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AI JOINS THE FACULTY

DR. BRANDON BATE

On Nov. 30, 2022, OpenAI released ChatGPT to the public. By January 2023, ChatGPT had amassed 100 million active users, making it one of the fastest-growing web services in history. In July of this year, ChatGPT became the most downloaded cell phone application in the world, surpassing TikTok and Instagram in popularity. Within a short time span, artificial intelligence went from an academic curiosity within computer science departments to a force that is changing our relationships with technology and with each other.

While the long-term outcomes of the ongoing "AI revolution" remain unknown, its impact on college education is already being felt. Early iterations of ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLMs) produced stylistically



Human hand reaching out toward robot hand.

COURTESY OF COTTONBRO STUDIOS / PEXELS

distinctive outputs and hallucinated facts and citations. But newer iterations of these AI systems have improved dramatically. The "tells" that once prompted suspicions in professors are now more subtle. According to Professor Dongwon Lee at Penn State University, many claim to be able to

distinguish between human and AI-generated content, but experiments show that human performance at this task is only slightly better than blind guessing. Software touted as capable of detecting AI-generated text is also unreliable, with most being only able to do so 60% of the time.

As might be expected,

faculty tend to view AI with suspicion if not outright hostility. It's a hindrance to how we have traditionally taught. Research papers, essays and forum responses are simply too easy to generate with AI. But AI-proof alternatives to these types of assignments are hard to imagine. I don't see this frustration

abating as AI continues its ascendance.

Despite this, many Houghton faculty are intrigued by AI, with some even being described as "AI enthusiasts." Some have used AI to help write computer programming code for their research projects. Others have used it to generate images for class presentations and other course materials. Some even use it to write initial drafts for email responses and letters. I've used AI to generate assignment ideas and debug code, in addition to using it as a glorified, yet fallible, interactive encyclopedia.

In the New York Times article "Professors Face Student Rancor Over Use of A.I.," Kashmir Hill de-

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A New Hope for Huntington's Disease

LIMAT HAILE '27

Huntington's Disease (HD) is an inherited, relentless and fatal neurodegenerative disorder for which there has been no cure. For families affected by the condition, there is the certainty of decline stretching across generations, meaning that the inherited gene will cause the mind and body of the affected individual to slowly unravel. HD is a rare but devastating condition, affecting hundreds of thousands worldwide. Symptoms usually start in mid-life, often between the ages of 30 and 50, and include involuntary, uncontrollable movements, depression, irritability and a progressive decline



Medical practitioners doing research in a lab.

COURTESY OF PAVEL DANILYUK / PEXELS

in thinking and memory. Patients gradually lose the ability to live independently. Most affected individuals die 10 to 20 years after symptoms first appear.

The cause of this devastating illness is a single genetic mutation: an expanded stretch of certain DNA repeats (CAG) in the huntingtin gene (HTT). This mutation results in an oversized,

faulty protein that gradually destroys specific nerve cells, known as "medium spiny neurons," particularly in the brain's striatum. Although the causative gene was identified in 1993, three decades of attempts to develop effective therapies have failed to show convincing clinical benefits.

Now, a new treatment is being widely reported as a

breakthrough. The experimental treatment, called AMT-130, is a one-time gene therapy developed by uniQure, a company based in the Netherlands and the United States (US). The treatment is highly invasive, requiring lengthy brain surgery, sometimes lasting 8 to 14 hours, to infuse an engineered adeno-associated virus directly into the cau-

date and putamen brain regions. The virus acts as a shuttle, carrying a short genetic "microRNA" designed to specifically target and degrade the messenger RNA (mRNA) that carries the instructions for building the mutant huntingtin protein, thereby aiming to lower the toxic protein levels.

The Phase I/II clinical trial began with 29 patients with early HD, but only 24 participants completed the 36-month trial. The treated participants were divided into low-dose and high-dose groups, with 12 patients in each group. Early results from this trial, conducted in the US, the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe, suggest the treatment significantly slows the disease's progression. The UK arm of this study was supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

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Interim Provost Dr. Jill Jordan

EMMA ILLIAN '27

As a student, graduate and professor, Interim Provost and Dean of the Faculty Dr. Jill (Brautigam) Jordan '99, has spent many years living and loving on Houghton University's (HU) campus. Jordan graduated from HU with a Bachelor's degree in mathematics and psychology with a violin performance minor. After getting her undergraduate degree, Jordan attended Bryn Mawr College for her master's and Ph.D. in mathematics.

In 2009, Jordan and her husband, Rev. Dr. Michael Jordan '99, moved back to Houghton, and Jordan began working as a full-time faculty member in the Mathematics department. In the past few years, she served as the Dean of Natural Sciences & Mathematics while continuing to teach math part-time. Now, starting this semester, Jordan is serving as the Interim Provost for HU.

Jordan described the Provost as the "Chief Academic Officer," which means "that anything that is primarily an academic concern is in [her] realm." Thus, Jordan is responsible for meeting with the faculty and people working in the Registrar's Office and the Library. She also

works on "the various academic projects that are part of Houghton's strategic plan."

As Interim Provost, Jordan has the opportunity to use many of her strengths. Dr. Rebekah Yates, who also began teaching in the Mathematics department in 2009, spoke to Jordan's strengths. "[Jordan is] very good at listening to her colleagues, understanding their concerns, and helping people see things from different perspectives. As a mathematician, she's also very good at communicating clearly and concisely and assisting others in clarifying their own points."

Yates also described Jordan's ability to problem-solve and "create surprising solutions that are also actually possible to vexing problems." Michael Jordan said that Jill Jordan "is a perfect blend of smart and wise—wise enough to know what's really at stake in hard choices, but smart enough to hold all the different variables of a decision together."

For Yates, Jordan's ability to come up with creative solutions has already had a meaningful impact. When Yates and her husband were both consistently unavailable to pick up their son from

preschool, Jordan offered to pick up Yates's son while also picking up her own child. Jordan continued this routine for the entire year.

Yates said, "This is typical of Jill: her practical, creative solutions to problems often require something from her as well." Still, Jordan is willing to put her time and effort into serving others.

Jordan not only has the skills to serve Houghton, but also the willingness. Both Yates and Michael Jordan spoke to Jill Jordan's dedication and commitment to the Houghton community.

Jill Jordan said, "One of the things I love about living and working here is that we are surrounded by a community that cares about us...we have so many life-giving relationships with such a variety of people."

Now, as Michael Jordan said, Jill Jordan has the opportunity to use her gifts to lead and serve this community.

As Jordan steps into her new role as Interim Provost, the Houghton community can love and serve her as well. Since Jordan does not get to see students as much, she would love to see visitors in her new office in the Luckey Memorial Building. ★

AI from page #1

lege professors. Some use it to grade assignments and provide comments. A few have even created course-specific chatbots that provide the same type of feedback one would expect when attending of-fice hours.

Although ethical questions surrounding both student and faculty AI usage linger, this has not stopped tech companies from seeking to monetize AI use in education. Anthropic's Claude for Edu-

cation aims to provide professors with AI tools that enable the creation of more engaging content as well as the "automation of tedious tasks." OpenAI's ChatGPT Edu has similar aspirations with their promise to "bring AI to campus at scale." Recently, Google has been offering a free year of the Pro version of Gemini to college students, at a \$240 value. All that to say, even if you aren't interested in AI, AI is interested in you. ★

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University College London Hospitals (UCLH) Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). According to uniQure, which funded the study, patients who received the higher dose of AMT-130 declined more slowly than expected. Participants who received a higher dose were reported to have a 75% slowing in their decline. The company claims that the new treatment slows the decline so effectively that what typically happens by a year takes four; this was measured against a matched external control group from a global Huntington's registry.

Furthermore, on the Total Functioning Capacity (TFC) scale, which assesses independence in daily living, a 60% slowing in decline was reported for the higher dose group. Lead researcher Professor Sarah Tabrizi, supported by the BRC, stated that

these "groundbreaking data are the most convincing in the field to date," underscoring potential disease-modifying effects.

However, caution remains essential. Bryce Vissel, Cojoint Professor at the University of New South Wales Sydney, notes that the results are early, unreviewed and rely on external comparisons rather than a randomized placebo group, a design which can introduce bias. The patient numbers are also small—only 12 patients were in the high-dose group at the three-year mark—meaning solid conclusions cannot yet be drawn. If the results are upheld, this complex neurosurgical treatment would represent the first convincing evidence that a gene-targeted therapy can slow HD. UniQure has stated plans to seek regulatory approval as early as 2026. ★



THE WEEKLY W'S

These Highlander teams took home the win this week.



WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
HOUGHTON	1	1	1	0	3
BROCKPORT	0	0	0	0	0

WOMEN'S SOCCER

	1	2	FINAL
HOUGHTON	1	1	2
NAZARETH	1	0	1

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

	1	2	3	FINAL
HOUGHTON	25	25	25	3
KEUKA	20	7	20	0

	1	2	3	FINAL
HOUGHTON	25	25	25	3
ELMIRA	15	16	14	0

	1	2	3	4	OT	FINAL
HOUGHTON	25	20	15	25	15	3
PITT BRADFORD	14	25	25	19	8	2

Grab a STAR to stay up to date on the Houghton Highlanders!

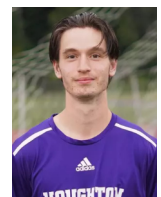
WOMEN'S TENNIS

	FINAL
HOUGHTON	6
BROCKPORT	1

	FINAL
HOUGHTON	0
HARTWICK	7

STAR ★ PLAYER

This week's STAR player is Giovanni Schivo '27, a right back for the men's soccer team who is majoring in business administration with a minor in communications. Schivo started his college career as just a student, focusing on his academics, but was drawn into the team "because of the competitiveness and the good vibes from the other guys." Shiva stated, "I wanted to feel like I belonged to the school and serve God in more ways than I had." Schivo expressed how he loves the energy the team brings to the field. "I'm looking forward to a new chapter unveiling itself for Houghton Men's Soccer on and off the field." Schivo shared that he is excited to reach new heights with this team and give the glory to Christ. ★



Giovanni Schivo '27

— Kara Valandra '27

CATHOLICS, PREACHERS, AND AMISH COUPLE



BEATRICE BROOKS '26

A lady preacher, an Amish couple, and a handful of Catholics walk into a funeral.

What seems like the start of a corny religious joke is actually the start of a true story about Betty, her late partner Tom, and the unity of those gathered to celebrate Tom's life.

As we settle into the deceased man's living room, his partner Betty puts around preparing for the funeral. She rearranges some chairs, fluffs a throw pillow, and then perks up at the sound of a distinct "clip-clop" from the driveway. "Oh!" Betty exclaims, "The Amish are here!" She hurries her frail body to the door to greet them.

An Amish man with a

long white beard enters, followed by his silent wife. Both are dressed in their funeral best: simple, black garb. They belong to a conservative Amish sect, so their clothes are arranged on their work-worn bodies with stick pins instead of buttons.

Several more neighbours and friends file into the living room. Betty rearranges more chairs. The Amish couple remain silent. A neighbor pipes up, breaking the awkwardness of funeral small talk. "Where's Father Fish?" the woman asks.

Most of the friends and

"Father Fish isn't coming. It's that lady preacher."

That lady preacher emerges from Betty's kitchen. She cracks a joke with the Amish man, and greets the Catholic school-teacher sitting next to him. Even at a funeral, she can't quell her sense of humour.

They all grieve in unique ways: some by telling jokes, others by silently remembering, and still others by storytelling. The guests share how they each knew Tom: work stories, meetings around town, doctors appointments, and more.

"What seems like the start of a corny joke, then, is really the start of a beautiful story about people from historically divided Christian groups who came together in a moment of holy unity."

neighbours sitting in Betty's living room have been raised Catholic in generationally Catholic families. A priest must be coming to lead the funeral proceedings...so where is Father Fish? A neighbor responds:

What seems like the start of a corny joke, then, is really the start of a beautiful story about people from historically divided Christian groups who came together in a moment of holy unity.

Of the many topics

"We are called to be so united in love that we reflect the holy unity of the Trinity itself!"

which have historically divided these groups, communion is the most significant. Disagreement over this sacrament—which should be one of our uniting ties as the Body of Christ—is the very thing which tears this holy Body apart, limb by limb.

Despite this, and many other divisive issues, I am convinced that in Betty's living room, the diverse Body of Christ was gathered in unity and love, as our Lord desires it to be. Jesus makes this clear in his High Priestly Prayer in John 17. Praying to the Father, Jesus asks that his disciples "may all be one, just as" the Son and the Father are one (v. 21).

We can imagine Jesus mourning the hatred and violence between his beloved followers, just as he mourns the hatred and violence between the tens of thousands of Christian denominations today. "O Righteous Father," he continues, "[may] the love with which you have loved me...be in them, and I in them" (vs. 25-26).

It is God's will for us, as Jesus' beloved followers, to be united in such holy love that it reflects the trinitarian unity that the Father, Son, and Spirit possess with each other. We are called to be so united in love that we reflect the holy unity of the Trinity itself!

Does this mean that we should throw all of our theological convictions out the window? Certainly not. As

Christians, we make decisions as we are convicted by the Holy Spirit and led by the Scriptures. We should stand firm in our positions on the theological hot topics of today, which range from LGBTQIA+ discussions, to Christian nationalism, and even the question of the Antichrist. As John Wesley notes in his 1750 sermon, "Catholic Spirit," we can refuse to compromise our convictions and yet also fulfill our calling to Christian unity. Even if you disagree with me, Wesley wrote, you can still "love me as a companion in the kingdom and patience of Jesus, and [as] a joint heir of his glory."

Christ is not glorified when we pick our theological hill to die on. Rather, Christ is glorified when we pursue reconciliation and loving unity within his Body. When the lady preacher, the Amish couple, and the ragtag bunch of Catholics meet as the Body of Christ to celebrate and mourn together, Christ is present and glorified. ★

Beatrice Brooks is the Lambein ARD and the London Honors Program Assistant this year. She is a junior studying Bible & Theology and plans to one day be a lady preacher in the Wesleyan Church.

Have an opinion you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO
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The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton University since its inception. This is done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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Documentary Review

The Revival Generation: Gen Z Turning to Jesus

TIMOTHY MURRAY '28

“The Revival Generation: Gen Z Turning to Jesus” (2025)
WARNING: SPOILERS

The Revival Generation: Gen Z Turning to Jesus is a documentary that tells a powerful story about how God is working, even on secular college campuses, in the lives of Generation Z students.

It begins with four college-age young girls telling stories of their lives before they found Jesus. One memorable story was from Mary Prewett. After Prewett spent a night in jail, her parents accepted her back and said, “We have never loved you more than we do right now.” This incident moved her mother, Tanya Prewett, to get more involved with college-age young women. As a result, she began leading a small group for college women, allowing her to witness the hurt they were going through. Tanya wanted to do

something to change the narrative.

In October 2022, Tanya stood up during her small group and said, “Something big is coming,” and by 2023, Tanya and some of her friends started praying for revival at Auburn University. She asked Jennie Allen and Jonathan Pokuda to speak at an event that took place in September of that year. The event took place in the basketball arena, where 6,000 students came to attend the service. By the end of the night, spontaneous baptisms led to 350 students being saved. It was a surreal moment for everyone involved, even going as far as to make national news.

After the event, God told Tanya to form a team because the revival was going to spread quickly. She and three other people formed the UniteUS non-profit organization for the purpose of sharing the gospel at US colleges. After the revival at

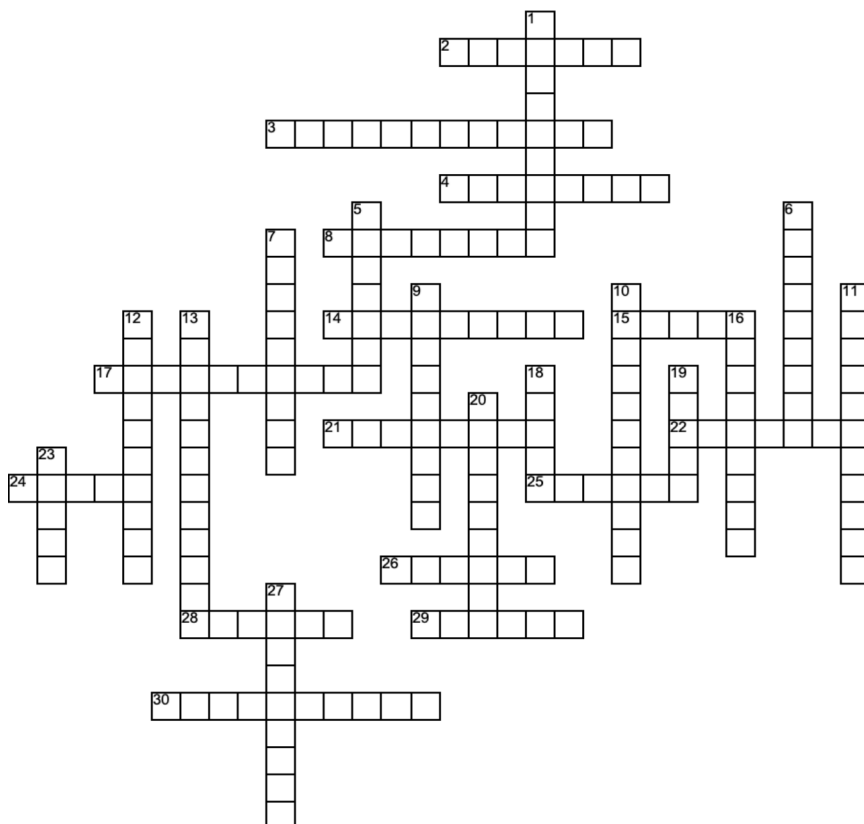
Auburn University, 12 more Universities reached out to Tanya asking her to do the same thing that she did at Auburn. However, at this time in her life, Tanya was battling depression and struggled with feeling equipped to help others. After seeking out a therapist, she was able to start her mission again. This battle of depression helped her to empathize more with the college students that she was going to be ministering to.

After getting her feet back under her, the first official UniteUS event was able to take place at Florida State University, a large party school. Hundreds of students were saved and then baptized in a fountain that was known as the fountain where people got drunk when they turned 21. Knowing that they were going to be working with a large party school, UniteUS invited people to come to the event by physically going to different

sororities and fraternities.

One overall theme of this documentary that is encouraging to me is all the testimonies of the students who were about to get baptized. The students described feeling lost in the world before they had found their way to Christ. Another thing I found interesting about the UniteUS ministry is that they help the students who connect with them to find local churches. Overall, I really enjoyed watching this documentary since it's easy to be negative about the broken people in Generation Z. However, this documentary highlighted the idea that there has got to be something more, because many people in Generation Z are desperate for more than the empty, broken lives that they are living. That is the power of the UniteUS movement. They give students the best gift they could ever receive which is the gospel. ★

Puzzles of the Week



Across

- 2. Menacing, deadly, harmful
- 3. Any personal peculiarity, mannerism etc., a person's particular way of behaving or thinking.
- 4. An object believed to bring good luck
- 8. Deserving praise
- 14. Joking especially at an inappropriate time, sarcastic, treating serious issues with inappropriate humor
- 15. To humiliate or degrade
- 17. Insolence or impertinence
- 21. To give up the throne, fail to carry on a duty
- 22. Happy and peaceful, tranquil, idyllic
- 24. The whole range or scope the entire range or extent
- 25. Neat in appearance and dressing
- 26. A statement that is obviously true and says nothing new
- 28. Persuade by using flattery
- 29. A completely unresponsive person
- 30. A word or phrase that reads the same backwards as forwards

Down

- 1. Hesitant, not certain
- 5. A mistaken belief, unsound reasoning, misleading
- 6. Compulsory
- 7. Weariness or lack of energy, state of being tired or listless: exhaustion; laziness; weariness
- 9. Wicked or criminal, infamous by way of being extremely wicked
- 10. The mistaken use of a word in place of a similar word-mostly due to the slip of the tongue
- 11. Generous or forgiving
- 12. Insolence or impertinence
- 13. Self regarding
- 16. Cheerful and full of energy, enthusiastic, vivacious
- 18. Give way to demands or pressure, give up possession of
- 19. Detest, hate
- 20. The ability to attract and charm people
- 23. An embarrassing blunder
- 27. An unimportant person or thing, a person or thing of little or no importance