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“Urgent, Not Panicked:” Mullen Reports on Trustees’ Visit in Community Meeting

By Joel VanderWeele

This past Tuesday, February 17, a community meeting was held in the CFA to discuss the winter meetings of the Board of Trustees. After a brief introduction from Academic Dean Ronald Mahurin, President Mullen summarized the action items discussed by the Board in Executive Session. The issues discussed included new faculty searches, the budget, and tenure.

The topic that received the most attention was the college’s current financial situation. According to Mullen, the Board “strongly approved the direction of the budget,” including a two percent cost of living increase for faculty and staff, maintaining the current health and retirement benefits, and one-time contributions from the proposed future sale of the West Seneca campus and the cell phone tower on that campus.

At the beginning of this year, Houghton had a \$2.8 million budget gap. At the close of this

year, that gap will have been narrowed to \$1.8 million, which will appear in next year’s budget as a one-time expense. President Mullen explained that although all cuts are difficult to deal with, the gap will provide everyone with “an opportunity to make sure resources are aligned to mission,” going on to say, “we are trying to do for the long run, and as much as we can in the short run, whatever will strengthen Houghton College.”

Mullen was quick to point out that the sales of West Seneca and potentially Adirondack Park were strategic, not just borne out of crisis management. The West Seneca campus has already been appraised at \$2.4 million, but only \$700,000 has been built into the budget to ensure that Houghton does not assume too much. The cell tower on the West Seneca campus was supposed to have been sold by now, but the sale did not go through as expected.

If the sales do not get finalized, Mullen explained, Houghton will have to go to a yet-to-be-decided

contingency plan, or “list of bad ideas,” for items on the budget which will get cut to make up for the lack of expected capital. The President’s Office will be in dialogue with the Academic Policies Council, the Staff Cabinet, and the Finance Council to determine which items will be put on the list. According to Mullen, “there are no easy things to put on this plan... the difficulty in all of this will be to find the balance between bold and cautious.” She also implied that the administration may have to take on a more executive role, playing “the bad people for the short-run.”

After the budget items were discussed, President Mullen officially announced the tenure decisions approved by the Board. In the music department, Gary Stith was named a full professor and given tenure, Cathy Freytag was named a full professor of Education and is up for tenure review next semester, Professor of

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Profile: VP for Advancement Bob Van Wicklin

By Monica Sandreczki

Bob Van Wicklin was appointed to the position of Senior Vice President of Advancement by President Mullen. His job is to not only fundraise, but to also establish relationships with alumni, donors, and other state and federal governments.

Star: I don’t feel like lot of people know what your position is: explain to us what it is that you do.

Van Wicklin: “Advancement” is...a term that encompasses [many] different areas, but it is primarily the external relations of the College. You’re looking at dealing with the constituencies outside of the College that can help Houghton, such as alumni.

There are three areas underneath me: One is “Advancement and Development,” which is fundraising for the College. The other is “Alumni Relations” and the third is the Marketing and PR area. We have people working in all those areas and my job is to... oversee them and coordinate those efforts. For instance, most of your fundraising is done in the alumni community, so it makes sense to have the development arm working hand in hand with the alumni relations arm to make sure we’re not duplicating efforts.

Star: Is this a newly created position at the school?

Van Wicklin: Yes and no. Scott Wade was the Vice President for Advancement and he is moving over to be the Vice President for Development and Marketing, so he’s sort of shifting his position a little bit and I’m coming in as the Senior Vice President for Advancement and I’ll be overseeing Scott and Dan Noyse who is the Alumni Relations executive director.

Overseeing is one thing, but we’re actually a team. We’re working together to try and leverage as much power as we can to increase Houghton’s standing outside of the college with the various constituencies we deal with, from alumni to major donors. Western New York government relations are something I’ll also try to help out with: I came from the government

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New Campus Wide Emergency Alert System

By Kristen Palmer

The Safety and Security Office on campus is looking to install a new emergency notification system by the time students get back from February break, according to Ray Parlett, Director of Safety and Security.

“We’ve contracted with a company called ‘Inspiron Logistics,’” he said. “They host a site for WNES, and it basically is a text messaging service.”

WNES stands for “Wireless Notification Emergency System” and will be Houghton’s newest form of security.

“After break we will be sending out e-mails so students can sign up for the new system,” said Parlett.

Students will submit their cell phone numbers to be contacted via text message in the case of an emergency that requires immediate attention. Emergencies could include everything from a serious

accident to a severe weather watch. If situations like these should arise, all students will immediately receive a text message displaying simple instructions on what to do next.

“We will be able to send out a mass text message to everyone who signed up with instructions about where to go,” said Parlett. “If something happens, the message will say something like, ‘Please stay in your building’ or ‘gather at the Physical Education Center,’ where more detailed instructions will most likely be given out. It will be an easy way to get a notice to everybody.”

Since only the people who sign up will benefit, Parlett said that students will be strongly encouraged to take advantage of this new system. He does, however, realize that not all students have access to cell phones or text messaging. In that case, students may also provide an e-mail

address and receive notification via computer.

Parlett recognizes the modifications of security measures that have been made during his 28 years as an employee at the college.

“We used to be basically just a lockdown service,” he said. “Otherwise, we didn’t necessarily have someone on duty all the time.”

In the late 90’s, this started to change, and the Safety and Security Office began to recognize the importance of placing a college official on duty 24/7.

“We realized that during some hours of the night, nobody was awake and answering phone calls,” said Parlett.

This could be especially dangerous if a parent is trying to reach his son or daughter, or if a student is missing. By placing a college official on duty during

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Emily Scarborough

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out there

By Monica Sandreczki

Clinton in Indonesia

On her first trip as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton stopped in Indonesia and was well received, despite few, scattered anti-American demonstrations. Indonesia is one of the most Muslim nations in the world; Hassan Wirajuda, Indonesia Foreign Minister, said that Indonesia could act as a bridge between the United States and the "Muslim world." Clinton said that the United States wants to nurture the partnership between the U.S. and Indonesia and improve relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), even to sign the non-aggression pact. Indonesians are anxious to have President Obama to return to the country in which he once lived. Clinton also said that Indonesia is a place where women's rights and Islam can successfully coexist. On her trip through Asia, Clinton has also visited such countries as Japan, China, and South Korea.

Former Guantanamo Prisoner Finds Refuge in Sweden

Adel Hakimjan, former prisoner of Guantanamo Bay who was held there for almost five years, was granted permanent residency in Sweden as a refugee. He is a Chinese Muslim from the Uighur minority in China, and could not return there for fear of persecution. In 2006, he was released from Guantanamo, but had to go to Albania, the only country willing to admit him. He filed an appeal and was only granted entrance into Sweden because his sister, his only relative living outside of China, lives there. Hakimjan and 17 other Uighurs have been labeled as terror suspects by China which has urged other countries not to take them in. Currently, the 17 are in Guantanamo but have not found a country that is willing to take them in. Several of the men are accused of belonging to the Muslim separatist group, East Turkestan Independence Movement that supposedly participates in terrorist tactics.

Syrian President Calls for Stronger Ties with the U.S.

President Bashar al-Assad of Syria is advocating for the restoration of diplomatic ties between the United States and Syria. He thinks that

the return of ties looks positive with the new U.S. administration in place although no change in U.S. policy has taken place yet. Former President George W. Bush avoided Syria due to its support for Hezbollah and Iran. Bashar al-Assad called Syria a "player" in the Middle East and that, "if you want to talk about peace, you can't advance without Syria." He also said that he anticipates that peace talks between Israel and Syria will eventually resume.

Attacks in Greece

There have been several attacks in Greece this week, the most recent being a car bomb in a suburb of Athens that was defused by police. The explosives were packed into gas cylinders and attached to a timer and was called "powerful," by police. Thus far, no one has admitted to the crime. Many ultra liberal militants have been attacking police and there have been several protests and anti-government riots incited by the shooting of a teenager by police in December. In other attacks, gunmen began shooting and also threw explosives outside of a television station late Tuesday night. These weapons were the same used by a group, the Sect of Revolutionaries, that attacked police stations in Athens a few weeks ago. This group said, "We don't do politics, we do guerrilla warfare." Another group, Revolutionary Struggle, also led attacks.

Pilot Error investigated as cause of Fatal Plane Crash in Buffalo

A plane crash on February 12 near Buffalo, N.Y. that killed 50 people is currently under investigation, with suspicion that pilot error may have been the cause of the crash. Initially, evidence had pointed to icing on the wings as a potential cause of the tragedy. The pilot, however, after being notified of "significant ice" on the aircraft, did not disengage the autopilot, as recommended by his airline and the National Transportation Safety Board. This has led investigators to speculate that the pilot may have overreacted. Nothing has been found mechanically wrong with the plane. The investigation continues as weather information, the black box recorders from the plane, and eyewitness accounts are gathered and analyzed.

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all hours of the day, Houghton students now have a place to go for help at all times, allowing for easy access to a trained emergency worker.

"The security on campus has definitely become a much more integral part of the day-to-day operations of the campus," said Parlett, who attributes the most recent changes to school shootings. "We're providing this new service in light of some of these shootings,"

he added. "It is really critical we get information out there so people know where to go in order to be safe. That is our primary emphasis."

Parlett and the rest of the Safety and Security Office will do whatever it takes to ensure security for the student body. However, Parlett stresses that each student should also take responsibility for his or her own safety by controlling who they hang out with and the activities they are involved with.

"We cannot guarantee everyone's safety. Everyone has to take responsibility for his or her own well-being, because this is not a utopia where nothing bad will happen," said Parlett. "We are

certainly here if the situation gets out of hand, but you have to take some personal responsibility for your own safety as well."

Parlett does not foresee this as an issue based on the types of students he knows attend Houghton. He humbly gives credit to the student body for the remarkable safety record the college has seen so far.

"When I look at our crime statistics in particular, I realize that those numbers represent the incredible quality of students who come to Houghton more so than anything I do," he said. "We have an amazingly low rate of crime here, and I'm absolutely convinced that it is primarily a reflection of the students who chose to come here."

"I'm absolutely convinced that it [low crime rate] is primarily a reflection of the students who chose to come here."

This new improvement in student notification is about preparedness, hoping for the best but being prepared for the worst.

"Chances are something will happen over the course of a few years that we will really need to notify students about," said Parlett. "The bottom line is we hope it's never needed, but if it is, our new system could potentially save lives." ♪



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• VP of A continued from page 1

sector and I have a lot of contacts in the local government areas.

Star: When did you get to the position?

Van Wicklin: I just started on the first of February. I'm brand new to the job, [but] I'm not brand new to the campus. I went to Houghton and graduated in 1992 and before that I lived in Houghton. My father was a professor. I moved to Houghton in the 8th grade and was here through high school and in college. Then I moved down to Washington D.C. and was there for 16 1/2 years. Then I was appointed by the previous president, Dan Chamberlain, to the Presidential Advisory Board, and that was four or five years ago, so I've been working with Houghton quite a bit over the last few years, but this is my first time coming here as a member of the staff.

Star: What did you do before you came to Houghton and do you feel like that helps you in your job now?

Van Wicklin: I've been in Washington for 16 1/2 years working for different members of the U.S. House of Representatives. My last job was Chief of Staff to Congressman Randy Kuhl. He's the congressman that represents about 10 counties here in Western New York, including Allegany County. I was Chief of Staff and was involved in a lot of different projects, but fundraising was a big one. Congressmen need money to run for reelection, so as chief of staff I coordinated a lot of different efforts in the office and fundraising was a big part. It's not all just about fundraising; it's about relationships with people. You can't just go and meet somebody on the street and ask them for money. You have to

have a relationship with them. They have to trust you. You have to trust them. You have to have common goals. It's about developing relationships.

Star: I'm sure you're aware of the current economic stress involving budget matters at this school. How do you factor into that? Are you helping with that because you're focusing on reaching to those alumni and funding?

Van Wicklin: Absolutely. These are tough economic times, not just at Houghton, but in the whole world and especially in our country. Our country is going through a lot of striations right now. The overall focus of my job is to reach out to a lot of different people, but especially our donors. This is a tough economic time, but it's also an opportunity to

"It's an opportunity to reach out and be in touch with more people about what Houghton is doing."

reach out and be in touch with more people about what Houghton's doing ... my hope is that I'll be able to help with the budget problems here. Fundraising is a tough job, even in a good economy, and in a bad economy it's challenging, but at the same time, Houghton has over 17,000 alumni and a lot of other friends who didn't even go to this school who regularly help out the college financially and in other ways. My job is to keep those relationships and build new relationships that will help [generate] funds in the future. But it's important to say that it's not just me. There's a whole team of people over there who have been doing this even before I got here and it's really everyone at the college—faculty, staff, students—everyone has connections out there and everyone needs to work together to make sure the college stays as strong as it is.

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Piano John Newbrough was given tenure, and Benjamin Lipscomb was given tenure in the Philosophy department. The Board also approved new faculty searches in the Math, Art/ Communication, Biology, and Physics/ Earth Science departments.

After summarizing the Trustees items of action, President Mullen fielded questions from those in attendance, most of which focused on budget issues. In response to a question about how the college is seeking to attract more students, Mullen answered, "the approach we're trying to build is simply marketing the college," a opposed to a "retail approach"

that markets individual programs. And to generate revenue, Mullen said that the school is looking into launching on-line education classes and expanding the PACE program.

Another potential source of revenue, according to Mullen, is the alumni base, which currently has a low 19% giving rate. "Houghton has not tapped its alumni base and other sources as much as I believe we can," said Mullen, "and we probably haven't been blunt enough with our alumni." The key, she said, is accurately "communicating where the college is and not acting like we are in emergency mode... our situation right now is urgent, not panicked."

Citing Economic Pressures, College Offers Fewer CLOs

By Katarina Kieffer

The Community Living Option (CLO), a housing status that allows upperclassmen to rent housing in the area surrounding the College, has been dramatically decreased this year, with 25 CLO's handed out in a pool of 65 applicants, compared to around 56 out of 90 last year. Economic stress and small class sizes have contributed to this cut, which has left some concerns about the financial state of students and community members.

According to Dennis Stack, Director of Housing and Interim Director of Residence Life, while on-campus living is one of the often-cited best aspects of Houghton College, CLOs have been "a relief valve," allowing upperclassmen that want a different environment to have that option. CLOs also generally save students some money, though amenities may not be as available or reliable as in campus housing.

Many community members also anticipate the extra income gained from renting to students; Stack acknowledged, "there are some who really count on the revenue from students," and added that the prospect of contributing to the financial distress of any community member "has weighed on [the administration]."

However, the college has to keep its on-campus housing filled to at least 90% capacity each semester in order to meet the budget. The dorms, townhouses, and flats are all considered on-campus housing. When classes, like the class of 2011, are unexpectedly small, housing calculations are thrown off until the small class moves through the system; more students from other classes have to remain in on-campus housing in order to make up for the smaller group.

Stack emphasized the College's commitment to the CLO, saying, "that last thing we would want is for CLO's to dry up." He noted that it provides a way for students to move into the larger community, and affirmed the importance of both aiding community members in getting a little extra revenue and the importance of students having the option of saving some money on housing.

Ian Taylor, a junior who was approved for a CLO, said, "A CLO seemed like a good option because of cost but also because of the increased freedom I think it gives

you. Citibank isn't exactly lending out a ton of money right now, so if I can reduce the loan I have to get, it'll help me in the future."

Stack noted that there is "no way of knowing what will happen in this economy," speaking to the fact that enrollment for the coming Fall semester will be undetermined until quite late in the summer, which makes housing numbers difficult to predict as well, making it hard to estimate that crucial 90% mark. "We'll be losing a decent sized senior class, as well," Stack said, "So it's hard to know exactly where to set the mark."

Applications for the Townhouses and the Flats, which provide upperclassmen with some of the benefits of off-campus living with the amenities that come with affiliation with the College, have gone up in recent years. With fewer CLOs this year, Stack anticipates an even larger increase, though he noted that "it's too soon to tell," as the deadlines for applications haven't passed.

Determinations about who gets CLO status is largely based on how many credit hours a student has; preference is given to those with the highest number of accumulated hours.

"At the housing meeting they said the cut-off would be around 90 credit hours or above; unless you're a semester ahead, you don't have a good chance of getting approved. So a lot of my friends and I decided not to apply and go for a townhouse instead," said junior Laura Jackson.

Students seem troubled by the change, disappointed at the lack of opportunities this year.

"I was excited at the prospect of living outside of the townhouses my final semester at Houghton, so I was really disappointed when I didn't get approved, especially because if I had been in this situation last year, I most likely would have," said junior Rebekah Miller.

Jeff Anderson, another junior who was denied CLO status, expressed frustration. "I have been largely satisfied with my experience in college housing - both in the dorms and the townhouses, but was disappointed when denied the opportunity to explore alternative housing arrangements because of the college's financial interest in controlling the consumption of their housing commodities."

The college has to fill its on-campus housing to at least 90% capacity each semester in order to meet budget.



Highlander Men's Basketball Defeats Roberts Wesleyan 66-46

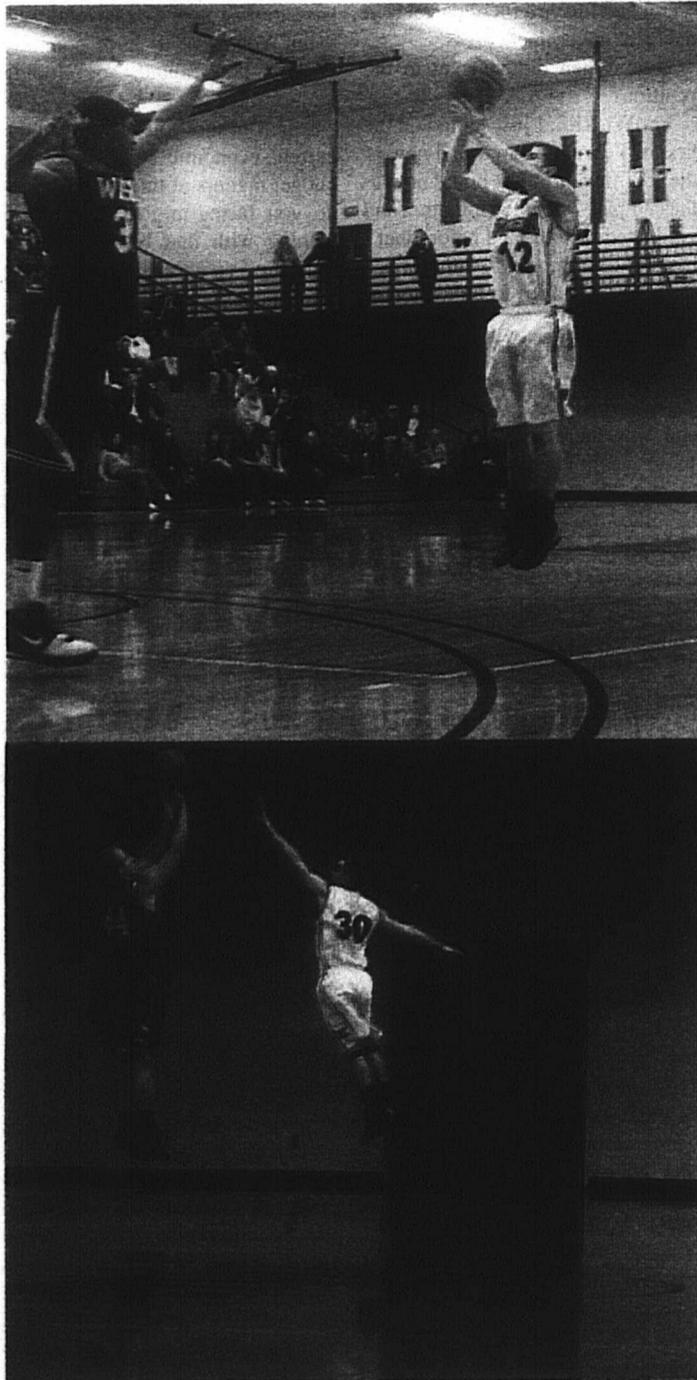
By Nick Fredette

This past Tuesday night will be a night to remember for two Houghton men's basketball players. For seniors Billy Evans and Bruce Mourhess, Tuesday's win over Roberts Wesleyan was the last time each of them will step onto the court in front of the student body to play basketball for the Highlanders. Evans, an Adolescent Education major from Copenhagen, New York will move on after 4 years of playing varsity basketball here at Houghton. Evans is a 5'10" guard, averaging 4.1 points and 2.1 assists per game running the point for the Highlanders. Bruce Mourhess has been a defensive specialist for the Highlanders for the past 4 years. He averages 3.6 points and has 21 steals on the season. Off the court, Mourhess, from Campbell, New York is pursuing a major in Physics. However, despite their statistics, their true contribution to the team is shown both on and off the court with their leadership abilities. Both of this year's seniors have made a major contribution to the growth of the team, and Mourhess spoke about that growth, saying: "As a senior I have really bonded with this year's team and have enjoyed becoming a team in the true sense of the word. To me the team is a family of guys that share everything, we share the joy of winning and the pain of losing, we share in the hardship and endure the struggles but we always do it; as our motto goes, "We Are One"." A former faculty member at Houghton who attended his first game in the '67-'68 season had the opportunity to watch the Highlanders play against the Mount Vernon Nazarene Cougars last week. He spoke to Coach Brad Zarges with respect to the Highlanders' performance, and commented "I saw them play in the seventies while I was a student,

a few games in the eighties and a whole bunch in the nineties up until now. Never have I seen a Houghton team with more heart, maturity and dedication - ever. There's a good bit of talent there as well but whatever is lacking is made up in much more effective ways...I was so proud of what I saw both on and off the court. The Highlanders of this season are a true team. I do hope that [they] are able to participate in the playoffs. There could be some real surprises."

As a team, the Highlanders pulled off an emphatic victory over rivals Roberts Wesleyan College with the chants of the "sixth man" heard loudly from the stands. Sophomore guard Ryan Shay led the team in scoring, with 19 points, and also grabbed 7 rebounds. The final score of 66-46 shows the Highlanders' domination both offensively and on the defensive side of the ball. In the second half, Houghton effectively shut down the Raiders, holding them to zero points in the first few minutes, meanwhile scoring freely. Other notable performances were Yannick Anzuluni who scored 18 points and J. Bryce Ireland, with 11.

With this win, the Highlanders are a bit closer to making the AMC playoffs, but would still need stunning performance through the next 2 games of the season. They will need victories in each of these games, including their upcoming game against Cedarville University, who is ranked 2nd in the nation in Division II of the NAIA. The Yellow Jackets are 25-3 this year, having only one loss in the American Midwest Conference, coming to Shawnee State in the end of January. The game between Cedarville and Houghton will take place on Friday night in the Nielsen Center at 8PM. Come out and support your Highlanders!



Photos by Mike Wise

Tuesday night brought an exciting victory for Houghton Men's Basketball.

Abandoned Devotion Gathering Focuses on Missions, Prayer

By Clara Sanders

Last Friday night, students met in Wesley Chapel for five hours of prayer and worship as part of the Abandoned Devotion Gathering, specifically focusing on worldwide missions awareness and prayer.

The Gathering, advertised with the slogan "Every Student Prays," originated at Bethany Bible College in Canada and has spread through many Wesleyan college campuses. Here at Houghton the gathering featured three periods of musical worship and intercession, interspersed with video clips about missions. Melissa Gilbert spoke about her experience as a missionary and provided the opportunity for students to sign cards that affirmed a calling to missions work—an example of what "Abandoned

Devotion" might look like for students.

Cindy Austin, a Global Partners representative, approached senior Dan Ballard about planning an Abandoned Devotion Gathering (ADG) here at Houghton. Such gatherings are held at Christian and secular universities across the nation and encouraged by the organization Student Volunteer Movement 2. Senior Jess Lord, who had participated in the Gathering at Bethany Bible College last year, also helped plan Friday's event, along with Ryan Johnson, Kaylan Reynolds, and Bethany Tennent.

Keeping in mind Houghton's existing emphasis on global involvement as a part of a liberal

arts education, the planning team focused on the need for intimacy with Christ in prayer and worship, furthering an understanding of personal and corporate communion with God as essential for any ministry.

"I think that the gathering was a good opportunity for students to come together for a time where worship was structured around

"I gained a greater living understanding of what...reckless abandon to God looks like."

a certain theme while also having the chance to learn about different ways God is working in the wider world," said senior Shane Marcus, who helped with music during

the event.

Incorporating times of guided prayer for missions, single people,

and the financial crisis here and abroad, ADG encouraged students to pray for the salvation of the nations and to consider overseas mission to peoples unreached by the gospel. In addition to song, prayer, video clips, and exhortation, attendees had the opportunity to testify to how God was working in their lives that night. Some students gave visual commitments to Christ through the lighting of a candle onstage while others were encouraged toward a deeper surrender to God.

"I did hear from a few people that the time of confession and repentance was difficult because of the way that it focused on sinfulness and depravity," said Ballard, "and this reminded us to make sure that proclamation of grace, redemption, and the power of the love of Christ

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Black History Month Celebrated Across Houghton Campus

By Ryan Ledebur

Across the United States, Black History Month is celebrated each February. This year the Houghton community continued its tradition of celebrating the accomplishments of great African-Americans with the rest of the country.

This year, the Heritage club facilitated activities with some additional assistance from Brian Webb, Director of Intercultural Student Programs. The Heritage Club took the lead in the planning this month's events to celebrate African-American culture and to help Houghton benefit from the value of that culture. Also providing assistance planning were professors Ndunge Kiiti, Marlene Collins-Blair and Justin Niati.

Adele Cameron is the president of the Heritage Club and hails from the Caribbean country of Guyana. The purpose of Black History Month is to "celebrate the lives of not only historic African-Americans but the lives of persons today who are of African heritage," Cameron says.

Cameron has been an active participant in Black History Month activities throughout her time at Houghton and hopes that "the continuing students will keep it alive" in the future.

Events this year began with a visit to an African-American church in the Rochester area on February 1. 22 Houghton students attended services at the Church of Love Faith Center under the leadership of Bishop Gregory and Pastor Myra Parris.

Houghton incorporated the church visit into the broader desire to wider students understanding of other forms of worship. Webb said, "I try to, twice a year, to take students to a church outside of their normal cultural church experience



Photo by Miki Keneko

The Gospel Choir performed several times in chapel, focusing on leading the campus to reflect on history and culture.

and [this visit] fit with Black History Month."

As in years past, the Heritage Club puttogether two chapel services that were focused on worship in the African-American style. The first chapel, entitled "Worship in the Arts" focused mainly on music and drama with worship being led by the Houghton Gospel Choir.

Adele Cameron, a senior and member of the Heritage Club headed up the chapel and shared regarding verses from Psalm 89. Following the chapel, many students had a very positive response to the setup and content of the service. Cameron remarked that she heard many students say that, "We should have more chapels like that!"

The Reverend Kenroy Teague of First Wesleyan Church in Brooklyn, NY gave the message at this past Wednesday's chapel. This chapel again featured the singing of the gospel choir under the leadership of

Priscilla Ozodo.

Thursday, February 12, the film The Great Debaters was shown with a panel discussion following. Panelists included Professors Rich Stegen, Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, and Laurie Dashnau; student Zina Teague; and Houghton trustee J. Anthony Lloyd.

Cameron commented that the forum went well. "The panel was very informative and very much in line with President Mullen's statements on diversity this year. They all expressed hope that in the future events such as this one would be better attended, but many questions were asked by those in attendance." Webb also believed the panel was a success though he echoed concerns that the numbers in attendance were small, a problem at several of the events this month.

The final special event for the month occurred Monday night, February 16 with the "Sweet Treats Coffeehouse" in Java 101.

Those in attendance enjoyed many desserts as well as entertainment that included stepping, stories and poetry, and jazz music.

Senior Jordan Zaner attended the coffeehouse and remarked that, "It was just a good time... a chance to celebrate Houghton's diversity. I had a great time dancing and learning how to dance." Zaner added that he thought the coffeehouse was a success and that many students turned out to enjoy the festivities.

Audrey Kusasira, a sophomore and member of the Heritage Club felt that the month had a positive impact on the campus. She says, "It was definitely a successful beginning and I am for sure looking forward to future... activities."

Other promotions for Black History Month have included an essay contest sponsored by the Heritage Club, special books for sale in the campus store, and a Soul Food bar in the cafeteria the first week of the month.

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are as much a part of the time of repentance as the confession of sin."

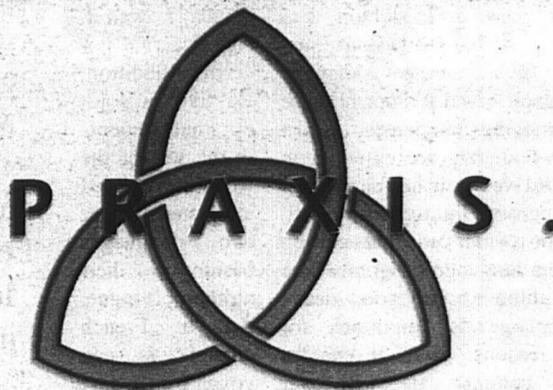
"I gained a greater living understanding of what total, reckless abandonment to God looks like for students our age," said senior Dan Rechlin, who attended most of the event and led one of the prayer sessions during the time of prayer for unreached people groups. "Through both Friday night and reading the Bible and other books I have been given a renewed vision of who exactly is in charge, as far as 'myself' is concerned, and who that person is and how much he longs to do with a life totally given to him."

There is a good possibility that Houghton will hold an Abandoned Devotion Gathering next year in hope of further revival and encouragement to commitment to Christ.

The outgoing Praxis working group is looking for motivated volunteers to work alongside Prof. Benjamin Lipscomb and Dean Brittain on next year's Praxis. Lipscomb and Brittain—and this year's student volunteers—will host an informal conversation with interested

students, shortly after February break. Anyone is welcome to show up and ask questions, without committing him- or herself.

Watch and listen for announcements, soon.





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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Today's chapel, featuring the final farewell of Black History Month, was not originally an unsettling thing for me. I do not believe myself to be racist in any way, nor am I against spiritually-oriented videos shown before the main speaker. Today's video, however, caused me to sincerely doubt the intentions of those who made this video, and the ideals of our college for showing such a clip.

I found the main substance of the video to be somewhat inspiring, looking back on the past, African-American heroes projected larger-than-life on the screen. Fitting for the end of this month that America has set apart to remember and celebrate Black History, I knew that the video would most likely contain some reference to our new President. May I state again that I do not believe myself to be racist, and while I did not vote for President Obama and do not support many of his policies, I respect him as the leader of our country.

I DO NOT, however, under ANY circumstances, idolize him as he was portrayed at the conclusion of the video. Rather than simply include him as a staple part of this historical compilation, the end of a hymn about God's liberation of African-

Americans was not ended on a note reflecting the thanks to God for grace, freedom and opportunity. Instead, "Mr. President" was emblazoned underneath a statuesque portrait of the President.

How can this possibly be appropriate for chapel? How can this ever be accepted as appropriate for display at the end of what appeared to be a God-centered video clip?

Thank God for the freedom that has been given to Blacks in our country. But we shall not give credit, whether intentional or not, to a man who is not a savior, nor a staple part of "black history". He has made history through his election, but he is not the author of it.

-Hannah Yanega, class of 2012

Dear Editors,

The backlash Spot's "Joe-Awesome" video has taken seems incredibly unfair to me. Spot is known for parody. This skit was not attacking Joe as a person, it was parodying the videos that we upperclassmen have come to know and expect. This is the first year in a while with no video from Joe and it served as a nostalgic reminder. Anyone who has actually seen Joe's videos should know that he himself was doing a great deal of 'making fun.' Joe is a good sport. Would he really be offended that his videos are memorable enough to pop up even after his graduation in future skits. But yes, it is certainly a parody of

his videos. So what? It was not at all unique or alone. Why was there no uproar about the "Soccer Crew" who were blatantly parodying "Stage Crew" from spots past? Is it because that wasn't attacking an individual person? Well what about the countless number of skits with impersonations of faculty members? Anyone remember the celebrity jeopardy skit? Each professor was impersonated right down to their mannerisms. In fact a chapel speaker (who certainly was not present) was teased.

Alex Glover's songs frequently poke fun at the administration of our college, yet no one takes that seriously. Students here know that Spot is all in good fun. Sure there should be some tact in what acts are let in, but the student body should also be slow to take offense. In fact, I find it far more offensive that the Joe-Awesome skit was picked out of the bunch as inappropriate. By pointing out this skit as mean, you are basically saying that Joe can't be picked on like everyone else because he's, to quote the letters sent in, "socially awkward."

Wow guys. Are you saying that it's wrong to make fun of Joe because Joe IS in fact uncool?? The response to the video was in my opinion a far greater insult to Joe. The video itself: hardly different than any other skit. The response to it: an offensive assumption toward Joe as a person.

-Noelle Gravely, class of 2011

La Importancia de los Idiomas: Houghton's Academic Blind Spot

Foreign languages should be a vital part of any "academic community" - recent events suggest Houghton doesn't acknowledge this

by Abigail Nelson

Excusez-moi ... Ich habe nicht verstanden... Non capisco...

Although most students have had little reason to worry about their majors despite the changes that have been taking place recently here at Houghton, I'm beginning to be a little concerned about the Foreign Language department. And it's not because I'm studying languages: I just simply feel they are essential in the world we live in and should not be disregarded lightly. As a result, I'm not convinced that cutting back the language programs here at Houghton is a very good idea.

Language is important for many reasons. First, it enables us to communicate with our neighbors. Houghton's theme after all is *community*. How can we be effective in reaching out to the others if we can't communicate with them? Language shouldn't merely be the concern of students going overseas long term, it's also essential to the students who remain in the U.S.

Language is also vital in

missions, and as the intercultural studies program is one of the larger majors offered here, I would think watching the language department shrink would be concerning to more than just a few. One doesn't have to go far to find someone who speaks a different language, even in America.

In addition, I'd like to point out that students in the rest of the world are required to master *at least* two languages besides their mother tongue. As a French citizen I can vouch for the fact that one cannot be viable in the business world without being at least bilingual, preferably multilingual. Language is important in the rest of the world; I think it's time we stopped talking about reaching out to others and actually started doing something.

Furthermore, I know that being

able to study a foreign language is important to students as many have chosen Houghton to be a part of its language program. I also know students who haven't come to the school because Houghton doesn't offer very many languages. I met a student recently who commented:

**Language does
enable us to be
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Learning another
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integral part of
a liberal arts
education.**

"I am a language major and the languages are what I came here for in the first place, so if the language department gets cut that might be the deciding factor as to whether or not I stay at Houghton. There are plenty of schools that have science and business majors but not many

these days offer languages as an option. We can't escape the need to learn other languages one way or the other, and by cutting the program down, I think, this school is making a big mistake."

Finally, even if these reasons

sound unimportant, I think we'd all agree that language does enable us to be well-rounded, informed, and interesting people. Learning another language is an integral part of a liberal arts education, which is what we're all striving for.

Out of curiosity I asked around to see what others thought about the changes taking place in our language department and here were some of the responses:

"Liberal arts schools are not supposed to cast aside smaller programs. Part of a liberal arts education entails rounding students, which includes making them well-versed in another language. In Europe, most students have to master at least one other language. I think that keeping the foreign language program is a step towards stripping away ignorance," commented Monica Sandreczki.

"I am sad that there will be a downsizing of any kind in the foreign language department here at Houghton. Learning a language is the key to learning any world culture, and may be one of the

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From the Editors' Desk...

Relational Apps: Our Misplaced Faith in Technology

What is to be made of a culture where almost unavoidably large amounts of our time and attention are put into gadgets rather than people

by Amy Buckingham

The rapid progression of technology is overwhelming. New gadgets are continually being thrust at the public, seeming to make the previous "new thing" completely obsolete. The technological world is moving ahead at such a pace that we can scarcely keep up with it, let alone understand it. If we're not going bankrupt with buying the most advanced gadgetry, we're underestimating the full capabilities of these objects.

It's all we can do to keep from feeling overwhelmed, but we would do well to keep in mind that this pace is not unique to the present. In *The Dynamo* and *The Virgin*, the reflections of Henry Adams on the advancement of technology are similar to those contemplated by many today. At the Great Exposition in Chicago in 1900, surrounded the latest advances in technology, Adams is "aching to absorb knowledge, and helpless to find it." The dynamos, the machinery he contemplates means very little to him without the information necessary to understand it. The knowledge of data is always moving forward, whether or not we can fully grasp the implications of that.

"The astonishing complexities of the... automobile, which, since 1893, had become a night-mare at a hundred kilometers and hour, almost as destructive as the electric tram... threatening to become as terrible as the locomotive steam-engine." This is a gluttonous habit; always reaching ahead for the next idea and bypassing those things that we presume to be insignificant or tedious. Adams' lack of understanding comes from the jump to a new kind of technology without the necessary work in learning in between. Adams' is less able to appreciate all that is the dynamo because he has not taken the time or been

given the opportunity to fully understand it.

A similar trend is present in the current time, a time of editing and choosing what is kept and what is cut. We only keep what is deemed to be 'good' and scrap the rest. We reduce albums to their singles, often looking past significant contributions to the musical world. We're an age of editors, of *Reader's Digest*, cutting out what we deem to be irrelevant and unimportant, leaving what is left, presumably, only the good, to be underappreciated.

In many cases, this editing is a necessary and often admirable practice, say, for an essay. But when we begin to edit the rest of the world, the question should be asked: what are we losing? This loss takes a tangible form in current technology. Cell phones have capabilities that one could barely imagine fifty years ago (much less the cell phones themselves). Each cell phone owner has a small computer, MP3 player or GPS in their pocket. While streamlining these devices into one package seems ideal, it renders the rest of the objects, the items whose sole purpose is to play MP3s or pinpoint ones global position, completely irrelevant.

A recent article in *Time Magazine* by James Poniewozik entitled "Viewing Outside the Box" discusses the relevance and transformation of television, both the experience and the object, in culture today. Discussing the different forms that television can now be experienced in, Poniewozik says, "I watched 30 Rock in high-quality video on my laptop through Hulu.com.

My iPhone doubled as a wireless video device. By downloading free apps like Joost and Truveo, I could use its brilliantly lit display to watch last night's *Daily Show* and *Gilmore Girls* reruns... I watched *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* on the subway, *The Office* in my office."

While this convenience is initially pleasing, more thought is necessary on what decisions are actually being made. It's unconscious editing, making the decision to watch a TV show or listen to a playlist rather than interact with the surrounding world. It's choosing the "good" of entertainment from the writers of NBC instead of what is often mistaken for tedious or insignificant relational interactions.

This media and technology affect the way we act in our relationships. A clear example of this is in the ever-growing popularity of online dating services. We are putting trust in technology to make relational connections instead of putting the work into it ourselves. Is it possible to fully appreciate these good relationships when we're skipping the necessary effort put into finding and cultivating them? Maybe it is the nature of the present time that technology should have such a prominent place within relationships. A commentary on this influence can be found in popular media today, in the film *He's Just Not That Into You*, a central character makes the observation, "I had this guy leave me a voicemail at work so I called him at home and then he e-mailed

me to my BlackBerry and so I texted to his cell. And now you just have to go around checking all these different portals just to get rejected by seven different technologies. It's exhausting."

Thus, the logical conclusion to spring from these facts seems to be to cut technology altogether, to stop watching TV, listening to music or using the computer. Not only is this completely impractical, but it is also unnecessary.

Of TV, Poniewozik says, "For a good half-century, 'watching TV' meant one thing. It was something you did at home, with friends or family... you experienced a broadcast exactly when and how millions of others did or you did not experience it at all. This was why mass media were culturally unifying: those moments that mattered, we all saw in exactly the same way."

Media can be a uniting factor as well as a dividing one. Relationship building should not restrict the media, if only because it can also bring people together. Bonding can happen over enjoyment of a similar TV show, like *Friends* or *The Office*, or in listening to a record with others. These are forms of media, but significant relationships have been formed from a similar interest in movie genre or blog content, making the discrediting of these forms of media unwise.

As admirable as it sounds, to cut media out of one's life altogether by being a cutthroat editor of what this culture exposes us to requires some further thought. Far more commendable than going cold turkey on the media would be applying critical thought, discerning the worthless while holding on to what is valuable.

Amy is a sophomore Humanities major, and serves as the news editor.

When it comes to relationships, we are putting our trust in technology to make connections, instead of putting the work into it ourselves.

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most useful skills learned here at Houghton." Mike Danylak, president of SGA.

All this being said, I'd like to add that I did listen to President Mullen's chapel on Monday. I understand that the measures being taken are simply preventative so as to avoid any real financial crisis in the future. Naturally, I want to do all I can to keep the school here. I also would like to get a well-rounded education.

Abigail is a freshman Humanities major.

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artist: OF THE WEEK: EMILY SCARBOROUGH

Notes from the artist:

I enjoy graphic design both as a means of personal expression and communication. Of course, ideally I am able to combine those two things and that is what I hope to do with an art major. I think graphic design can be used to further a worthwhile purpose and not just add to the barrage of information that we see. Working with different kinds of images is exciting and I don't think I will ever be done learning and exploring the many ways art can be created and enjoyed.

Emily is a senior Art major with a concentration in Graphic Design.



Silence, digital image



Five, digital image

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO MAKES OUTSTANDING ARTWORK? Do you think they should be featured in an issue of the STAR? Nominate artists you know by sending an email with nominee's name to STAR@HOUGHTON.EDU

CROSSWORD challenge

Submit completed crossword to STAR office for the chance to win a puzzle book!

Across

- 1 Traveler's guidebook
- 9 Mooches
- 15 Nun from a teaching order
- 16 Many people walk by this
- 17 Kept from leaving
- 18 Bond portrayal Brosnan
- 19 Safe deposit box milieu
- 20 Penniless
- 22 Constellation near Scorpius
- 23 Region divided by the Ural Mountains
- 26 Test for college srs.
- 27 "Of course!"
- 29 Pulls along
- 30 Takes legal action against
- 31 Alexandria native
- 33 Maltese and Pekingese, e.g.
- 35 Auctioneer's final word
- 36 Bomb or tank
- 37 Indian Literature Nobelists: 1913
- 40 Permanently
- 44 Grades 1-6: Abbr.
- 45 Irene Cara's "Fame" role
- 46 Leave flabbergasted
- 47 River through eastern France
- 48 Traffic sign with a human stick figure
- 51 "The Sopranos" network
- 52 German surrealist painter
- 54 Few: prefix
- 56 Log-on need

- 57 It's turned backward at the ballfield
- 60 Composer Rachmaninoff
- 61 Subject of a nostalgic love song
- 62 Pigeonhole
- 63 Like some loafers

Down

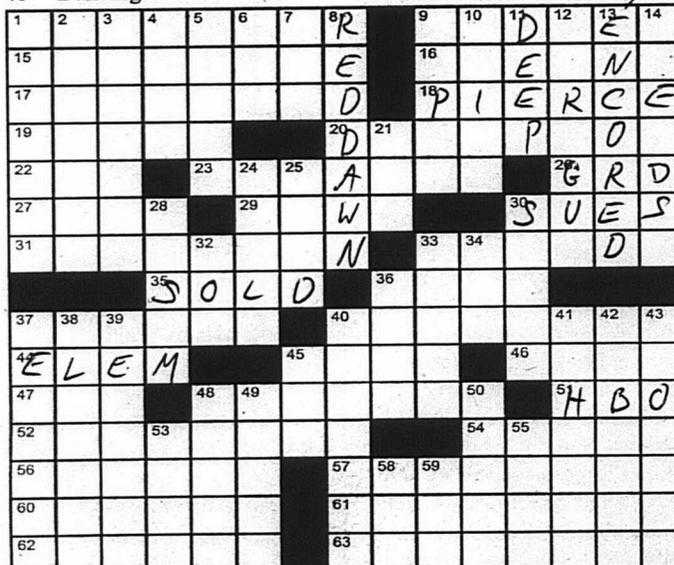
- 1 Breakable housewarming gift
- 2 You might put it down in the foyer
- 3 Where saltwater meets freshwater
- 4 Twofold
- 5 Crème de a crème
- 6 Relatives
- 7 Opposite of WSW
- 8 1984 Patrick Swayze film about a Soviet invasion
- 9 Bay of Naples island
- 10 Heartburn
- 11 Watergate's ___ Throat
- 12 Deviate from team strategy
- 14 Played or sang again
- 14 Forward-looking woman?
- 21 Unit of Time: abbr.
- 24 It's worth one point in Scrabble
- 25 Word with trip or hog
- 28 Racetrack town near London
- 30 Monica who won 2 U.S.

Opens

- 32 NHL's Maple Leafs, on the ticker
- 33 Powerful financier
- 34 Smits of the NBA
- 36 Points of convergence
- 37 Women's soccer gold medalists in Beijing
- 38 List on a rap sheet
- 39 They reached adulthood in the 1980s
- 40 "Dancing With the Stars"

category

- 41 Aboveboard
- 42 Toad in the hole, for one
- 43 Peeked at a diary, perhaps
- 45 They're "burned" indoors
- 48 One using a crowbar
- 49 Break up
- 50 Goes driving?
- 53 Therefore
- 55 Singer Lovett
- 58 In the style of
- 59 The Mormons, initially?



Puzzle constructor Brad Wilber ('91) is a member of the library faculty. His puzzles appear regularly in the New York Times and the Los Angeles