

The opinions and views expressed in the Houghton Star do not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of Houghton College or the Wesleyan Church (our sponsoring denomination).

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | FACEBOOK.COM/THEHOUGHTONSTAR | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

**AROUND THE WORLD
IN SEVEN DAYS: GLEN
AVERY** |
FEATURES, P. 4

**POTTER PROFILE: NAOMI
WOOLSEY** |
FEATURES, P. 5

BEING QUEER AT HOUGHTON |
OPINIONS, P. 6

**THE RIGHT TO DIE (WITH
DIGNITY)** |
OPINIONS, P. 7

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK:
ALLYSON MURPHY**
FEATURES, P. 8

Student Lecture Promotes Unity With LGBTQ Community

EMMA CARPTENTER

Micah Cronin '17 approached the front of the recital hall stage prepared with a tongue-in-cheek self-introduction: "Many of you know me as Mary Cronin, and so you might be a little bit confused right now. It's okay; I have not been replaced by my evil twin."

On April 5th, Cronin and Dean of the Chapel Michael Jordan hosted a forum entitled "Baptized into One Body: LGBTQ-Affirming Christians at Houghton College," which aimed to spark dialogue and compassionate

See **LECTURE** page 3

Houghton Alum Hired as New Dean of the College

MICAH CRONIN

New hire Samuel J. "Jack" Connell '83 has begun his tenure at Houghton College as the Dean of the College and Vice President of Academic Affairs, continuing "the good work done by Professor Linda Mills Woolsey as she returns to the classroom," President Mullen stated in a Houghton College press release.

Mullen noted Connell's broad range of skills which, in the changing educational landscape of the twenty-first century, gives him "the ability to link academic programs strategically to admissions." Connell's vitae is illustrative of his broad and extensive skills and experience in various fields. According to his resumé, he graduated from Houghton College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with minors in Bible and Philosophy. He then went on to Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, earning a Master of Divinity, and then later a Doctor

of Ministry in Pastoral Leadership and Biblical Preaching in 1997. Recently he completed a doctoral program at the University of Rochester and became a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership.

While completing his graduate studies, Connell served as both an assistant and a senior pastor at three different Wesleyan Churches, including Houghton Wesleyan Church, from 1987-1989. Since 2006, Connell has held associate dean, professorial, and vice presidential positions at Asbury Theological Seminary, and Houghton College. For the last eight years Connell has held positions at Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary as both executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"[Connell] is the dean for this particular juncture in Houghton College's history," Mullen stressed. Mullen went on to state that the academic environment of the postmod-

See **DEAN** page 2



HOUGHTON.EDU

Dr. Samuel "Jack" Connell is a 1983 Houghton College graduate, and has returned to serve as Dean of the College.

Writing and English Students Travel to Festival of Faith and Writing At Calvin College



CALVIN.EDU

Professor Lori Huth will lead a group students and faculty to the Festival of Faith and Writing, which will feature acclaimed authors Zadie Smith, Nadia Bolz-Weber, and John Darnielle.

CARINA MARTIN

On April 14 to 16, the Houghton Department of English and Writing will sponsor a trip to the Festival of Faith and Writing at Cal-

vin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This bi-annual festival, a self-described "exploration of the communities made and served by religious writing," has been a popular event in the faith-

based writing community for over twenty-five years.

This year, professor Lori Huth will lead a cohort of Houghton faculty and students, which includes professor Linda Mills Woolsey,

professor Stephen Woolsey, and professor Laurie Dashnau, as well as eight students from the English and Writing Department. This gathering provides a way for young authors to receive expert feedback regarding their work, as well as a way for faculty to hone their own composition skills while further developing their philosophy of writing instruction.

Over the years, the festival has featured such celebrated plenary speakers as Maya Angelou, Elie Wiesel, and Madeleine L'Engle. In a continuation of this tradition of excellence, this year's featured speakers include celebrated author Zadie Smith; Lutheran pastor and faith author, Nadia Bolz-Weber; John Darnielle, the frontman of the Mountain Goats; and over seventy other professionals currently working in the writing and publishing

See **WRIT** page 2

CAB to Host Tenth Annual Film Festival

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

April 23 will mark the tenth anniversary of the annual Film Festival. Houghton students have the opportunity to put together films, present them to an audience, and be judged and awarded accordingly.

The Film Festival is hosted each year by the Campus Activities Board (CAB), with the current director Brittany Hark '16 coordinating the event. "Each CAB person has their individual events- this is my event," she said. Hark became involved with the festival as a first year CAB

See **CAB** page 3

International // Migrant Crisis At Greece Border



ANTHONY BURDO

MELISSA MACLEAN

Last Sunday, the Greco-Macedonian border blew up in chaos as Macedonian police stormed a congregate of refugees who were trying to break into a refugee camp in northern Greece.

Chemical weapons such as tear gas were used in fending off the migrants at the border.

International health organization, Medecines Sans Frontieres (MSF), or “Doctors Without Borders,” reported over 300 injured by the Macedonian police.

Spokesman for the Greek government, George Kyritsis, spoke out against this by stating in an interview, “The indiscriminate use of chemicals, rubber bullets and stun grenades against vulnerable populations... is a dangerous and deplorable act.”

Reuters, an American news agency, quoted a policeman from Macedonian who claimed that migrants had thrown stones at the Macedonian police first, and the gas was an act of defense. “The migrants were pushing against the fence, but standing on the Greek side of the border. The fence is still there, they have not broken through,” stated Macedonian

police official.

A report from a local journalist, Katika Djurovic, also commented on the event, “I was teargassed at least twice. Not just me, another cameraman, other press people were also teargassed as well as refugees. Some of the tear gas [was] thrown at least 200 meters into the camp, into the tents where most of women and children were sitting.”

This is not the first time tensions have risen at the migrant camps in Greece. Two months ago, more than 52,000 migrants were trapped after being closed off by the Balkan states.

The migrant issue has also turned political in Greece. Golden Dawn, a far-right Greek party, has marched in several areas around migrant camps and gather points. The leader, however, was previously arrested for criminal organization after recent release announced that the party was planning a number of protests around the country

to warn people of the “Islamization of Greece by Muslim asylum seekers.”

Ilias Kasidiaris, the spokesman for the party, stated in an interview that they [the people of Greece] “... cannot accept that we will become a minority in our homeland... Whether you call them refugees or illegals, there’s no difference — we want them out.” The party also spoke openly about their alignment to statements made by U.S. presidential candidate, Donald J. Trump, and think it would be a “very positive development if he were to be elected president.”

On March 20, a European Union deal regarding the migrant crisis in Turkey went into effect. The deal requires mass deportations back to Turkey for any migrant attempting to leave after the signed date. Due to proximity, a large influx of these escaped migrants have fled to Greece. In response, Greek authorities have attempted to

persuade migrants to move to reception camps, however, the refugee population has so far refused to move.

Since January 2016, over 150,000 migrants have arrived to Greece, with almost 40% of the population consisting of children.

Overall, more than one million refugees and other migrants have attempted to enter Europe by boat since last year, but with tensions rising, and borders closing, the number is likely to fall in the coming year. ★

Melissa is a junior with majors in international development and communication.

WRIT from page 1

authors and professors can provide individual feedback to aspiring writers.

In addition, the festival will feature a selection of informative sessions with industry veterans, which address the more practical and economical side of the writing business. In these sessions, attendees will learn how to communicate effectively with online audiences, gracefully deal with the realities of rejection and writer’s block, and tactfully explore some of the ethical issues surrounding literary creation.

As part of engagement efforts with the community, the festival also sponsors a number of events—such as lectures, concerts, and gallery showings—that are open to the public. This year, these events will include a reading from young adult author Andrew Clements and artist discussions with John Donnelly and Makoto Fujimura, as well as film screenings and concerts.

Gatherings like the Calvin Faith and Writing Festival are indispensable, not only for their practical service to the writing community, but also for the valuable camaraderie and support they invite between creators. “You see people making themselves vulnerable as they share their own creative struggles, triumphs, and disasters,” Woolsey shared. “So it’s definitely not just for students—it’s something for every thinking person who understands why stories and ideas matter.” He paused for a moment, smiling fondly, before adding, “There’s no other gathering I know of that’s quite like this.”★

industries.

Students expressed excitement about learning from authors they know and love, as well as being exposed to new voices. “I especially read a lot of Andrew Clements when I was younger,” shared Rachel Zimmerman ’18. “The chance to come full circle in college and see him as a speaker is really wonderful. I’m also looking forward to hearing from people I haven’t heard of before.”

“I always find it encouraging, and inspiring, and empowering,” said Woolsey, who has attended Calvin Festivals in the past. “Part of it is sheer numbers. You can see up to two thousand people who share a passion for words, for ideas, for the imagination, and everyone’s there to celebrate that.”

Aside from its impressive selection of speakers, the true heart of the festival is in smaller gatherings, where writers can receive valuable advice and encouragement from successful authors and teachers. At these sessions, writers of all experience levels can receive advice on such diverse topics as developing and adapting stories for the screen, successfully pitching their manuscript to an editor, and crafting dynamic characters. Visitors can also submit their work to a variety of fiction workshops, in which published

DEAN from page 1

ern world demands Christian education to be affordable and accessible. The accessibility of college education is now broader than traditional, residential programs-including all-online two and four year degrees. Thus, academic deans in this particular time must be equipped to reach non-traditional students through online or cross cultural programs, as well as integrate the academic mission of Houghton into the campus community at large, beyond working with area deans. Even just several years ago, this was not the job description of an academic dean, but “we are in a new moment”, Mullen said. “[Connell’s] wide range of professional training allows him to ground Houghton College in

the higher education landscape of this time.”

Even without Connell’s resumé to confirm this, his broad areas of education and training are evidenced through his (long) list of publications. Connell has written for journals, books, and magazines with titles ranging from “*The Power of the Ask: 7 Fundraising Principles for Pastors*” to “*Human Nature as God Intended: A Creational Anthropology*.”

“The kind of education Houghton provides is needed now more than ever,” Connell stated in a Houghton press release. Connell has strong connections to the Houghton community: his grandfather was once the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and his uncle formerly served as the Academic Dean. “Members of my family have been impacted by Houghton for

four generations now, and so this return to my alma mater is a source of great personal joy and much gratitude to God,” he said.

As previously reported by the Houghton Star, previous Dean of the College Linda Mills-Woolsey will continue her teaching career in the English and Writing department, while also making time to finish a manuscript of poetry. “Linda has been a done a great deal to lay a foundation for Dr. Connell’s success,” Mullen said, noting Mills-Woolsey’s efforts in broadening Houghton’s vision in online and off-campus education. That, combined with the college’s overall readiness to take hold of comprehensive market opportunities, will allow Connell and Houghton to succeed in the “missional setting” of higher education, said Mullen. ★

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

LECTURE from page 1

listening on LGBTQ and specifically transgender issues. For the first half of the forum, Cronin shared personal thoughts, convictions and experiences with members of the college community. The evening then moved to a question and answer session where Jordan and Cronin interviewed each other using anonymous audience-submitted questions. Cronin was raised female but identifies as male, choosing to go by Micah and use male pronouns. Jordan chose to honor this decision despite disagreeing with it. “I’ve agreed to call Micah by his chosen name tonight, rather than by Mary, and to use masculine pronouns when talking about him,” said Jordan. “My reasons for this are at once rather complex and at the same

time very simple: because he asked me to.” Jordan explained that he felt “to insist on calling Micah ‘Mary’ tonight would be like taking all my interactions with Micah and using every one of those to remind him that I disagree with him, and that’s a really hard way to build a relationship with someone.” Cronin, who believes that the church should embrace LGBTQ-affirming Christians, cited a Pew Research Center report which found that an increasing number of LGBTQ people are joining the church even as church membership decreases in the overall American population. Cronin expressed frustration with “rhetoric regarding how ‘the church’ should respond to the LGBTQ community,” insisting that this fails to grapple with the reality of the situation. “Queer people are the church,” said Cronin. “I’ll

say it again: queer people are the church.” Cronin addressed ways in which traditional Christians can, intentionally or unintentionally, marginalize people who fall outside the heterosexual and cisgender circle. Cronin focused on a refusal to acknowledge both the complexity of the LG-BTQ community and the complexity of the human beings within that community. According to Cronin, traditionalists who use outdated or inaccurately-narrow labels like “homosexual” or “same-sex attracted” to refer to the LGBTQ community send an implicitly demeaning message: “Our complexity does not matter. Our personhood does not matter. We do not matter.” Likewise, says Cronin, reducing LGBTQ people to their sexual behavior fails to acknowledge them as human beings: “The conversation

around queer people is so saturated with discussion of sex acts that it has long since passed the point of objectification.” Colleen Shannon ’17, who attended the forum, said that she appreciated “the respectful discussion, but also the direct conversation.” She said that it is possible to err too far on the side of respect, to the point of ignoring an issue entirely. Referencing an anonymous question which had referenced Cronin’s “transness” (which had prompted a joke from Cronin about the “Trans-Ness Monster”), Shannon commented on the importance of demystifying nontraditional perspectives on sexuality and gender: “It’s not some mythical creature up in Scotland; this is a reality in culture, in American culture and in Christian culture and in world culture.” Jordan said in an inter-

view, “I think part of the message of Jesus is that we understand things about God better in relationship with other people.” Jordan said he hoped the forum and discussions like it would give students practical, relational experience that would prepare them for future interactions with people who hold differing beliefs on sexuality. Cronin counseled traditionalists and progressives to “remember that first and foremost, anybody who has been baptized in the name of Christ and trusts in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection as their hope and their salvation is a part of Christ’s body. That extends to LG-BTQ people, that extends to conservative people, that extends to anybody who we find inconvenient. And if we remember that, then we will actually be able to be brothers and sisters in Christ. ★

CAB from page 1

member and grew to love it, continuing to be involved with it even during her junior year when she was not officially a part of CAB. “I’m the tech go-to, and it’s a pretty tech heavy event.” she explained. Her involvement with the event is “really exciting” as it coincides with the festival’s tenth anniversary. To mark the occasion of

the anniversary, alumni who first created the event will be returning Houghton to discuss the creation and intentions of the Film Fest when it first began.“It will show how the Film Festival has grown and changed,” Hark said. She noted the development of the event into “a more prestigious event, drawing people from outside of Houghton.” This is reflected in the changes in the judging process, which will take place both online and will involve several judges beyond the borders of Houghton. Among them is a New York City indi-

vidual without ties to Houghton, someone from India, and several Houghton alumni involved in the film industry. Responses to these changes have been largely positive. Hark said, “The only negative feedback of switching the judging process is that there is less dialogue between judges.” However, she and others involved are working to incorporate the element of dialogue into the new judging process, with opportunities for more credible judges become possible. Additional changes include the addition of new

categories. These categories include the artistic showcase music video, and thirty second categories. Hark said with the creation of the thirty second category, “We are hoping that people who are tight on time or don’t feel like they can put on a big video feel more comfortable.” This intention aligns with the overarching desire to expand the film festival, whether through judges of distant connection or a broader base of video submissions. Hark is looking forward to the film festival as a chance to recognize the ef-

forts and artistic capacities of Houghton students. She noted that while the majority of video submissions come from communication majors who have taken film classes, there are many submissions from other majors as well. “It’s cool to see just how talented students are, especially if it’s not their major,” she said. Thus while the tenth anniversary film festival looks to see what has changed, grown, and improved, its original intent in showcasing the talent of Houghton residents is maintained. ★

SGA EXECUTIVE CABINET RESULTS:

President	Joanna Friesen
Vice President	Daniel Merriam
EO Finance	Aaron Eisenhardt
EO Student Life	Sergio Mata
EO Spiritual Life	Melissa MacLean
EO Communications	Cayleigh Pracht
EO Non-Traditional	Dohoon Kim

**All participants ran for cabinet positions uncontested therefore an election wasn't necessary. This announcement is in place of an election.*

Around the World in Seven Days

Glen Avery, International Marathon Runner

HOPE MCKEEVER

International marathon runner, Glen Avery, faculty at Houghton for 28 years, will participate in the World Marathon Challenge in January. The challenge is to complete seven back-to-back 26.2-mile marathons, one on each continent. The challenge from start to finish must be finished in 168 hours. This provides an 8-hour window to complete each individual marathon. Avery will join 14 other runners as they board a plane headed for Antarctica. The event starts at Union Glacier in Antarctica where the runners complete their first marathon. From Union Glacier, the runners fly to Punta Arenas, Chile for number two. From Chile, to Florida, USA to Madrid, Spain to Marrakesh, Morocco to Dubai, UAE, these 15 runners will participate in an event that few people dare to try. Some challenges in the event include altitude and weather changes. The event ends with a mid-night marathon in Australia.

Avery's running career started long before he signed up for the World Marathon Challenge. On his 51st birthday in 2001, Avery began to be concerned about his physical health. He decided to start walking at the gym. In April 2002, he ran his first 5k in Geneva, NY. After this first event, he bought shoes and started running more. His first marathon was in Athens, Greece and what initially interested him in this race was of the history of the marathon. The Greek soldier, Pheidippides ran from Marathon to Athens to deliver the news of military victory over the Persians in the battle of Marathon.

Avery and his wife, Mar-

gery travelled to Greece. This started a pattern of internationally traveling and running. Avery has run a marathon on every continent, twice. In his first tour of the continents, he completed races in Greece, NYC, Hawaii, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, Thailand, and Antarctica. Avery explained that it is imperative to mind the penguins when running a marathon in Antarctica. His first cycle took 9 years and ended with running into the sunrise of Cheng Mai, Thailand on Christmas day, 2011. The second cycle took him 4 years. During the second cycle, he ran in South Africa, the Falkland Islands, Cuba, Spain, Antarctica, New Zealand, and the Philippines.

Avery recounted, "I've made connections and learned so much about culture from these experiences. That's what I take away from all this." He explained that one of his most impressionable intercultural experiences was in the Falkland Islands. Avery and 30 new friends from the Falkland Islands visited 1982 war sites of the 74-day war fought between Argentina and the Falkland islands. His new friends invited him for meals, visited battle sites, and cemeteries where he saw his friends grieve the losses of the casualties from the war. Because of experiences like this, Avery assures us, "I am going to continue to do international marathons. I can't imagine my life without these experiences."

This June, Glen and his wife Margery are retiring from Houghton after many years. Glen will retire from his current Instructional Technology Librarian position and Margery will retire from her current duties as head of Academic Records. When they are not working, the Avery's enjoy traveling, reading, hiking, and serving others.

To prepare for the World Marathon Challenge, Avery intends to run four back-to-back



ANTHONY BURDO

marathons in the Western United States this summer. Avery continuously trains for events year-round. He states, "I'll keep doing it as long as I can." During his retirement, he plans on writing a book about all of his experiences as an international runner.★

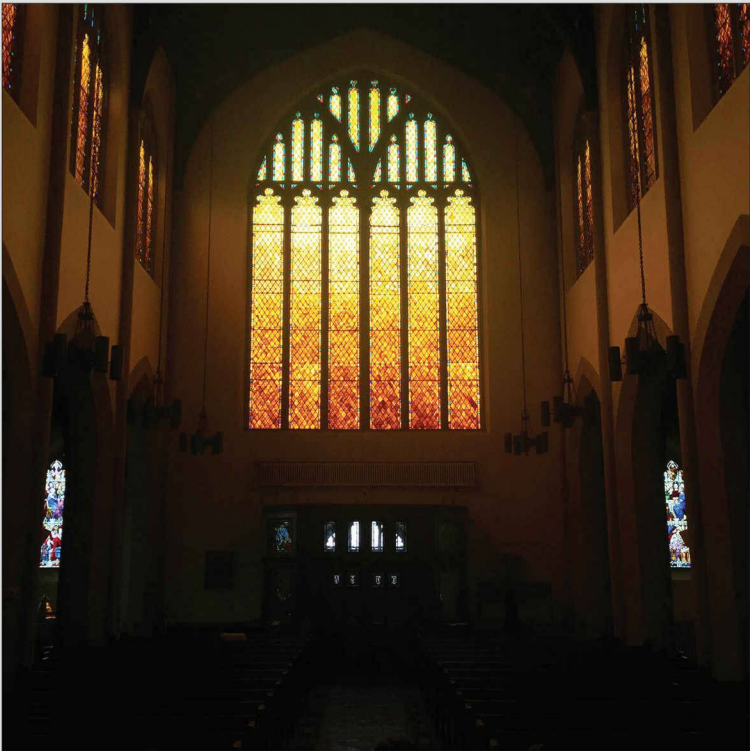


Photo of the Week

Travis Trotman '17

Fall Sports Alumni Weekend

ALICIA NEEDHAM

This past weekend, the Houghton College Athletic Department hosted its first Alumni Weekend for four fall sports teams: women’s volleyball, women’s and men’s soccer, and women’s field hockey. The women’s volleyball had five alumni attend while the men’s soccer team had about twenty alumni. The women’s soccer team had fourteen alumni players return to campus, among which there were four former All-American players. Although the weather was not ideal, it was a good turnout for the first combined sport alumni event. “Saturday was a lot of fun. Always great to have our alumni back and get a chance to catch up” said Head Women’s Volleyball Coach Nancy Cole. “Wish we could see them more often.”

Most of the alumni came in on Friday or early Saturday morning to campus for this special weekend. Some stayed in the community or at some of the current players’ houses where they had the chance to reconnect with old teammates. The events started on Saturday with games taking place around noon. At Nielsen, the women’s volleyball team played against their alumni, then the women’s field hockey



JASON MUCHER

Houghton College hosted its first Alumni Weekend for four fall sports teams. Pictured here are athletes past and present from the women's volleyball, women's and men's soccer, and women's field hockey teams.

played against their alumni immediately right after at 1:30pm. While the women’s and men’s soccer games were scheduled to play outside on Burke Field, a snow covered field caused them to relocate to the Kerr-Pegula Field House. They followed the same time schedule as the teams at Nielsen with the women playing at noon and the men going right after. Once the men’s soccer game ended, everyone was invited to a reception where there was food served and a couple speech-

es given. “The play was fast-paced and the alumni showed that they still have their touch and can play a quality game” said Head Women’s Soccer Coach David Lewis. “Overall, it was a great opportunity to catch up on player’s families, jobs, and grad schools.” Head Men’s Soccer Coach Matthew Webb added, “Seeing the alumni back on the field playing with each other is always so fun to see. Seeing the relationships that were formed while at Houghton sustained over

the years is so rewarding.”

Throughout the years, athletic teams have always had alumni games where they played against other alumni, the junior varsity team, or the varsity team. These were more separate events that each team was in charge of coordinating and were held on different dates during the year. Often, the women’s soccer team would co-host an alumni event with the men’s soccer team but have two single events. However, the combined alumni event was

a very relaxed occasion where everyone from different aspects of the college and alumni can reunite and have some fun together. “Opportunity to bring everyone back on the same day and the various departments of the college can support everyone in their competitions and talk with the alumni” commented Athletic Director Skip Lord. “It’s almost like a family reunion seeing a bunch of people that you haven’t seen in awhile.” A lot of athletes have relationships outside of their own teams and having a combined event where they can all reconnect and network helps to build that sense of community.

Sometimes alumni will drop by a visit or make a phone call, but for everyone to be in the same place at one time is definitely something that is very special for coaches, players, and the school. One person who has only missed one women’s soccer alumni event, due to just giving birth, is a 1999 graduate and former All-American Jennifer Ricard. Webb said, “It is always great to have our alumni come back to campus...not only to see them and catch up with what they are doing, but also for our current players to be able to meet and interact with players who came before them and helped lay the foundation and traditions of our program.” ★

Potter Profile: Naomi Woolsey

LAURA JOHNSON

On a four-pronged stool, a young woman sits, preparing a ball of clay to be thrown on the potter’s wheel before her. The quiet studio is dusty; the art residue turning afternoon sunlight into a soft, dawn fog. Nodding her approval she centers the clay on the wheel.

Naomi Woolsey, a Houghton graduate of 2010, has been practicing ceramics in Houghton College’s studio for over five years. She did not major in art, but has felt a love for creating ever since she was a child. “Some of my first memories are of playing in the creek here at Houghton when I’d visit my grandparents,” said Woolsey, “I’d make tiny pots out of the creek clay.” She paused, laughing softly, “Things have really come full circle.”

Woolsey is currently the Teacher’s Assistant for Professor Gary Baxter’s ceramics classes including Ceramics 1, Ceramics 2, and Figurative Clay Sculpture. Baxter became acquainted with Woolsey when she took his ceramics classes as a student. He noticed her aptitude for ac-

quiring necessary skills and the joy she derived from creating. Thomas Eckert ‘16, a student in Ceramics 1 this past semester said, “Naomi’s joy is evident from the way she works. That joy is imbued in the pieces she produces.”

When asked about her craft Woolsey explains, “A lot of potters become potters because they fall in love with the material. You’ve got your hands in it. You can really immerse yourself in earth, fire, water, air.” She went on saying, “It records your movement. Even your fingerprint could stay there for tens of thousands of years.”

After graduation Woolsey helped out in the ceramics studio and continued making her pieces. A year later when the TA position became available she was the natural choice. Her responsibilities now include helping students, doing demonstrations, firing the kilns, and constituting glazes. Baxter has been very pleased to work with her and said, “She’s very responsive, willing to help where she can, and reliable.”

While at Houghton, Woolsey studied Theology and Biblical Studies and has used that training in her artwork. In 2012, Woolsey started an online Etsy site because her base-



PHOTO BY CARROLIN JACKSON

Naomi Woolsey, A Houghton graduate of 2010, has been practicing ceramics in Houghton College’s studio for over five years.

ment started filling up. Since the foundation of the shop it has grown sustainably. Luminaries - rounded, decoratively porous candle holders - are among her bestselling items. She also specializes in communion sets and liturgical ware.

In addition to these objects, she also produces work on commission. Last year she was hired by a church in Rochester

to make a prayer vessel. The church leaders wanted a physical object to be used in the liturgy where written congregational requests could be placed and later incorporated into the pastoral prayer. The main idea to be conveyed by the piece was that God hears our prayers and God’s people hear our prayers.

Woolsey explained, “Thinking about my field in ceramics

and imagery in the Bible I created a vessel that brought together the ideas of the golden bowls placed before God in Revelation and the story in Exodus of Moses and the burning bush. Both of these images convey ideas of God hearing prayer and acting on it by enabling a human servant to hear the people’s prayer and act on it.” ★

“Let Them Eat Gluten Free Cake”



ANTHONY BURDO

CLARICE THIBAUT

Many students complain about eating food from Sodexo. Some complain about the taste, some complain about what it does to our stomachs, and some complain that the options are too limited for those who have “irregular” diets. I’ve been a vegetarian since last June, I chose this lifestyle because eating meat made me sick. Since becoming vegetarian, I’ve been avoiding the dining hall because I haven’t been getting enough nutrients while eating there. I’ve

been consistently tired and unmotivated since making this decision. My tiredness and lack of motivation seem to be a part of the college student life, but I still haven’t felt like myself lately. I don’t feel like that when I’m cooking for myself, so I’ve recently started eating more meals outside the dining hall. I have felt healthier and more productive since doing so, but not everyone has that option. This should not be the case. As a sophomore, I have had the all access meal plan for two years now. However, because I didn’t transition into being a vegetarian until this year, I wasn’t aware that our dining hall had so many accessibility issues. I’m not allergic to any foods and I’m not gluten or lactose intolerant, so I had no previous experience dealing with limited food choices. The hype of being a freshman in college probably also clouded my views. But as months pass, Sodexo keeps offering the same foods on repeat, meaning that students tend to eat the

“If we are paying so much for the food, then we deserve more of a say in what is served.”

same meals whether they have a “regular” diet or not. As a vegetarian, however, my options repeat themselves with much more frequency. Salad, pizza, bagels, cereal, potatoes of varying kinds (sometimes all of this on one plate)...and repeat. Occasionally I can eat soups, but Sodexo isn’t exactly consistent with vegetarian soup options. Furthermore, the days that get promoted for having special food usually has no vegetarian options except the desserts. Desserts don’t make a meal. Last semester, I had trouble knowing what to eat on the weekends because there were never signs put out about what was in the food. This was troubling not only for me, but also for my friends. One of my friends is lactose intolerant and allergic to onions, and

another is allergic to tree nuts. Both have narrowly avoided severe allergic reactions after eating in the dining hall. I have another friend who is both lactose and gluten intolerant, and another who can’t eat red-40 food dye. When the five of us eat dinner together, it’s quite a struggle to find food. Usually the only foods we can all eat are the vegetables and fruit, and those are usually poor quality with little variation. Having more vegan options would open up more options to everyone. Those that are lactose intolerant can eat them and many vegan dishes are gluten free too. The dining hall has lactose-free and dairy-free milk, but very rarely do they have lactose-free ice cream or a substitute. Dairy free cheese options would be great too, then lactose intolerant people, vegetarians, and vegans can have it as well. Additionally, many of Sodexo’s desserts are made with food coloring (such as red-40 instead of natural ingredients for color, which

limits those who are sensitive to those ingredients. Most of the desserts are not vegan-friendly either. I’m actually not sure I’ve ever seen a vegan friendly dessert in the dining hall except, occasionally, the sherbet. Are there other options available for those who ask? Maybe. But if so, there should be signs to let us know what other options there are. Since freshman and sophomores are required to have all access meal plans unless they have a dietary exemption, which may be hard to get (i.e. if a dietary problem arises during the semester) then the dining hall should provide healthy options regardless of dietary restrictions. But it doesn’t. Not for those with dietary needs. There will always be some limitations, but Sodexo should improve certain dining options. For instance, signs should be more accurate and a larger variety of foods should get cycled through each week. If we are paying so much for the food, then we deserve more of a say in what is served. ★

Clarice is sophomore double major in art and inclusive childhood education.

Being Queer at Houghton *Neka Zimmerman ‘13*

My name is Neka. I am queer transgender man. My time at Houghton was pretty good. I excelled in my classes and had four or five close friends. I participated in a few clubs and, for all intents and purposes, looked pretty “normal.” My blue hair and dramatic fashion were taken as quirky and cute as long as I appeared to be a straight cisgender woman. I managed to do this by being so deep in the closet I couldn’t even find myself. Looking back I am actually quite relieved to have been so willfully unaware of my identity while at Houghton because, as I had suspected while living in the closet, Houghton was often a difficult and dangerous place to be queer. Shortly after I started in 2009 I understood I was transgender. I spent long nights alone in my room trying to understand how someone like me could exist. I never thought to seek counseling or help from anyone in authority at Houghton because I knew what I had gotten into when I enrolled, it was right there in the community covenant. I had never met a Christian who was accepting of queer people and it didn’t occur

to me that anyone would be accepting and supportive. There was no GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), no queer student organizations, not even an aura of sex positivity. For all I knew there wasn’t a single other queer or trans person on campus. I did not feel safe expressing my gender or sexuality while at Houghton, so I decided to put it in a neat box and close it up till after graduation. Having always been far more logical than emotional, it seemed like the only productive option. My single goal for the rest of my time at Houghton was to excel in school so I could get a job in a queer-friendly city, and then socially and medically transition and live authentically. I could have been transferred, but it would have been difficult in regard to my relationship with my family. There would have been

“Living is an accomplishment as a trans person. So many of us die either by our hand or someone else’s.”

questions to answer and I still wouldn’t have been able to transition since my family, at the time, would not have been accepting of me as their queer son. The fall of my senior year a friend came out to me as lesbian and suddenly I wasn’t alone anymore. Imagine the excitement I felt to tell her that I too, was queer. She had already connected with a number of queer students and my world opened up. Other than my roommate, they were the first people I ever told I was trans. Even though I had to explain to them what that was, they welcomed me with

open arms. In this delightful new safe space, I learned about some of the atrocities they had experienced and overcome while being queer at Houghton. I feel incredibly lucky to have known such resilient people. There were students who had been both physically and sexually assaulted in the men’s dorms. Students who had counselors and therapist attempt to dissuade them of their identities. I met numerous students who had been outed to their parents by the administration without their consent, a number of whom experienced serious repercussions. While I was glad to no longer be alone, I felt I had made the right choice back then as a first year student. Even though I had lost four years of my life pretending to be a woman I wasn’t, I was alive. Living is an accomplishment as a trans person. So many of us

die either by our hand or someone else’s. It has been two and half years since I graduated. It took me four months to dig myself out of the closet and even longer to come out to my family. Now I am living happily as myself and working as a teacher’s aide in Rochester, NY. Every day I meet new queer and trans people who attended Houghton college at one point or another. They are usually activists, fighting to break down the systems of oppression that exists in the government and the church. I am not a Christian for reasons mostly unrelated to being queer and trans. However, if you are reading this as an LGBTQIA+ person and are a Christian, I want you to know that there are lots of churches that will welcome and love you for exactly who you are. Open arms MCC and the Unitarian Universalist church are a great place to start. My name is Neka and I am a transman. Hold on tight, it can get so much better, there is life after Houghton. ★

The Right to Die (With Dignity)



ANTHONY BURDO

HOLLY CHAISSON

During Easter break, I spent a day holed up in my room at home indulging in one of my favorite pastimes: watching documentaries. This time around I stumbled on the lesser known film *How to Die in Oregon* on Netflix. As the title suggests, the documentary takes place in Oregon which, in 1994, legalized physician-assisted suicide with the Death with Dignity Act. The film’s website defines the process in this way: “any individual whom two physicians diagnose as having less than six months to live can lawfully request a fatal dose of barbiturate to end his or her life.” While a fantastic film in its own right, I was impressed with the way this film tackled the intense debate over physician-assisted suicide in a responsible and respectful

manner. Often referred to as either “physician-assisted suicide” or “physician-sanctioned end-of-life option,” the decision that the Death with Dignity Act places in the hands of terminally-ill patients is their own right to die, and to die with dignity. This is a distinctly modern dilemma, one created by the exponential growth of medical technology that has extended the human lifespan considerably. While this progress is undeniably welcome and beneficial, it nonetheless leaves an increasing number of individuals with a life that is artificially prolonged far beyond a point they believe necessary or desirable. In a way, current medical progress has become harmful. It has gotten to the point that people can no longer die a natural death on their own terms. As a legitimate medical option, physician-assisted suicide (PAS) should be a legal option for terminally-ill patients who wish to retain their right to die a death with dignity. The debate surrounding PAS is fierce and is not without its merit on both sides. While I align myself with those arguing for PAS to be an available and legal medical option, I acknowledge

“As a legitimate medical option, physician-assisted suicide (PAS) should be a legal option for terminally-ill patients who wish to retain their right to die a death with dignity.”

that those who oppose this argument have a case. In brief, the “pros” of PAS include the following: a person has the right to die with dignity and in a humane way; as patients, they have a right to their preferred treatment option; PAS takes into account a person’s wish to not burden their family with additional medical costs and suffering. In my opinion, the strongest arguments for PAS are those centered on the patient’s right to die. If a terminally ill patient is judged to be competent and psychologically stable and they request the aid of a physician in dying, why should they be denied? Our medical system has several protocols already in place that address this right, including the DNR (do not resuscitate) order and designation of a medical proxy by the patient. Physicians are legally bound to follow these protocols, even

if the patient’s family desires otherwise. The decision, as I think it should, belongs solely to the patient. Which is why I argue that PAS should be legal and respected in the same way that a DNR order is. The “cons” of the debate include the following: there is the option for terminally ill patients to receive palliative care; some argue that for physicians it is a violation of the Hippocratic Oath (e.g. “do no harm”); possibility for doctors to make an inaccurate prognosis; and it is hotly contested in terms of whether or not it is moral or ethical practice. While I acknowledge the moral and ethical dilemmas PAS may pose for physicians, it is not a convincing counter argument. I’m for physician-assisted suicide for the same reasons I’m pro-choice. A physician’s job in either case is to look out for and care for the patient’s

physical and psychological well-being. Physicians are responsible for informing patients of the procedures and the risks they carry physically and psychologically. They are responsible for answering to the best of their ability questions their patients pose regarding the medical decision they are weighing. And should it be necessary, they are responsible for following-up with patients and/or their designated medical proxy. At this point their responsibility stops, both legally and professionally. Physicians are neither required nor should they feel compelled to provide their personal moral or religious opinion to their patients. Additionally, they cannot take the burden of the patient’s decision on themselves. The decision and responsibility belong to the patient alone. I support the Death with Dignity Act. I support the right for patients to request and receive medical assistance in making the decision to die with dignity. I support the right of physicians to help and enable their patients to make this decision legally. At the end of the day, the controversy surrounding PAS is warranted; however, I firmly believe that the rights of the patient as a person must be respected above all else. ★

Holly is the senior philosophy major with a minor in religion.

“At the end of the day, the controversy surrounding PAS is warranted; however, I firmly believe that the rights of the patient as a person must be respected above all else.”

The mission of the Houghton Star is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have characterized Houghton College since its inception. This will be done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

/THEHOUGHTONSTAR

@HOUGHTONSTAR

EDITOR@HOUGHTONSTAR.COM

@HOUGHTONSTAR

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO editor@houghtonstar.com

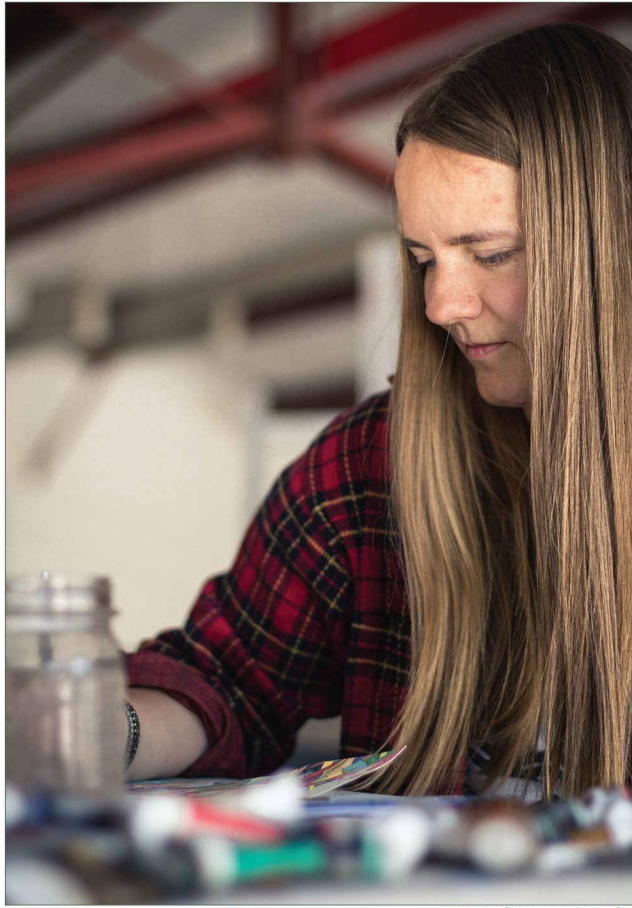
You can comment on articles online at www.houghtonstar.com

Artist of the Week

Allyson Murphy

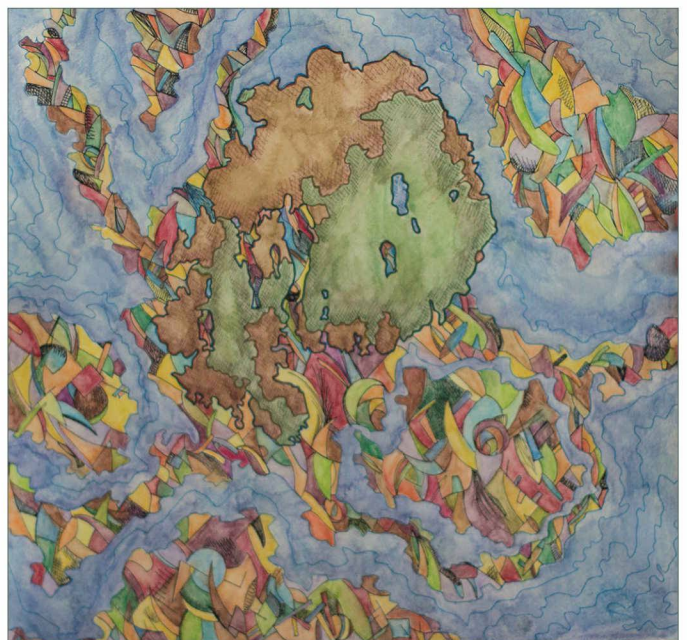
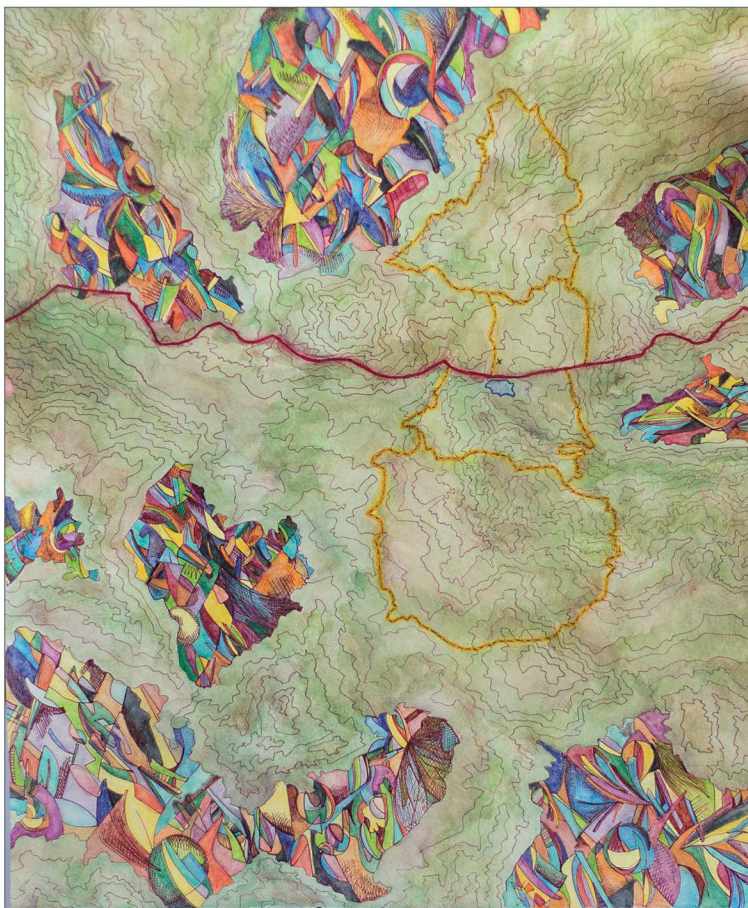
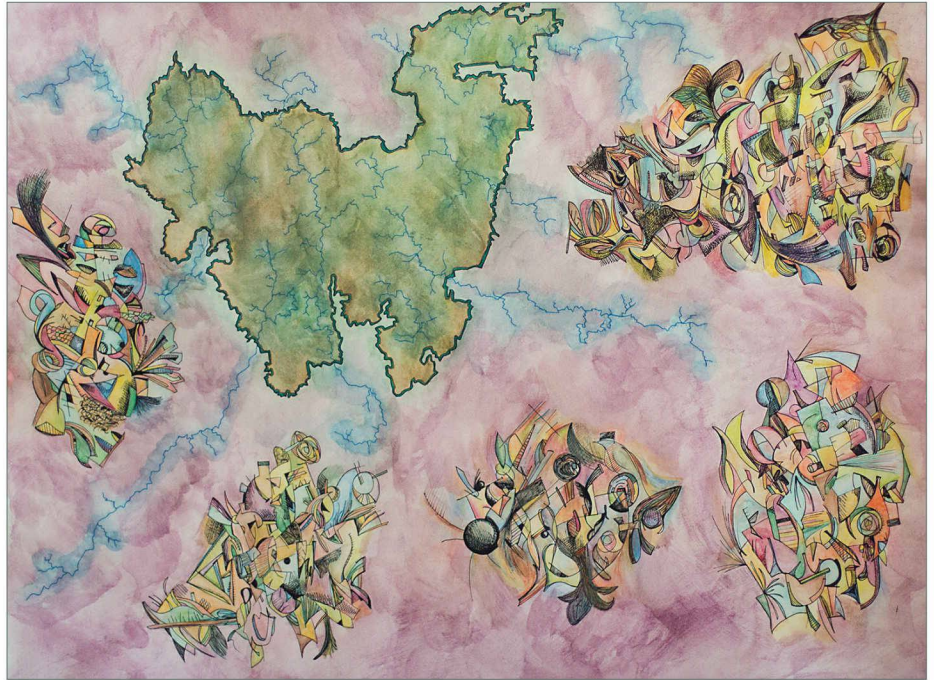
// senior visual art studies and english double major with psychology minor

Throughout her writings philosopher and novelist Iris Murdoch's discusses the need for citizens to overcome barriers of the self in order to relate with others in society. My artwork is a visual representation of my own personal journey to overcome inhibitions of self-interest in order to relate to other beings.



ANTHONY BURDO

“These pretzels are making me thirsty!”
-Kramer”



Titles & Media

clockwise descending, all pen and watercolor pencils

“The answer must be that beauty and grace are performed whether or not we see them, the least we can do is try to be there for them”

“There’s a spirit in Montana and in your chest, a soul, oh what a soul”

“I know what no angel knows”

“To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth”