



The Lantern

Faculty Candle
Edition 2025

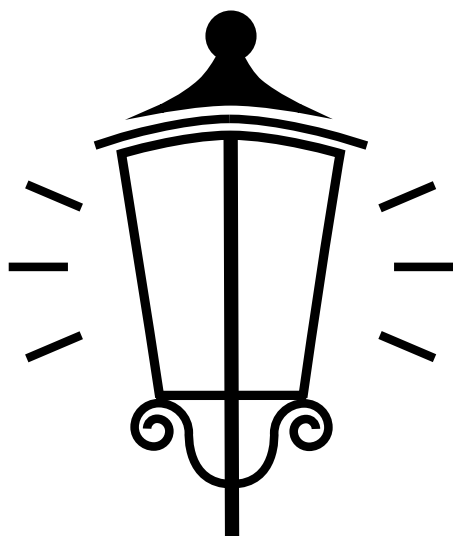


***The Lantern**, begun in 1932, is Houghton University's student-run literary journal that exists to illuminate the thoughts and expressions of students and the greater Houghton community through works of literary and visual art.*

The Lantern began as an offshoot of a literary competition that existed for over a decade before 1932. After that date, the Lantern, previously known as the Lanthorn, began printing the works of students and has continued to do so ever since.

Faculty
Candle Edition

December 2025



Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Last year, we re-introduced the special Candle edition to showcase faculty creativity. Originally, the Candle was a semester's end issue. It fell out of use soon after Lantern issues began being released monthly instead of once a semester. This year we've brought it back again, featuring the creativity of our amazing faculty. We are excited to share their work with you!

Yours for lighting up the world,
Keiryn, Jonathan, Emma, and Warren

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Sunset over my barn in Friendship NY, Steven Olsen
Photo

Looking Only Unto Jesus

Laurie Dashnau

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. (Ps. 20:17)

Devotional Passage: Psalm 20:1-9

Several years ago, my family and I were traveling out of state when we rounded a curve and found ourselves flanked by traffic; stuck on a railroad track; and with a train only a few hundred feet away, its horn blaring. Suffice it to say that this was one of the scariest experiences of our lives. There was absolutely nothing we could do to save ourselves.

It's exceedingly tempting, when problems beset us, to give into indulgences; invest our hope in certain Christian or political leaders, or seek new opportunities—new jobs, new places to live, new churches, new hobbies, etc.—as means of escape.

Crises remind us that, while God can and does use people and situations as instruments of His grace and mercy, we should first and foremost turn to Him. Ironically, the Israelites realized this only when the very things their foes, the Egyptians, used against them led to the latter's defeat rather than victory (Exod. 15).

When God rescues us in ways that we can see—as He did with my family and me—we give thanks. And when no rescue is imminent or obvious, we resolve to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7), and as long as we have breath, testify of His goodness and sovereignty.

Takeaway: Earnestly seek God's help, remembering that He alone delivers.



**Lady Liberty, picture taken from the free Staten
Island ferry in New York City harbor, Steven Olsen
Photo**



BIG, beautiful ornaments on 50th St at 6th Ave NYC,
Steven Olsen
Photo

If

Gregory J. Gidman

***If you've cried your tears in lonely places,**
come up strong with breath divine,
and loved your neighbor as your brother,
walking to the back of line.*

***If you made mistakes and then said, "Sorry,"**
wished the best to foes and friends,
and never fought but for the glory,
give away, but never lend.*

***If you sing a song on mountain peaks,**
and care not what your voice may be,
and laugh and love through all your weeks,
and stand before the world to see.*

***If you believe in God with all your might,**
believe in self as much, it seems,
not shrink away in fear or fright,
and end the day on bended knees.*

***If you learn a lesson as a youth,
and practice grace both day and night,
and teach another 'bout that truth,
and sometimes bow before a fight.***

***If you take away what's only yours,
and give away what you have earned,
and listen to the elders' wars,
and ne'er forget the lessons learned.***

***If you see a soul through spirit eyes,
and never judge, and never kill,
and lift the other past the lies,
and give them hope up every hill.***

***If you learn to love with actions first,
and learn to listen more than speak,
and live each moment unrehearsed—
you'll be a man who is unique.***



Content lone mare beside Madison Range southwest of Bozeman Montana, Steven Olsen

Photo



**Mirror Lake including passing ducks, Bozeman
Montana, Steven Olsen**
Photo

Untitled

Elianna McHenry

*There's something about a lover's touch
The way they hold your hand
The peace it brings to you
The strength to help you stand*

*There's something about a lover's touch
The way they hug you close
The scent you smell there
The warmth you both share*

*There's something about a lover's touch
The way they hold your face
The tenderness of long days
They feel like your home base*

*There's something about a lover's touch
The way their hand meets yours
A silent anchor in the storm
When life, it threatens more*

*There's something about a lover's touch
Their arms encircling you
Filled with years of unsaid words
And knowing when it's too hard*

*There's something about a lover's touch
Their hand resting on your cheek
A small goodbye, a quick hello
There's nothing just as sweet*



Untitled

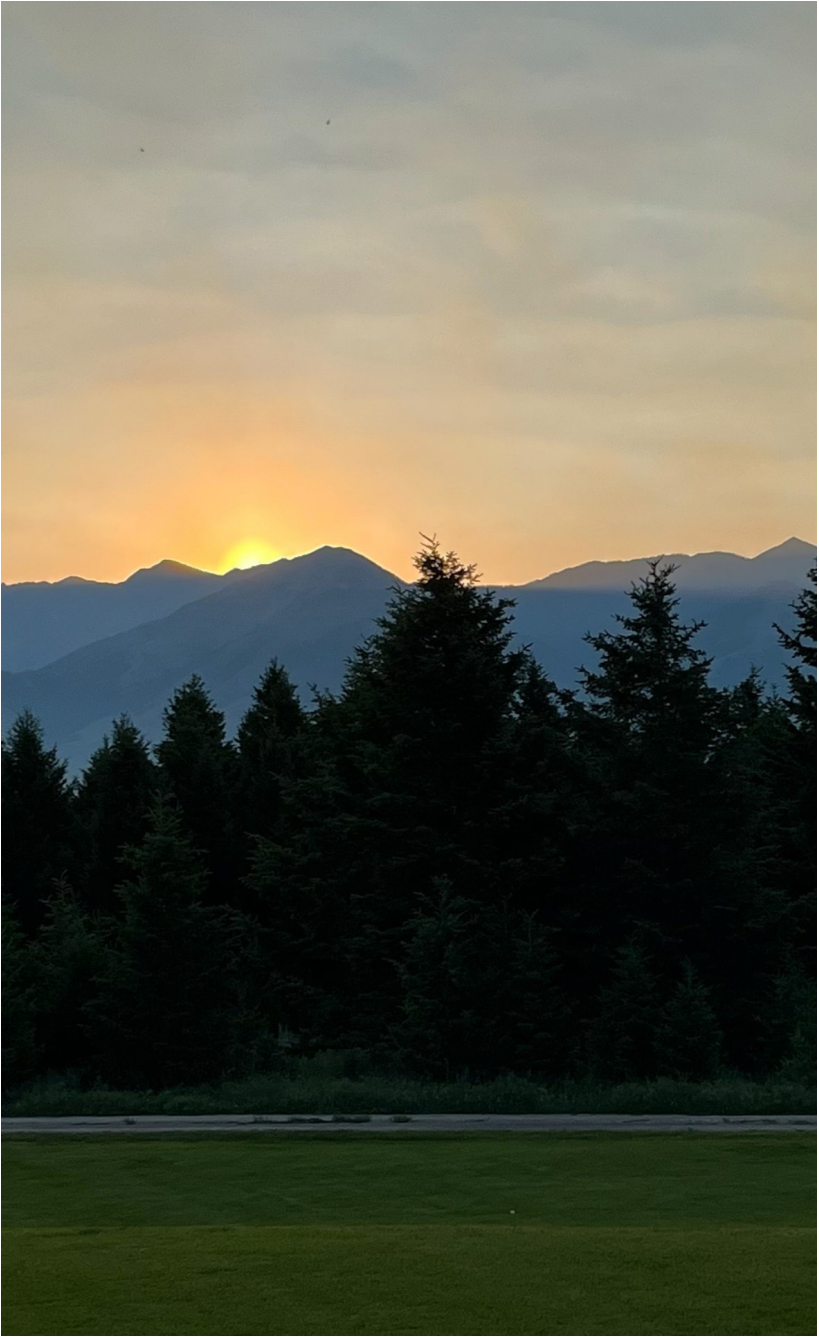
Elianna McHenry

*These hands bridge the gap of years
The tiny one clutching the old wrinkles
Looking for guidance and love
Finding strength and wisdom too*

*These hands bridge the gap of years
Holding each other and smiling
Hanging on for life yet to live
Sharing stories of life well lived*

*These hands bridge the gap of years
An older one with calluses
The younger smooth and small
Memories held in their grasps*





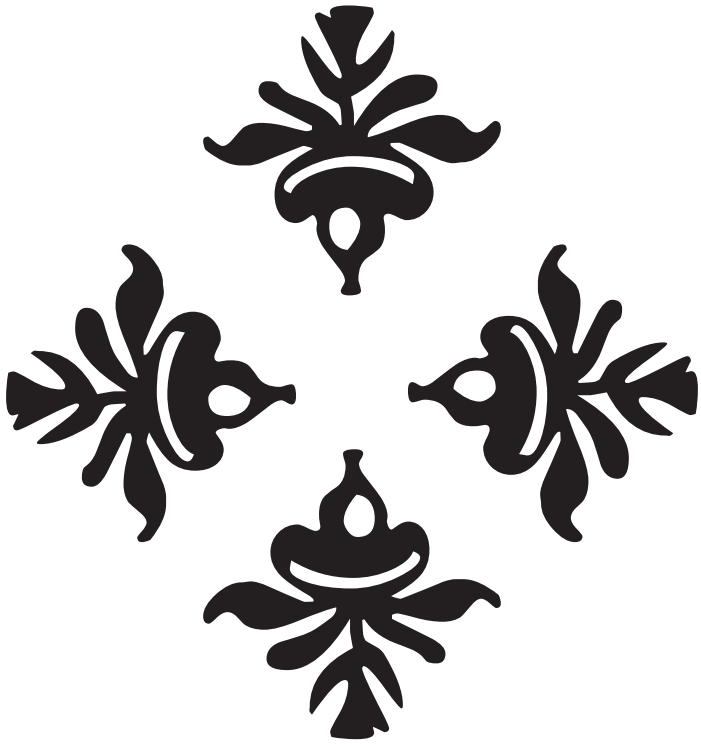
Sunset outside of Big Sky, Montana, Steven Olsen
Photo

Feeney the Monkey:

Being a Tale Composed by the
Author When He was Found to be in
a State of Extreme Exhaustion;
However, the Author had also Agreed
and Promised to Compose and
Recite Once Final Story Before His
Sons Would Go To Bed.

Jesse David Sharpe

There once was
a monkey who
could only say
two words,
“The end.”



Author, Artist, & Musician Bios



Laurie Dashnau

Prof. Laurie Dashnau has taught English and writing courses at Houghton since 2000, or as one of her former colleagues put it, “the turn of the century.” She also is the Director of the Writing Center.

Gregory J. Gidman

Assistant Professor of Sport, Recreation, and Wellness Management.

Steven Olsen

Steven Olsen, B Mus Ed: voice 1978 HU. Freshman class president, class choir director, 8 semesters college choir and chamber singers. M Mus choral conducting performance Georgia State U 1987, wonderful career of church music and K-college teaching, loves photography, musicals, coffee and his wife, Prof. Marilee Olsen!

Music QR Code

Follow this QR code to visit our YouTube channel with music that has been published in previous Lantern issues. Listen and enjoy!



Do YOU want to submit something to the Lantern?

Whether you are a skilled writer, artist, or musician with many years of experience, or a brand new writer, artist, or musician who wants to share their work for the first time, we are delighted to see your work!

Be on the lookout for the first submissions email for Spring 2026!

Additionally, if you are interested in following the Lantern's story throughout this year (and years to come), join our group on Campus Groups, visit our website hulantern.wordpress.com, or follow us on Instagram at [@h.u.lantern](https://www.instagram.com/h.u.lantern).

Also, please visit our Campfire bulletin board past Java 101 to read poetry and pin up your own. The submissions prompt will also be posted here.

Yours for lighting up the world,
The Lantern Editors



The Lantern; December 2025