which he prefers to live and the expectations he feels from others.

At the end of our last conversation, I suggested that he talk to a few individuals who work in the professions that most interest him to find out what they like and dislike about their work, what steps they took to get there, and what advice and recommendations they might have for him. I believe John is moving in the right direction and beginning to more fully understand himself, the gifts that God has given him, and how he might use those to find joy and meaning while furthering the Kingdom.

## POINTED IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Perhaps one of the most common refrains I hear from students is this: “I like so many different things; how can I pick just one?” “Jane” has struggled with this for the past three years. She began visiting our office as a freshman trying to figure out what to do with her time on campus outside of the classroom and what to do with her summers. Now a senior, she has a wonderful résumé, including a recent summer internship with a fashion company in New York City which she acquired through a connection with a Houghton alum. She has an offer to return to NYC after graduation but feels that if she takes the job, she will miss out on the other areas of life she loves.


Part of what seems overwhelming to many students is the need to feel they must decide their entire life before they enter college; if they reach their senior year and are still unsure, then there must be something wrong with them. I reminded Jane that while her job will take up a large portion of her time, it should never define her as a person. Just because she doesn’t spend equal time at each of her passions does not mean that she will eliminate them from her life.

I encouraged Jane to move beyond her fears and pursue a number of options while she has the opportunity. When last we talked, she took solace in knowing that she does not need to decide her entire life right now, but simply move forward one step at a time.

## LIFE PREPARATION

I often wish that students could walk into my office, fill out a piece of paper and I could say, “Okay, here’s your job!” and provide them with their dream job for life. But I know this would be a tremendous disservice to the individuals I try to serve and would probably not work out well for anyone involved.

In his book *Home Economics*, Wendell Berry reminds us that the word “Education” stems from the Greek, meaning “to bring up to responsible maturity.” While we work to develop skills and knowledge in students that translate beyond Houghton, the education provided here has never been only about “career preparation.” In Berry’s words, “The inescapable purpose of education must be to preserve and pass on the essential means — the thoughts and words and works and ways and standards and hopes without which we are not human. To preserve these things and to pass them on is to prepare students for life.”

My job is to contribute to a community of education; to collectively and individually enable others to wrestle with their own questions about talents, preferences and vocation; not merely to prepare them for a job or a career, but to help prepare them for life. 

*Brian Reitnour serves as career services coordinator and head baseball coach at Houghton College*



# To love, equip, and empower

Danielle Brenon '12  
Jeff Babbitt '96

“We never thought we’d be here this long,” reflects Mark Cerbone ’78.

In 1992, Mark and his wife, Diann, had moved to a farmhouse in Western New York for what they thought would be a one-year stay before returning to ministry in the Philadelphia area, the place where they met and where Mark had lived and served for several years. “During the year,” Mark recalls, “every possible door to return closed quite unexpectedly. We felt this was direction from above, and it became increasingly clear that we were called to stay.”

continued ›





I knew that I was leaving behind a chapter of life that could never be repeated, yet there was a deep sense that my time at Houghton had been well-spent.



Twenty years later, Mark and Diann have fully invested in their community and in Peace of the City Ministries, a faith-based non-profit in Buffalo's struggling West Side. Diann is founder and executive director, while Mark serves as development director for this multifaceted ministry with a mission of seeking to love, equip, and empower at-risk urban children and teenagers in the name of Christ.

For Mark, working with youth stems from a lifelong passion for relational ministry, a priority whose roots reach back to his college experience. Houghton provided the ideal context for Mark to prepare for his future calling; his years at Houghton were fully lived and filled with servant-leadership, diverse involvement and transformative activism.

"As I drove away from Houghton, I wept over my very meaningful years in college," he said. "They were mixed tears of joy and sadness. I knew that I was leaving behind a chapter of life that could never be repeated, yet there was a deep sense that my time at Houghton had been well-spent."





One of Mark's key contributions at Houghton was helping to form a student-led ministry called Body Life. This ministry was a fundamental precursor to a tradition known as Celebration, today called Koinonia, Houghton's Sunday evening student-led worship gathering. Mark was also a vital member of a student group that replaced the traditional freshman "initiation" with a very different freshman "orientation." Mark and fellow advocates designed and led an orientation that created a positive and welcoming atmosphere for incoming freshmen and transfers.

Mark's active leadership at Houghton only hinted at what was to come. Two days after leaving Houghton, Mark's parents dropped him off in inner-city Philadelphia to begin a two-year voluntary service term with the Mennonite Central Committee. He initially worked as personal assistant to rising Christian leader, speaker, author, and theologian Ron Sider.

During his time in Philadelphia, Mark was introduced to fellow Houghton grad **Harry Thomas '65**, director of the then brand-new Creation outdoor festival. Mark volunteered his services, soon becoming Creation's first-ever staff supervisor, and worked closely with Thomas and festival producer Tim Landis to help plan 10 subsequent Creation festivals.

Amid his long journey of service and activism, Mark learned early on that authentic relationships and sustained effort are required to effect change; he has applied these principles to endeavors small and large, from co-parenting three daughters in an urban multicultural neighborhood to challenging the ruthless cycle of poverty on Buffalo's West Side.

Motivated by Jesus' call to "love your neighbor," staff and volunteers at Peace of the City provide programs designed to equip young people in Buffalo with the skills, tools, values and motivation needed to succeed educationally, break the cycle of poverty and lead meaningful, productive lives, in time becoming positive role models in their schools and communities.

"We are trying to communicate to children and teenagers (and their families) that there's a God who hasn't forsaken them. God cares about the details and circumstances of their lives." This investment in individuals is exemplified by Tieza Jonas, 26, who currently directs the Homework Club, the very same program she attended as a six-year-old, one of the first students Mark and Diann befriended. "Perhaps the key factor in seeing Tieza reach this point in life has been God's grace mediated to her through strong, long-term relationships," said Mark. "Twenty years of faithful relationship through many ups and downs have provided abundant opportunities for God's love, forgiveness, acceptance and hope to be demonstrated to Tieza in word and action."

Peace of the City emphasizes the transformative power of fully investing in individuals for the long haul. "Simply having weekly Bible studies with kids, though laudable, isn't enough. Fruitful Christian ministry has to be holistic and in context." And the context for many on the West Side includes patterns ingrained in the generational poor: abuse, neglect, poverty, single parenthood and violence. "We're very consciously a relationally based ministry," reminds Mark. "We could double the numbers of kids in our programs, but then we run the real risk of losing touch with the realities of their lives. With that in mind, we limit our numbers to the degree we feel we can handle responsibly."

In his role as development director, Mark sees himself as a "bridge" between Peace of the City, the West Side, greater Buffalo and Erie County. Building trust and durable relationships with volunteers, donors, political officials, ministry leaders and agency representatives is necessary in keeping the ministry vibrant and viable.

Reflecting on two decades of ministry in the West Side, Mark doesn't dwell on programs or fundraising events – he radiates love for his three daughters; his wife, faithful ministry partner for twenty years; the staff of Peace of the City, individuals who have committed their lives to service in Jesus' name; donors and friends who support the ministry with finances and prayer; and especially for the hundreds – if not thousands – of young people, those seemingly cast off and forgotten, whose lives have been transformed for good, in the name of Christ. 

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# Homecoming 2012

Rachel Meier '14

With a crisp fall breeze and colors blazing in the surrounding hills, Houghton welcomed over 1,400 parents, community members and alumni to campus for the 2012 Homecoming and Family weekend.

Class reunions were held in conjunction with Homecoming again this year, as members of Houghton classes ending in 2 and 7 celebrated with class gatherings and a reunion banquet.

Homecoming began with the traditional Founders Day Convocation, featuring **James Priest '77**, executive director of Fighting Addiction Through Education. With 30 years of experience in the legal and business sectors, Priest continues to serve his local community through his work for non-profit organizations **1**. Earlier in the week, Judge **Sheila A. DiTullio '77** was honored with the 2012 Alumna of the Year Award. DiTullio was appointed supervising judge of the criminal courts of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee and Wyoming counties in January 2011. DiTullio has served as an Erie County court judge since January 1996. **2**

Friday continued with many engaging activities. "Teeing off" since Homecoming 2005, the golf tournament continued to be a popular event with numbers doubling from last year. A unique Homecoming experience this year was a panel discussion on the evolving music industry, featuring **Gordon Kerr '88**, CEO of Black River Entertainment. On Saturday, the traditional Fun Run included young children and alumni from over 50 years past.

Former President **Dr. Daniel Chamberlain** and former coach and current Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **H. "Skip" Lord '80** were honored with a brunch on Saturday morning, officially joining 30 other Athletic Hall of Honor members **3**. Saturday evening concluded with the traditional SPOT performances, including a hilarious act from the class of '77.

Homecoming and Family Weekend 2012 was a sensational success all around, and we are already looking forward to next year; save the date for Homecoming 2013: Oct 4-5, 2013. 



LINDA MILLS WOOLSEY



RICK MELSON

# Houghton College welcomes two new vice presidents

Danielle Brenon '12

In its commitment of seeking passionate and qualified leaders well matched to the mission of the college, Houghton happily welcomed two new vice presidents to its executive team this fall. [Linda Mills Woolsey '74](#) began her service as dean of the college and vice president for academic affairs, and Rick Melson assumed the role of vice president for advancement. Houghton President Shirley Mullen was pleased to appoint these individuals for their respective positions, stating, “We are thankful to God for the way He is gathering a team of chief officers who are distinctly prepared to meet the challenges and the opportunities of this moment in Houghton’s history.”

## LINDA MILLS WOOLSEY

Dr. Linda Mills Woolsey began her position of dean of the college and vice president for academic affairs as an already experienced member of the Houghton faculty. Prior to accepting this position, Dr. Mills Woolsey was serving as interim academic dean and professor of English and writing.

Dean Mills Woolsey brings to her position a long and successful history of experience as a college professor, a scholar and an administrator. She has both the benefit of being an insider to Houghton and the benefit of multiple connections to the larger world of higher education. Mills Woolsey has a deep appreciation for Houghton’s hallmark of high-quality Christian liberal arts education, matched with a commitment to translate that education into the needs of today’s students and their families.

“Linda Mills Woolsey has served very effectively as interim dean,” said Houghton faculty moderator [Connie Finney '78](#). “Her experience in this role, her history with Houghton, her personal level of scholarship, and her deep faith combine to make her an ideal candidate for this position. As faculty moderator, I have seen few decisions over the past two years that even approach the level of unified support that faculty expressed for Linda’s candidacy. Her background in literature shows her value for the liberal arts and also gives her a particularly thoughtful and reflective vantage point from which to consider her work.”

Dean Mills Woolsey is a graduate of Houghton College, where she majored in English and minored in history and Bible. She received her master’s degree from Binghamton University, where she studied Anglo-Saxon literature with Bernard Huppé. She earned an interdisciplinary doctorate in nineteenth century studies, focusing on the formation of modern culture, from Drew University.

Dean Mills Woolsey has a passion for language and stories, which shape her life and teaching. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Conference on Christianity and Literature, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, the Jane Austen Society of North America and the Academy of American Poets. She has published poems, short stories, essays, and scholarly articles.


### RICK MELSON

Mr. Rick Melson began his role as vice president for advancement in the fall of 2012. Melson joined the Houghton community from Minneapolis, Minn., formerly serving as a senior consultant and executive coach, as well as an advisor for Growing Leadership and the Emerging Leaders Institute.

Melson encompasses a wide range of experience and a track record of successful initiatives in higher education, the business world and the local church, as well as a strong vocational call to Christian higher education. His experience ranges from fundraising and donor development, to enrollment management and strategic planning, to social media and marketing.

Prior to his work in consulting, Melson served as campus pastor, senior leader and organizational board member for Bethlehem Baptist Church, a historic church with more than 5000 weekly attenders and with a 140-year heritage, led by author and speaker John Piper. During this time, Melson envisioned a degree-granting college and seminary and transitioned The Bethlehem Institute into the Bethlehem College and Seminary as chairman of the board.

“I was drawn to serve at Houghton College out of a call and commitment to Houghton’s mission to provide an academically challenging, Christ-centered education in the liberal arts and sciences to students from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds, and equip them to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world,” stated Melson. “I am delighted to serve on President Mullen’s staff and partner in advancing Houghton’s mission and inspiring a shared vision by leading the office of advancement, including development, alumni relations, marketing and communications and community relations.”

Melson earned a Bachelor of Arts in music from Murray State University and a master’s degree in music and ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy in leadership from Dallas Baptist University with a target completion date in 2013. 

We are thankful  
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# Campus News & Notes

## ADMINISTRATION

Houghton College President Shirley A. Mullen has been named one of *Christianity Today's* "50 Women You Should Know" for her outstanding role in shaping the evangelical church culture. In addition to President Mullen's photo appearing on the cover of the October 2012 issue of CT, she was one of 16 women highlighted with an additional photograph and a longer article.

## ADVANCEMENT

For the first time in Houghton College history, the Student Scholarship Fund has met and exceeded its goal of raising \$1 million. "Each and every dollar raised for the Student Scholarship Fund goes directly to students and equips us to recruit and retain students who will be forever changed by their Houghton experience," said Director of Development Pamela Witter.

## ATHLETICS

Houghton officially broke ground this past summer on the first phase of a multi-million dollar athletic complex made possible by the \$12 million donation by Houghton alumna [Kim \(Kerr '91\) Pegula](#) and her husband, Terry Pegula. Burke Field was resurfaced with artificial turf in time for the first women's soccer game of the season against Hiram College on August 31, 2012. Construction of the baseball and softball stadiums is currently under way. Learn more at: [www.houghton.edu/kerr-pegula-athletic-complex](http://www.houghton.edu/kerr-pegula-athletic-complex)

The NCAA Division III Management Council officially endorsed the Membership Committee's recommendation to move Houghton College into provisional membership status effective September 1, 2012. As a provisional member, Houghton is required to be compliant with all NCAA Division III legislation and must begin to meet a number of requirements in 2012-2013 and throughout the four-year process.

## BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

In April of 2012, 30 business and accounting students in the Student Consulting Group traveled to the corporate headquarters of Paychex, a Fortune 1000 company in Rochester, N.Y., to present their research findings after a three-month study of the company and its strategy. CFO [Efrain Rivera '78](#) commended the Houghton students for producing results he would expect from graduate-level students. He also noted that Houghton's recommendations aligned with what a world-renowned consulting firm recently recommended to Paychex.



## GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Houghton College Choir, directed by Associate Professor of Choral Conducting Brandon Johnson, traveled to South Korea this past Mayterm, making their first tour in an Asian nation. The students participated in master classes with renowned Korean choral directors and performed in a wide variety of venues, including concert halls, cultural centers, universities, and churches around the country.

The Houghton College Philharmonia and College Choir, with special guests from the Alfred University Music Department, performed the 1812 Overture to conclude the 5th annual Civil War Reenactment in Angelica, N.Y., on September 23, 2012. The concert was performed in the circle of churches in Angelica, with the ringing of church bells from the belfries and cannons in the background. Thousands attended the weekend event co-sponsored this year by Houghton College, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce and Time Warner Cable.

Mark Hijleh, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of music, saw the publication of his new book, *Towards a Global Music Theory: Practical Concepts and Methods for the Analysis of Music Across Human Cultures*, by Ashgate Publishers in August. The book proposes a number of analytical concepts that can assist musicians with understanding the expressive powers of music freely intermixed from many cultural sources. Some of these methods have been in use in the Houghton music theory curriculum for the past several years.

## NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Houghton students and faculty from the disciplines of biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and computer science conducted collaborative research this summer for the sixth Summer Research Institute, directed by Wei Hu, professor of mathematics and computer science and the S.R.I program director. Topics of study included "Spam Detection on Twitter," "Properties of Thin Metal Films," "Dark Matter Halo Formation," "Synthesis of Biodegradable Glycopolymers," "Insect Development," "Inertial Confinement Fusion," and "Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells."

Jun-Koo Park, assistant professor of applied mathematics, has been selected as a 2012-2013 Project Next (New Experiences in Teaching) Fellow. Project Next is a national professional development program of the Mathematical Association of America for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences. Park joined the faculty this past fall.

## RECREATION/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Thomas Kettelkamp, professor of recreation and physical education and chair of the department of leisure studies, spent last semester in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, as a visiting professor at the Universidad Evangelica Boliviana. He was sponsored by a Fulbright award from the U.S. Embassy in La Paz to focus on global health, specifically with the Department of Health Sciences at U.E.B. While in Bolivia, Kettelkamp taught workshops in basic research methodology as well as healthcare research and programming, worked with the Department of Health Sciences to design a master's degree

in public/community health, and also was instrumental in designing the first International Congress for the Investigation of Non-Communicable Diseases in Poor Areas of Bolivia. He will be going back in May 2013 to work with the U.E.B. on creating national norms in obesity and cardiovascular disease rates throughout the country.

## SERVICE

On Saturday, October 27, about 350 Houghton students converged on locations throughout Allegany County, participating in Make a Difference Day, the largest national community service day in America. They joined students from Alfred State College and Alfred University, united under the guidance of Leadership Allegany in order to impact the community. Students and other locals united while wielding rakes, paintbrushes, rags, and hands eager to serve. These volunteers met needs presented by individuals, nonprofits, and churches at over 65 locations around the county. [H&H](#)

# Alumni News & Notes

Houghton College welcomes all submissions to Alumni News & Notes. Due to space limitations, not all news items or photos may be published and the college reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content. You can submit updates online at [www.houghton.edu/magazine](http://www.houghton.edu/magazine), via e-mail to [magazine@houghton.edu](mailto:magazine@houghton.edu) or by mail to the Marketing & Communications Office, One Willard Avenue, Houghton, NY 14744. When sending photos digitally, please submit the highest resolution available. Thank you for keeping in touch with your alma mater!

## 1948

**Bob Benninger**, retired missionary and orthopedic surgeon, celebrated his 90th birthday in January with two birthday parties with friends. He also received word from two different sources that he was listed as one of the top surgeons in the United States for 2008, the year he retired. Bob now lives in Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, Fla., with his wife, Barbara.

## 1964

**Sharon Anderson** recently graduated from the Advanced Publishing Course of the Institute of Children's Literature. Sharon has had several nature articles for children published in *Nature Friend Magazine*, along with another article published in a regional magazine from western Colorado. Sharon lives in the central mountains of Arizona where she teaches piano and spends her spare time growing vegetables, flowers, and trees.

## 1966

**Linda Lou Sully** retired after a teaching career in a diverse range of settings, including Christian and public schools, a prison, and a community college. At various times, she taught French, English, GED, and Biblical studies, primarily at the secondary level, including 20 years spent with students at risk of dropping out. She currently enjoys church activities, helping people, reading, nature photography, classical music, taking care of several acres of the family homestead, and cats.

## 1967

**Ruth (Kleinschmidt) Kowles** and her husband Joel are speakers in New York and Pennsylvania for Stonecroft Ministries (Christian Women's Connections). Ruth's message is titled "Finding the Right Direction for my Life." In it she speaks of coming to know Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord during her freshman year at Houghton. Her husband speaks about his Viet Nam experience.

## 1969

**Richard Daake** retired in May 2012, after teaching chemistry for 36 years at Oklahoma Wesleyan University, and he was awarded "Professor Emeritus" at OWU's 2012 Commencement. He and his wife, Kathy (Barnett) Daake continue to live in Bartlesville, Okla. **01**

**Douglas Magin** celebrated his 40th year as associate pastor at First Baptist Church in Troy, Ohio, with his wife, **Carol (Gares '65) Magin** and the church congregation. **02**

## 1972

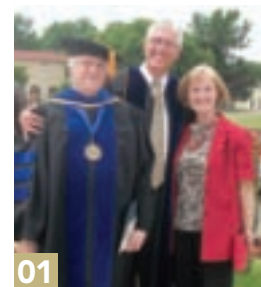
**William Traub** and his wife Judi moved to Dundee, Scotland, this past summer, where William will serve as the training officer of the Free Church of Scotland. He will also continue to teach at various seminaries in Bulgaria, Ukraine, Greece, Germany, and central Asia as coordinator of theological education for Mission to the World Europe.

## 1975

**Frank Billman** will lead a Doctor of Ministry Degree in supernatural ministry at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, when he becomes adjunct professor this January. In addition, he is publishing his second book, *The Supernatural Thread in Methodism: Signs and Wonders Among Methodists Then and Now*.

## 1977

**David Penne** received his M.F.A. in 1982 from Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Md. Since then, he has exhibited in group shows in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. David currently lives in Annapolis, Md. **03**



01



03



02

## 1979

Nancy Kennedy's second installment of her *Miracles and Moments of Grace* series, *Inspiring Stories from Doctors*, was released by Leafwood Publishers in March 2012. It is a compilation of 50 inspiring first-person stories told by doctors, including Tim Hutton '79, who has a family practice in St. George, Ontario, Canada. The first book in Nancy's series is currently sold in Cracker Barrel stores across the U.S. In addition to the *Miracles and Moments of Grace* series, Leafwood published Nancy's other book, *How We Did It: Weight Loss Choices that Will Work for You* in 2011.

Dr. Brian K. Scharf was recently elected president of the national Christian Chiropractors Association. In private practice as a chiropractor in Springville, N.Y., he has served on 21 short-term mission trips to provide health care to the poor in Jamaica and Ukraine. He received his Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary in 2004, and currently serves as the pastor of Orchard Park Emmanuel United Methodist Church.

## 1980

Rev. Barb Schmitz completed an interim ministry in Maine and has started a new interim ministry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cazenovia, N.Y.

Bob Tice was awarded Doctor of Ministry in May 2012 from Roberts Wesleyan College's Northeastern Seminary. His dissertation is entitled "Envisioning and Implementing a Theology and Praxis of Unity-in-Diversity in a Core-City and Multicultural Church in the Context of Globalization and Glocalization." Bob now serves as the senior pastor at RiverRock: An Assembly of the Nations in Buffalo, N.Y.

## 1983

Elaine Hannan was appointed elementary principal of Cumberland Christian School in Vineland, N.J. Elaine has taught at CCS for the past 29 years and has served in a variety of additional capacities, including director of admissions and director of Summer Safari, the school's summer activity program.

## 1985

Cynthia Leavell is now the administrative assistant at North Presbyterian Church in Williamsville, N.Y.

## 1986

David Mee completed 25 years in the field of enrollment management. He currently serves as associate provost and dean of enrollment at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. His wife, Laura (Mercadante '95) is a songwriter in Nashville, and her songs can be viewed at [www.reverbnation.com/lauramee](http://www.reverbnation.com/lauramee). The couple has two daughters, Jillian (13) and Olivia (9).

## 1987

Ned Farnsworth, his wife Marisol, and their four children moved to Ibarra, Ecuador, where Ned serves as the coordinator of Liebenzell Mission USA's radio station and seminary. Prior to their relocation, the couple was blessed by the birth of their newest two additions to the family, twins Jacob Stephen and Elias Samuel, born on January 28, 2012. They joined siblings Joel Mark and Amelia Marie. **04**

## 1988

Paul and Dawn (Dean) Cornell live in Beaver River, N.Y., with their four children, Elizabeth, Olivia, Abigail, and Jordan. Paul is a high school history teacher at Lowville Academy Central School, and Dawn is a high school math teacher at Carthage and Beaver River Central Schools.

Jim Logan became the president of non-profit Sleepy Hollow Cemetery where he directs operations, marketing, and fundraising. Jim lives in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.

## 1989

John Bartz hosted a summer reunion of Houghton alumni and their families at New Beginnings Community Church in Palm City, Fla., where he serves as senior pastor. In attendance were Donna (Dean) Bartz, Dawn (Dean '88) Cornell, Paul Cornell '88, and Denise (Dean '93) O'Loughlin. John and Donna Bartz live in Stuart, Fla., with their two children, Hannah and Josh. Donna is a third grade elementary teacher at Jupiter Christian School. **05**





Jennifer (Deal) Becker and Princesse Nabintu '12 travelled to Rwanda this past summer with a group from New Hope Free Methodist Church, Rochester, N.Y. The team worked at Kibogora Hospital, a rural facility located in southwest Rwanda on the shores of Lake Kivu. The team installed composting toilets, assisted with patient care and administration, and provided preaching and pastoral care for patients and hospital workers. **06**

## 1991

Mary (Biglow) Krueger was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps and assumed command of the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic in Hawaii. **07**

Kirk Nelson was promoted to executive vice president of sales at ArcaTech Systems (ARCA), in Mebane, N.C. He oversees all of OEM, financial, and retail sales. Kirk lives with his wife, Beth (Brown '93) Nelson, and their four daughters, Linnea (16), Rebeca (13), Sonya, (12), and Irma (9) in Mebane, N.C. Beth received her B.S. in Nursing from the University of Rochester in 1993, and worked on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at U.N.C. Hospitals in Chapel Hill, N.C., for ten years. She is currently at home full time.

## 1993

Jennifer (Little) Kegler was married to Joseph Kegler on May 5, 2012, at the First Bible Baptist Church in Hilton, N.Y. That same day, Jennifer became the mother of five children: Nathanael (19), Amber (15), Matthew (13), Sierra (11), and Joey (8). Houghton alumni in attendance included Lynne (Arnold '95) Weiler, Amy (Jennings '93) Pemberton, Christa (Dickerson '93) Quinn, Becky (Ayers '93) Black, Christine (Armstrong '95) Waters, Jonathan Little '95 (brother of the bride), Anne (Little '71) Brown, Richard Matthews '53, Jan (Marolf '65) Francis, Linda (Finger '65) Little (mother of the bride), Thomas Little '75, Roger Houck '02, Paul Little '65 (father of the bride), Melanie Houck '03, Mary Jo (Patton '84) Russell, and Mickey Sammons '65. The new family is now living in Spencerport, N.Y., where Jennifer works for The College at Brockport, SUNY and Joseph works for Ecolab. **08**

Denise (Dean '93) O'Loughlin lives in Port St. Lucie, Fla., with her husband, Jeff, and two children, Madison and Mackenzie. Denise is a third grade elementary teacher at St. Anastasia Catholic School in Ft. Pierce, Fla., and her husband works for a retail and mall leasing company.

## 1994

Justin Carabello and his wife, Emily, have started a philanthropic coffee roasting business in northern Kentucky that donates its profits to projects of compassion in third-world coffee producing nations. The couple currently resides in Newport, Ky. To follow their story, visit [www.carabellocoffee.com](http://www.carabellocoffee.com). **09**

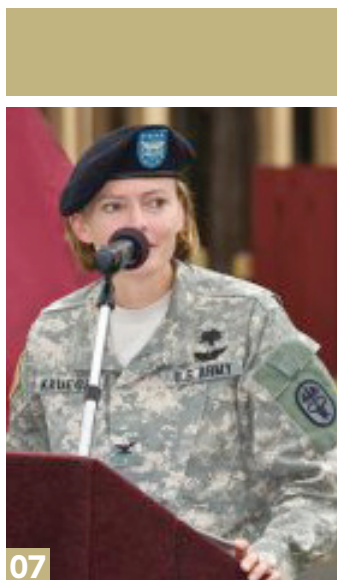
Tim and Tami (Zerbe '90) Thurber wrote a family devotional book titled *Handing it Down: Teaching your Children the Basic Truths of Faith*. Tim is employed at West Oneonta Baptist Church in West Oneonta, N.Y. Both Tim and Tami are Walk Thru the Bible, Unveil in Glory, and SuperDoc instructors. The couple lives in Otego, N.Y., with their children Miriam (15), Ryan (12), and Caleb (10). For more information about their book, visit [www.tthurber.com](http://www.tthurber.com).

## 1997

Heidi (Brautingam) Kaminski and her husband, Keith, are pleased to announce the birth of their first daughter, Charlotte Elaine, born on December 12, 2011. Charlotte joins older brothers Logan (5) and Ethan (2). The family lives in Hamburg, N.Y. **10**



06



07



08

## 1998

Andy Thelander married Amanda Olsen Thelander on January 14, 2012, in Park City, Utah. Andy and Melissa (Musick '98) McGrath, Jeremy Hurst '98, and Sena (Livezey '99) Rogers attended the ceremony. The couple currently resides in Park City where they enjoy all kinds of outdoor activities together. **11**

## 1999

Amanda (Duheme) Rondeau is currently serving on the board of the Imaginarium Children's Museum of the North Country in Plattsburgh, N.Y. Houghton alum, Scot Sedley '99, from Stepping Stones Children's Museum in Norwalk, Conn., has helped facilitate networking opportunities for the emerging museum. Amanda lives with her husband, Steven, and their two children, Katie (7) and Nathan (4), in AuSable Forks, N.Y.

## 2000

Kristine (Hess) and Daniel Larison were married July 31, 2010, at Landis Valley Christian Fellowship in Lancaster, Pa. Laura (Hess '03) Metzler, the bride's sister, was the matron of honor, and bridesmaids included Heather (Conklin '00) Huth, Danielle (Teves '00) Hollenbach, and Rachel (Johnson '00)

Graham. The couple resides in Chicago where Kristine is a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Chicago, after having received a master's degree in art history from Penn State University. Her husband, Daniel, is the senior editor of *The American Conservative* magazine. **12**

## 2001

Sara (Petteys) Buenaventura and her husband, Jason, were married on November 7, 2009, in Glens Falls, N.Y. Houghton alumni in attendance included Amanda (Miller '02) Koppenheffer, and Scott and Eunice (Thompson '01) Bussom '00. On April 5, 2012, they were blessed with their first child, Luke David Buenaventura. The Buenaventura family resides in Cape May, N.J., where Sarah is at home full time, and Jason is a family physician. **13**

Aaron and Alison (Roach) Harrington are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Tessa Corinne, on November 19, 2010. Aaron, Ali, and Tessa live in Fairport, N.Y. Aaron teaches physics at Newark High School, and Ali teaches French at Avon Middle and High Schools. **14**

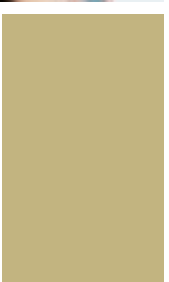
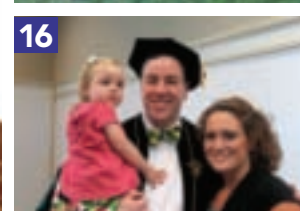
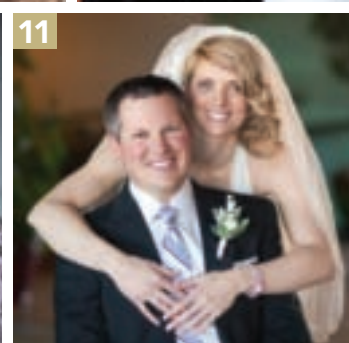
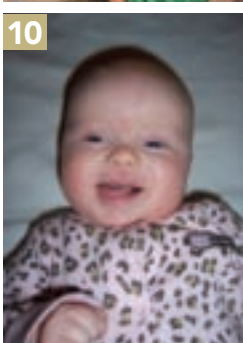
Several members of the Class of 2001 gathered at Homecoming 2011 for their 10th reunion, accompanied by their children.

Aaron and Alison (Roach) Harrington came with baby Tessa, Stephanie (Price) Martinez and her husband Alex with baby Gaby, and Marleen (Sider) Geiger and her husband David with baby Ephraim. **15**

Jeremy Martin received his Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary on May 13, 2012, after earning distinction on his comprehensive examinations and completing his dissertation entitled "Tuition Discounting Through Unfunded Institutional Aid at Private Baccalaureate Colleges." Jeremy is employed at the College of William and Mary as the assistant to the president and provost where he works on strategic projects for the college. He lives with his wife, Tia, and his 2-year-old daughter, Gianna, in Williamsburg, Va. **16**

Michelle (Taylor) McIlroy illustrated a bilingual children's book titled *Where is Paco Now?* (Campanita Books, 2012) Michelle currently continues her work as a fifth grade teacher in Athens, N.Y., where she lives with her husband, Tom '02 and their sons Caleb (6) and Collin (2). **17**

Tad Sherman was appointed principal of Wakelon Elementary School in Zebulon, N.C. Tad resides in Wendell, N.C., with his wife, Jennifer, and their two children, Benjamin (6) and Alexandria (3). **18**





**Julie (Hampson) Teitsma** and her husband, Craig, announce the birth of their son, Jacob Craig Teitsma, on July 27, 2012. Jacob joins his sister, Madison (2). The family lives in Midland Park, N.J., where Julie works as a middle school music teacher and Craig as a self-employed carpenter. **19**

## 2003

**Jeremy and Erin (Spear '04) Gorham** are delighted to announce the birth of their third son, Owen Daniel Gorham, on November 26, 2011. Owen joins older brothers Ayden James (8) and Ethan Benaiah (4). The Gorham family lives in Wellsville, N.Y., where Jeremy serves as the pastor of Wellsville Alliance Church, and Erin is a stay-at-home mom who provides leadership for the church's children's ministry and instructs a "Run for God" 5K training group. **20**

## 2004

**Sarah (Moore) Gruver** and Robert Gruver welcomed their first daughter, Olivia Katherine Grace, into their family on May 31, 2012. Sarah and Robert, parents also to 2-year-old Joshua, live with their children in Watkins Glen, N.Y., and they serve as paramedics at

Erway Ambulance in Elmira, N.Y., while Sarah pursues her R.N. degree. **21**

**Walter Hopkins** was appointed to the position of assistant director of language instruction at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. Walter will be supervising and coordinating Michigan State's beginning and intermediate level Spanish courses as well as teaching three courses per academic year.

## 2005

**Shelly (Bloser) Boyce** and her husband, Shawn, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Emilia Grace, on June 22, 2012. The couple lives in Rochester, N.Y. where Shelly does corporate training for Travelers Insurance. **22**

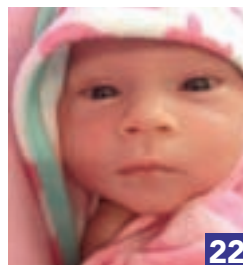
**Andrea (McCullough) Owens** and Christopher Owens were married May 5, 2012, in Roanoke, Va. The couple currently resides in Roanoke where, since her August 2011 graduation from the University of South Carolina with a Master of Speech Language Pathology, Andrea serves as a speech language pathologist with Carilion Clinic. **23**

**Deneé (Knoll) Rollins** and her husband, Matt Rollins, announce the birth of their daughter, Taegan Laneé Rollins, on March 20, 2012. Matt and Daneé live in Norwood, N.Y., where Daneé is a fourth grade teacher and Matt is a commercial loan officer. **24**

**Austin Stevenson** was appointed by Alaska Governor Sean Parnell to an at-large seat on the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Utilizing the experience gleaned from serving as the Mat-Su Borough School District coordinator, as an education specialist with the Southeast Regional Resource center, and as an assistant curriculum director and social studies teacher, Austin will assist in strengthening and improving the social services and juvenile justice systems in Alaska.

## 2006

**Allison (Taber) Adams, Jennifer (Johnson) Erbelding, Amy Haas '07, Erica (Schrader) Murray, Melissa Murray, Kristen (Voorhees '05) Sanasith, and Elizabeth Weaver** gathered at Letchworth State Park this past summer to celebrate ten years of knowing each other since they were freshmen floor-mates on 1st Old in East Hall (now Gillette). **25**





## 2007

Susannah (Smith) Browne was married to Jim Browne on August 13, 2011, in New London, N.H. Bridesmaids included Katie Scrafford and Margaret Bell-Walker. Other Houghton alumni in attendance included Ben Walker, Stephanie (Smith) Lipnicki, Alex Lipnicki, Kathryn (Henderson) DeYoung, Jeffrey DeYoung, Shannon Callan, Kirstie Chen '08, Jen Newgent '09, and Holly Hrywnak '09. The couple now lives in Portsmouth, N.H., where Susannah is employed by Lawrence Public Schools (Lawrence, Mass.) **26**

Cassandra (Bertrand) Goldsmith was married to Joseph Goldsmith on July 16, 2011, in Lancaster, Pa. Nicole Hatler was a bridesmaid for the ceremony. The couple is now living in Forest Hill, Md., where Cassandra serves as a music teacher at Harford County Public Schools, and Joseph works at Modern Ministry Records. **27**

## 2008

Thomas Lerew married Kerry Wallen on November 19, 2011, in Stewartstown, Pa. Matthew Teodori '07 served as a groomsman at the wedding, which was also attended by Adam Potter '07 and

Jenna Paoletti '08. The couple now resides in Liverpool, N.Y., while Thomas pursues a Master of Music degree in choral conducting at Syracuse University. **28**

## 2009

Emma (Hughes) Kowalinski was married to Russell Kowalinski on July 28, 2012, in Old Field, N.Y. In attendance were Jaclyn Snyder, Kaylee Bennett, Ed Raught '10, Laura (Albrecht) Miner, Mark Miner '07, Lauren Brooks, and Michelle Sprague. The couple now resides in Seattle, Wash., where Emma serves as a child and family therapist and Russell as a clinic director and physical therapist.

Luke Hands and Jessica Smith are pleased to announce their June 18, 2012, engagement. They will be married on January 3, 2013, in Dingle, Ireland. **29**

## 2011

Ashlee Jones moved into her new residence at the International Lutheran Student Centre in London, England, on October 1, 2012. She will be living there as she studies at the Birkbeck College, University of London, from which she is projected to earn her Post Graduate Diploma in Museum Cultures in July 2013.

## 2012

Eric and Joella (Eppehimer '12) Liddle were married on May 5, 2012, at the Jamestown Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Jamestown, N.Y. Many current students and recent graduates were there to celebrate with the couple. The Liddles reside in Charlotte, N.C., where Eric is a geometry teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district, and Joella is working on a novel, while submitting short stories and literary criticism to various journals. **30**

## ADULT EDUCATION (FORMERLY P.A.C.E)

### 2010

Russell Bell was the alumni speaker at the Houghton College Adult Education 20th Anniversary and Grand Opening event held at the new West Seneca campus on August 30, 2012. Russell is employed by Delphi Automotive in Lockport, N.Y., and serves as discipleship pastor at North Buffalo Community Church. He also sits on the board of directors for Jericho Road Ministries. **31**



# In Memoriam

## UWC

**Joseph A. Sweigard Jr.**, 80, passed away Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at Southern Care Assisted Living in Franklin, Tenn. He was self-employed as a construction estimator and was a member and past president of the York Rescue Mission in York, Pa. In addition to his wife, Margaret Sweigard, he is survived by three sons; a daughter; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother.

## 1935

**Gertrude (Wolfer) Saunders**, 97, died Thursday, March 29, 2012, at the Eastside Nursing Facility in Warsaw, N.Y., where she had been residing. After graduating from Houghton, Gertrude taught music in several rural schools in Allegany and Wyoming Counties and was a life insurance agent for Baptist Life Association in Buffalo, N.Y., for many years. She is survived by four sons, 12 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of over seventy years, Vernon Saunders; two sisters and a brother.

**Ernestine (Austin) McFarland Whybrew** passed away Sunday, May 27, 2012, in Cuba Memorial Hospital Palliative Care in Cuba, N.Y. Ernestine retired from a lifelong teaching career in 1992. Surviving are two daughters, eight grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, a brother, and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her first husband and her parents, she was predeceased by her husband of 30 years, Robert Whybrew, in 2008; a brother; and a great-granddaughter.

## 1942

**Rev. Clinton C. Boone** died of a heart attack on Sunday, March 25, 2012, at South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, N.Y. He was 90. Boone was pastor emeritus of Union Baptist Church in Hempstead, N.Y., where he served for 47 years before his retirement in 2003. He is survived by his son, the Rev. Clinton C. Boone III and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Evelyn, in 1999; his second wife, Lelar, in 2011; and his sister **Rachel (Boone '43) Keith**.

## 1946

**Jessie E. Taylor**, 86, died Friday, March 30, 2012, at Heritage Village Rehab and Skilled Nursing in Gerry, N.Y. Jessie was a music teacher for over 35 years at Bible schools and colleges throughout the country before her retirement. She is survived by cousins and friends.

## BERT HALL

Master teacher and good friend; role model and mentor; family man, gentleman and scholar. **Bert Harold Hall '43**, died Sunday, July 15, 2012, in Houston, Texas. He was 91 years old.



'Doc Hall' served Houghton College from 1947 to 1973 as professor of philosophy, dean of students, chairman of the department of religion and philosophy, and academic dean. "He loved Houghton," recalls emeritus philosophy professor, Larry Mullen. "He was a spiritual leader on campus" and impacted the lives of students and faculty alike.

"Not often does an individual have the good fortune to experience superb mentoring from the same faculty member from the freshman year of college through the mid-point of an academic career," recalls former faculty colleague Dr. **James Barcus '60**. "[He modeled] the life of scholar/teacher who teaches, publishes, and cares for his family with equal vigor and commitment."

For former student, **Bob Sabean '58**, Hall's influence determined the entire direction of his life and ministry. "The fact that I have been a missionary in Latin America for 47 years using Christian camping as a base for ministry may fall quite a bit on the shoulders of Doc Hall," remarked Sabean.

**Warren Woolsey '43**, professor emeritus of New Testament and missions, was first a classmate of Hall, then a fellow faculty member of the religion and philosophy department of which Hall was chair. "He set a high standard of academic excellence but was also concerned for personal spiritual growth," recalls Woolsey.

"He was always a kind man, and he was fun. My childhood was filled with his involvement," recalls daughter **Elizabeth "Betty Jo" Hall '69**. "He was physically active, intellectually stimulating, and compassionate. He was a truly self-made man, a life well lived."

Hall will be greatly missed by his wife of 69 years, **Harriet (Kalla '43) Hall**; daughters **Lucy (Hall '66) Novak**, **Elizabeth**, and **Cyndi (Hall '73) Rigby**; grandsons **Matthew Hall Rigby '02** and **Nathaniel Rigby '05**; his sister and great-granddaughters.

## ELIZABETH VOGAN

Elizabeth F. Vogan passed away on June 13, 2012, in Mooers, N.Y. She was 99 years old.

Vogan was a retired English teacher and served as the librarian at Mooers Free Library for 40 years. She was an active member of Mooers Wesleyan Church where she taught Sunday school and was secretary-treasurer of Wesleyan Women.

In 1937, Elizabeth Fordon married Paul E. Vogan '32, and since that time, many of their children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren have graduated from Houghton College.

She is survived by five children, including sons Robert '60 and John '62; daughter Carolyn (Vogan '66) Tysinger; twelve grandchildren, including Rohn Vogan '84, Jonathan C. Vogan '85, Kimberly (Vogan '87) Kerr, Jeffrey P. Vogan '91, and James W. Tysinger III '88; twenty-six great-grandchildren, including Andrew Vogan '09, Matthew Vogan '13, Connor Vogan '15, Jonathan R. Vogan '10, Jacob Vogan '15, and Michael Kerr '15; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul, in 2007; as well as her parents and siblings.

## 1948

Meredith Warburton Kellogg passed away on March 30, 2012. He served in the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army in India during World War II and was a member of the founding faculty of Niagara County Community College, where he taught physics for 23 years. Meredith was a third-generation Houghton student, preceded in death by his grandmother, the Rev. Carrie B. Warburton, and his mother Mary (Warburton) Kellogg. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie (Lawrence '49) Kellogg; four children: David '79, Roger, Sharon (Kellogg '82) Freeman, Judy Trentini; eight grandchildren, including Joe Kellogg '07, Tim Kellogg '08, Beth (Freeman '04) McRoberts; and two great grandchildren.

## 1949

Calvin S. Clark passed away Saturday, May 12, 2012, in the Heritage Green Rehab and Skilled Nursing Center in Greenhurst, N.Y. He was 84. Calvin was a veteran of the United States Navy,

serving during the Korean War era from 1952 to 1955, where he received an honorable discharge and the National Defense Service Ribbon. He was a display specialist at the former Bigelow's Department Store and then worked as a dietician for Heritage Park Nursing Home in Jamestown, N.Y., until his retirement. He is survived by cousins Judith Presutti, John Clark and Eunice Schmitt. He was preceded in death by a brother, Wesley Clark.

Virginia (Taylor) Jennings died in Albany, N.Y., on May 11, 2011. She was a legal secretary for many years and also worked for the N.Y.S. Senate. Ginny is survived by her daughter, Amy (Jennings '93) Pemberton, a grandson, Joseph Craig Pemberton, a brother-in-law, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Charles Jennings '48, and by her sister, Janet Pettitt.

## 1951

Charles D. Shickley, 84, passed away at home in Sandusky, Ohio, on April 4, 2012. He served with the U.S. Marine Corps in North China at the end of World War II and was a registered professional engineer in the state of Ohio. While a student at Houghton, Charles assisted former President Stephen Paine with the planning of his new home on Circle Drive by drawing up the blueprints in 1950. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joanne; five children, including Elaine (Shickley '76) Haaga and Jan (Shickley '76) Morse; eight grandchildren, including Ritter and Hiuan (Kang '06) Haaga '04; and four great-grandchildren, including one on the way at the time of his death. He was predeceased by his sister, Margaret (Shickley '51) Isenberg.

## 1954

Derold I. Kaine died Sunday, Dec 4, 2011, at his home in Kansas City, Mo. He was 79. Derold served in the U.S. Army, taught instrumental music and was a postmaster. Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Bertha; two children, Marjorie Lampley and Ronald Kaine; two granddaughters; and two sisters. He was preceded in death by his brother, Charles.

## 1955

Eloise (Driscoll) Brown died on June 19, 2012, in her home surrounded by her family. She was 80 years old. Eloise worked for several years at the Office of Children and Youth in Sullivan County, Pa., then taught kindergarten and third grade until her retirement in 1997. She is survived by her husband of nearly 60 years, Richard M. Brown '55; two daughters; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two siblings, including Doris (Driscoll '42) Wells. She was preceded in death by an infant granddaughter; three brothers; and two sisters.



## 1960

Constance (Perrine) Skeele, 73, passed away April 29, 2012, in Chittenango, N.Y. Connie was a full-time mother and wife and served as a pianist/organist and choir director for 34 years. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, C. Winslow Skeele Jr.; and her seven children, Mike, Debra Dehgan, Frank, Scott, Steven, Shawn '78 and Martha (Roeske '90) Skeele and Shea Skeele. She is also survived by her younger brother, Daniel Perrine '67.

## 1966

Linda (Button) Hughes died Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at the Hospice House in Naples, N.Y. She was 68 years old. She retired as a computer programmer from Thompson Publishing in Rochester, N.Y., and worked for a few years at the West Bloomfield Post Office after her retirement. Linda is survived by her husband, Robert Hughes '66, and many friends.

## 1967

Owen Ndungu passed away at the Nairobi Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya on Monday, August 20, 2012. He worked in the Kenyan government for many years and later owned his own business. Most recently he was chairman of Avo-health, a produce and packing house based out of Kenya. Owen is survived by his wife, Amme; ten children and several grandchildren.

## 1970

Rev. Dr. Paul Stanley Wilcox passed away on November 9, 2011, after a 3 ½ year battle with leiomyosarcoma. Paul served for nearly 40 years as a pastor in central Pennsylvania and Alaska. He is survived by his wife, Joy (Parmelee '70) Wilcox, and three children, Amy Perez, Daniel Wilcox, and Rebekah Wilcox. Six grandchildren love and miss their "Grampa" as well. He is also survived by his mother, Dorothy (Stanley '43) Wilcox and his sister, Linda Wilcox '76.

## 1975

Barclay "Skip" D. Potts Jr., 59, passed away Friday, June 8, 2012, at Oswego Hospital in Oswego, N.Y. Skip was employed as a rural mail carrier out of the U.S. Post Office in Richland, N.Y., for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl (Greenfield '76) Potts; two daughters, Janelle Potts '04 and Joelle Potts '07; one son, Brett Potts '09; three siblings, including Linda (Potts '79) Walrod; his parents; and several nieces and nephews.

## LOIS WRIGHT

Lois (Shea '38) Wright, died Monday, July 16, 2012, at home in Onondaga Hill, N.Y. She was 95 years old.

Lois Laura Hope Shea was born in Ottawa, Canada, in 1916 – number six out of the eight Shea children born to evangelist Adam J. Shea and his wife, Maude Whitney Shea. She was just a baby when her father moved his family from Canada to Houghton, N.Y. in 1917. According to *A Short History of the Shea Family* compiled by several of the Shea siblings in 1990, "Alton '36, and little Lois played with friends among whom were Robert Luckey and Willard Smith, running around the grassy fields which now comprise the college campus." Until their return to Canada in 1921, the Shea family lived in Greenberg Cottage – a house overlooking the Genesee River on the plateau where the Reinhold Campus Center now stands.

"My mother loved Houghton College," says daughter Nancy (Wright '70) Tucker.

"Lois was very generous to the Houghton College Art Department over the years," said Roselyn (Ballard '84) Danner, former director of the Ortlip Art Gallery. "Her unrestricted gifts made some things possible for the department that might not have come about otherwise."

"I would describe her as a gracious hostess, hospitable, always eager to learn and interested in current affairs," remembers nephew Paul Shea '69. "She was a great reader!" recalls niece Eila Shea '66, "and she always served great meals. Even if it was a sandwich lunch, it had all the trimmings!"

Lois is survived by her daughters Nancy and Janet McElwee; son Geoffrey Wright; sister Ruth (Shea '41) Willett; brothers George Beverly '32 and Alton; three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth W. Wright, M.D., in 2003.

**REV. DR. JAMES RIDGWAY****Rev. Dr. James Ridgway**

'55, one of the last remaining participants in the founding of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia and the recognized elder statesman of the church, passed away on September 19, 2012, at his home in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, of natural causes. He was 82 years old.

Jim Ridgway came to Houghton as a student in 1953 from his native Melbourne, Australia "possessed of a keen mind," read former Houghton College President Daniel Chamberlain at Ridgway's Honorary Degree Citation in 1995. "By overcoming elements of culture shock, by recognizing and seizing opportunities, and by hard work...he graduated in 1955 as president of his senior class." He went on to receive master's degrees from Wheaton and Asbury Seminary, as well as his Ph.D. in psychology and religion from Drew University. Over the years, he served The Wesleyan Church as pastor, prison and college chaplain, professor, counselor and district and national superintendent.

Ridgway has been described as a man who never let go of his passion for and commitment to the mission of The Wesleyan Church in Australia.

"He was a scholar who also was a pastor and leader with vision," recalled Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, general superintendent of the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church. "The global Wesleyan Church continues to follow [his] vision."

"Most of all," said Dr. Don Bray, former general director of Global Partners, "he was a friend of God who loved the Lord passionately and with a pure heart."

He is survived by his wife, **Melva (LeRoy '55) Ridgway**, his children and grandchildren.

**1994**

**Matthew W. Yeager**, 39, passed away Saturday, March 13, 2012, at his mother's home in Fayetteville, Pa. Matt was a student at Houghton when he was diagnosed with Marfan syndrome, a disorder that affects the body's connective tissue and can cause problems in the eyes, joints, and heart. He underwent open heart surgery in 1994 and was able to graduate from Houghton in 1995. In March 2011, he suffered a massive stroke while being evaluated for a heart transplant. Matt is survived by his mother, Maxine Yeager; two brothers, Mark and Michael; a sister, Deborah Yeager Lee; five nephews; and three nieces. He was preceded in death by his father, Donald E. Yeager.

**2000**

**Tammy (Gierlinger) Sobczak** died May 12, 2012 in West Seneca, N.Y. She was 41. Tammy worked for Catholic Health Systems as a CDM analyst in the Finance Department. She is survived by her husband, Charles Sobczak; her parents, Frank X. III and Claudia "Candy" Gierlinger; three brothers; and several nieces and nephews.

**2003**

**Amanda (Sweeney) Anna**, 31, died following an accident in the line of duty on Saturday, May 26, 2012, at University Hospital in Syracuse, N.Y. Anna was a six-year veteran with the New York State Police and was assigned to the Hastings, N.Y., barracks where she devoted her passion to her community. She is survived by her four-year-old son, Ethan Charles Anna; her fiancé, Andrew Lodge and his three children; her parents, Florence and Frank Wallace; two brothers, Vernon and Craig Wallace; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

## PAMELA TODD

Pamela Sue (Campbell '78) Todd lost her battle with ovarian cancer on May 24, 2012, in Tucson, Arizona.

Over the last 20 years, Pam taught the love, theory and performance of music to students in Christian schools and churches. She was a member of various orchestras and symphonies, playing the French horn and piano, as well as conducting and participating in choirs throughout her life.

"Pam was a wonderful musician and deeply invested in her church community," said Jeff Kirksey, Dean of Admission and Retention. "She really embodied what a well-rounded Houghton graduate can offer to a community."

Pam left a legacy of "joy in the Lord," and her abiding faith and resilient spirit blessed all she met. She is survived by her husband, Ken, son Jonathan, brother Mark Campbell and his wife Maureen, niece Erin and her husband Jeremy Herring and grandniece Cadance, and niece Kaitlyn Campbell.



## NORRIS GREER

Spontaneous with a flair for the dramatic; joyful with a true love of Scripture; nomadic, adventurous and kind. Norris Greer, professor of music from 1957 to 1967, passed away on July 25, 2012, at the age of

91. "He was so wonderfully unique right to his last breath," said daughter Karen (Greer '65) Lynip.


After graduating from the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, Norris Greer was intent on "going to the top of his operatic career," said Lynip. After a dramatic conversion experience, Greer canceled his audition for the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and was eventually led to bring his family to rural Western New York to teach at Houghton. Karl Steinberger '63 studied voice privately with Greer for two years. He recalls, "Mr. Greer was an immensely gifted tenor who gave up a promising operatic career in order to follow the leading of the Lord. I remember so well that during his lessons, he would not only stress vocal pedagogical principles but also stress the importance of seeking the Lord's will and leading as I pursued my musical studies."

"My love and respect for this remarkable man will not diminish," said Lynip. "Dad, at 91, could still recite Scripture without missing a line, was still sight-reading very difficult classical piano pieces and breaking into operatic arias right on pitch!"

Twelve days after Norris' passing, his wife, Margaret Kenyon Greer, went to be with the Lord as well. The two are survived by their seven children, Karen, Keith Greer '67, Mary Jane (Greer '70) Johnson, Kathryn (Greer '73) Seekins, Margaret Wilson, Judith Trecha and Rebecca Beil; and several grandchildren, including Keith Lynip '92, Bryan Lynip '94, and Kathryn Lynip '98.







**KATHRYN-ROSEMELLO '14**  
psychology major  
theology and art minors

Houghton has become a home away from home for me. The intentionality of this community and the people who are here allows us to pour into each other. I have learned to seek after God's plan for my life and fearlessly pursue it. I like who I am becoming at Houghton, and I don't know if there is a price tag to put on that. Houghton has re-sparked and fostered in me a love for learning.

## *more*

For Houghton College student Kathryn-Rose Mello, college means **more** – *more* than academics, *more* than a social experience, *more* than sports or loans or homework. Her Houghton experience centers around a compelling call to faith in Christ.

We invite you to partner with us as we equip Houghton students with more. We invite you to make a gift to the Houghton College Student Scholarship Fund today.

Your gift to the Houghton College Student Scholarship Fund is an integral part of the transformative work that occurs every day in the lives of students. Please consider how you can help us achieve our commitment of \$1,000,000 in student scholarships this year. Learn more and read Kathryn's story at [www.houghton.edu/giving](http://www.houghton.edu/giving).



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