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Highlanders Excel at NCCAA Nationals



COURTESY OF KATE TAGGART

Members of the track and field team traveled to Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana to compete in the NCCAA championship.

MICAH CRONIN

Members of Houghton College's track and field team put forward impressive performances over February break at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) championship. The meet was held at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. While many of the competing schools dwarfed

Houghton in size, the Highlander men managed to finish in nineteenth place, while the women finished twelfth, according to a Houghton Highlanders press release. Nicole Fink '17 said of the caliber of competition, "It's tough to walk onto a track as one of the smallest schools of the meet from a place in New York that nobody has

See **NCCAA** page 3

Two Devoted Faculty Get Tenure

EMMA CARPENTER

This spring, Houghton College's Board of Trustees approved professor of mathematics Rebekah Yates and professor of intercultural studies, biology, and Earth science Eli Knapp for tenure, the culmination of a multi-year evaluation process by Houghton's Rank and Tenure Committee.

According to Linda Mills Woolsey, Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic Affairs, faculty members hired into Houghton's tenure track go through three tenure evaluations over their first six years at Houghton. In their second year, faculty face a departmental review, which includes faculty peer review and an evaluation by the department chair. Faculty members are evaluated again in their fourth and sixth years, both by their department and by the Rank and Tenure Committee, which is chaired by Mills Woolsey.

According to professor

Douglas Gaerte, a member of the Rank and Tenure Committee, the committee goes over all the material that has been collected for a given faculty member, including peer reviews, self-evaluations, and teaching evaluations done by students.

Each candidate for tenure is assigned a case manager from the Rank and Tenure Committee, said Gaerte, who served as Yates' case manager. Gaerte interviewed members of Yates' department, as well as eleven different

students, including both upper-level math majors and first-years. Likewise, Gaerte said that when he was up for tenure, his case manager interviewed not only communication majors, but also students who had taken a communication class with Gaerte for integrative studies credit. According to Gaerte, this allows the Rank and Tenure Committee to determine whether the ten-

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ANTHONY BURDO

MICHAEL SIEVERS

Rebekah Yates, professor of mathematics, and Eli Knapp, professor of intercultural studies, biology, and earth science, received tenure after a long process of evaluations over the course of six years.

Lacrosse Starts Hopeful Season

ALICIA NEEDHAM

The men's lacrosse team have a new competitive advantage to their team this year, a strong recruiting class comprised of many freshman and transfer students. "We could have as many as five new guys starting this season," said head men's lacrosse coach Joey Wilmot. "That's a big change in dynamics, when half of your starters are guys that weren't on the team the previous season." Captain Josh Bailey '15 added, "It will be interesting to see how the team will work together and how they will succeed with a lot more talent on the team this season."

Their first game is March 5 against Theil College

Mission Work in the Most Dangerous City in the U.S.



COURTESY OF JUSTIN BULLARD

SASF students Justin Bullard '16, Ruthanna Watz '17, Jimmy Hughes '16, and Emily Wing '18 served at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden, New Jersey to do missions work.

DANI EATON

Over February break, a group of Houghton students

traveled to Camden, New Jersey with the Salvation Army Student Fellowship (SASF) on a mission to serve

God and the community.

The SASF, according to vice president Marcella Wheeler '16, is comprised

of students who either attended the Salvation Army church before coming to Houghton or found the Salvation Army through the SASF while attending Houghton. Members of the SASF, according to Wheeler, "attend The Salvation Army in Wellsville participating in all that goes on there: kids activities, women's programs, Sunday School, and Worship are a huge part of what keeps it going."

The Salvation Army, whose slogan is "Doing the Most Good," is known for their dedication to helping people in need of emotional, physical, and spiritual assistance. Wheeler said, "With the SASF being a group so closely connected with The Salvation Army, we're going to Camden because it is a high poverty, high crime,

See **SASF** page 3

See **LACROSSE** page 2

National // First U.S. Uterus Transplant Successful



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

On Friday February 26, the Cleveland Clinic, in Cleveland, Ohio performed the first uterus transplant in the United States. According to National Public Radio (NPR), the procedure took nine hours, and the 26 year old patient was reported to be in stable condition. The organ, like many other organs used in transplants, came from a deceased donor.

The woman was one of ten selected for the clinical trial of the operation. All ten women selected were either born with a condition called Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndrome (a condition in which one is born with an underdeveloped or absent uterus), had to have their uterus removed, or lack a functioning uterus. Uterine factor infertility (UFI), however, while similar is also different. UFI is the inability to carry a pregnancy due to a lack of uterus, whether one was born without one, theirs doesn't function properly, or they've had their uterus removed. According to CNN the condition is irreversible and affects 3-5% of women in the world. According to the New York times, there are thought to be 50,000 women in the United States alone that would qualify as candidates for a transplant because of UFI. However, the ethics panel at the Cleveland hospital gave permission for the clinic to perform the procedure only ten times, as an experiment.

While the options of using a surrogate or adoption have also been available for these women, Dr. Andreas G. Tzakis, the

leader of the surgery team that conducted the transplant said, "for reasons that are personal, cultural, or religions" women may choose not to go through with these options. An unnamed woman being screened as a candidate for the transplant, however, was quoted in a New York Times article as having a different reason for wanting to pursue the operation rather than hiring a surrogate or adopting. "I crave that experience," she said. "I want the morning sickness, the backaches, the feet swelling. I want to feel the baby move. That is something I've wanted for as long as I can remember."

Before the clinic's success the only other country that had successfully performed a uterus transplant was Sweden. So far, doctors at the University of Gothenburg have performed nine successful transplants. CNN reported that of the nine women to get transplants, five women have gotten pregnant resulting in four live births. However, all the women in Sweden received transplants from live donors. According to the New York Times Tzakis, who has performed 4,000-5,000 organ transplants, traveled to the Uni-

versity of Gothenburg to work with doctors who have been successful with their transplants.

While the transplant is a significant part of the process to an alternative route to pregnancy, it is only a small part of the process these women will go through before giving birth. The process begins before the transplant when the patient's eggs are harvested and frozen. After a year post-transplant, allowing for healing and the adjustment of anti-rejection medication, the patient's eggs will be artificially inseminated and implanted until the patient becomes pregnant. After heavy observation and one or two babies are delivered through cesarean section, the uterus will be removed to avoid prolonged exposure to medication.

While the temporary transplant is an impressive advancement in the medical field, some feel as though it is not as necessary as others may think. Dr. Michael Green of Massachusetts General Hospital views uterine transplants as a quality-of-life issue and has been quoted as stating, "Nobody needs a uterus to live, OK?" A NPR article also reports Green as wonder-

ing "whether health care dollars should be spent on uterine transplants when a woman who lacks a uterus can turn to a surrogate mother to provide her with a child — if she can afford it, that is." The Cleveland clinic, however, argued that surrogacy isn't always an option, "In the U.S., the surrogacy process can be legally complicated. In many other countries, surrogacy is highly restricted or even banned."★

Dani is a junior majoring in communication and writing with a minor in political science.

LACROSSE *from page 1*

in Greenville, Pa. The Highlanders are looking to improve their record and overall team performance from last season. The team is still developing as it is only the fifth season it has been an official sport at Houghton. During the off-season, the returning players worked hard to improve their lacrosse skills

with conditioning, weight lifting, and practicing with fellow teammates. Captain Paul Chapman '17 said, "The team is a great group of guys who work hard and persevere to honor God on and off the field."

In regard to coaching style Wilmot had this to say, "We will be using offensive and defensive midfielders for the first time this year and we have a

completely new offensive playbook." The coaching staff is confident the new system will impact the team's performance as the season progresses. There will also be role changes due to the many recruits joining the team. "These recruits will be looked toward to step up and help out the team on the field" said Chapman. "5 of our new players will likely take on start-

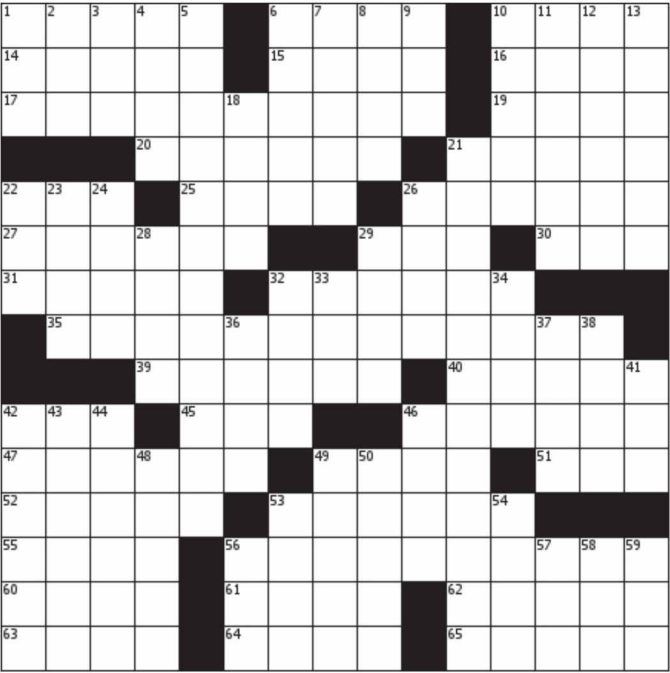
ing roles including between the pipes as a goalie who will be directing our defense."

Since entering the Empire 8 conference, the team has faced some tough competitors, but the coaching staff believes these recruits can make a big impact on the team. This season, one of the team's goals include being one of the top 10 "most improved" teams in the country.

Another one of their goals is to win an award in their region of the Empire 8 conference that as a team best exemplifies good sportsmanship. "We have a great group of guys here on the team," said Wilmot. "High quality individuals that are eager to learn the sport, but more importantly use the sport as a foundation to minister."★

Want to write? Email us at editor@houghtonstar.com

Crossword of the Week



- Across**
- 1. Type of pass
 - 6. Timber dresser
 - 10. Quarterback's dread
 - 14. Piece of the past
 - 15. Form spirals
 - 16. Muscat's locale
 - 17. Whew!
 - 19. Fido's reward
 - 20. Like an oath

- 21. Beef
- 22. 1968 hit "Harper Valley ____"
- 25. Early automaker
- 26. Expressed in words
- 27. Projecting bay windows
- 29. Vacuum's lack
- 30. Long-eared equine
- 31. Washington or Shore
- 32. "Fine with me"
- 35. Whew!
- 39. Most confident
- 40. Feeling of unease
- 42. Krait kin
- 45. Follow a pattern, perhaps
- 46. Word with bath or cake
- 47. China shop purchase
- 49. South Seas island
- 51. Perfect score, for some
- 52. Aligns properly
- 53. Makes the transition
- 55. With the greatest of ____
- 56. Whew!
- 60. Zoomed
- 61. Mainframe fodder

- 62. Premature
 - 63. Miss Derbyfield
 - 64. Iron and Ice
 - 65. Overused
- Down**
- 1. Debater's position
 - 2. Mat slapper
 - 3. Pointy shoe wearer
 - 4. Gathers dust
 - 5. They facilitate learning
 - 6. Needed liniment
 - 7. Start for the last day?
 - 8. Jerusalem temple locale
 - 9. Caribou relative
 - 10. Judgelike
 - 11. Bio 101 study
 - 12. Sailcloth
 - 13. Prepares to pray
 - 18. 90-degree shapes
 - 21. Some antiques
 - 22. Legume shell
 - 23. Bass, piano and sax, e.g.
 - 24. Hokkaido-born person
 - 26. Canyon attraction

- 28. Has a little lamb?
- 29. Arm thugs
- 32. Simmer slowly
- 33. Expressions of surprise
- 34. Corrida loser
- 36. Guitar neck feature
- 37. Depression of a sort
- 38. Herb of wisdom?
- 41. Jungle retreat
- 42. Certify by oath
- 43. Colorful wrap
- 44. Takes a breather
- 46. Veer
- 48. The higher ones are usually better
- 49. Davis of Hollywood
- 50. Turkish bigwigs
- 53. Unforeseen difficulty
- 54. Blind part
- 56. Rhoda's mother on "Rhoda"
- 57. Time of note
- 58. None excluded
- 59. Grain in a Salinger title

TENURE from page 1

ure candidate is qualified to teach both entry and upper-level classes.

Once the Rank and Tenure Committee has performed its final evaluation and met with the tenure candidate, the Mills Woolsey makes a recommendation to Houghton’s president, Shirley Mullen. “If the president agrees with the recommendation,” said Mills Woolsey, “the Dean’s summary of the case and recommendation

are given to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. If the AAC votes for tenure and promotion, the names are taken to the full Board who vote to confirm the tenure and promotion.”

According to Yates, the Rank and Tenure Committee assesses faculty members’ suitability for tenure on a number of factors, including disciplinary competence and relevance, such as how well a professor knows, and is up-to-date on, his or her field, as well as integration of faith into a professor’s teaching, scholarship, and service.

“For the final tenure re-

view,” said Yates, “the faculty member has to also submit some form of scholarship addressing the integration of faith and learning in the faculty member’s discipline; this often takes the form of a paper but can also be a sermon, a performance, a work of art, etc.”

Gaerte said fewer colleges nationwide are offering tenure. “The vast majority of [Houghton’s] faculty are full-time professors,” said Gaerte, adding that this encourages professors to commit themselves to Houghton and to their students.

Mills Woolsey said tenure

“strengthens an institution by providing a means of mutual commitment between faculty members and the institution they serve.” She added that the tenure evaluation process is designed both to determine whether professors are a good long-term fit for their position, and to help committed faculty members improve.

“When faculty members are not doing as well as we would like,” said Mills Woolsey, “the review process often helps them to make thoughtful decisions about improving their work or looking for a position with a better fit.”

Yates commented on her experience as a newly-tenured faculty member, “Having had tenure for about a week and a half now (and technically it doesn’t really start until next academic year, but the decision is already made), I don’t feel terribly qualified to answer how being tenured affects my role.”

However, she added “It’s a nice confirmation that the work I have been doing at Houghton that I feel is what God has called me to do is also valuable enough to the College that they want me to stay long term.”★

SASF from page 1

and highly homeless population in which The Salvation Army is known as ones who provide food, health assistance, and a place of warmth, love, support.”

According to CNN Money, based on FBI statistics in 2012 Camden had the single highest crime rate in America, reporting 67 homicides over the course of the year. In addition to a high crime rate, the town is also plagued by a drug epidemic, homelessness, and poverty. Wheeler said the SASF’s mission was to do their part in “making a difference in people’s lives

who have almost nothing.” Jimmy Hughes ‘16, president of SASF, described Camden as “a city that needs love.”

Justin Bullard ‘16, one of the students who went on the trip, said the city’s crime rate never really bothered him, “I wasn’t worried about the safety of the location, I was just excited about being able to do missions in our own country instead of going out of the country.” Bullard said, for him, the area was one of the largest reasons he went. He said, “I know it’s an area that probably doesn’t get as much attention.”

While the SASF goes on a mission trip each year during February break, Hughes said this trip was different in that it was much more people-centered “We are striving

to make meaningful connections in a city that needs people’s love,” he said. Students had many opportunities to interact with members of the community through meals, service projects, and community clean up.

A large part of the group’s time was spent at the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center (the Kroc Center). The Kroc Center, which opened in October 2014, and serves people based on the Salvation Army mission which states, “[The Salvation Army’s] mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.” The Kroc Center offers many programs community members can participate in,

and the SASF had a chance to help with. Some of those programs include an after-school program called Kroc Kids, a daily morning prayer, a weekly youth group, Bible studies, and Sunday worship.

In addition to helping at the Kroc Center, SASF members went to the Transportation Center in Camden, which Wheeler describes as a “tram station.” Members of the homeless community often reside near or around the Transportation Center, and students had the opportunity “to give out hot drinks, food, gloves, hats, scarves and to talk with the people around the area to be of spiritual support through listening to and pray with them,” said Wheeler. Students also had the opportunity to assist in helping

members of the homeless community by volunteering at a soup kitchen called Cathedral’s Kitchen, where they serve hot meals to 200-300 people a day.

Wheeler had high hopes for the group’s takeaway from the trip. She said, “I want us to leave with a greater awareness, concern, and love for those who we become oblivious to in our blessed lives and with hearts overflowing with desire to do something more each day.” Bullard echoed this and said, “It was really humbling to see people in these situations and see that I’m much better off than I thought. It also showed me that I’m in a much better position to help others than I thought.”★

NCCAA from page 1

ever heard of. Houghton was quite the underdog but we all arrived focused and ready to do all that we could to represent our school.”

The women’s team competed in the distance medley relay (Rebekah White ‘18, Kate Taggart ‘18, Nikki Garns ‘18, and Joanna Friesen ‘17), the pole vault (Fiona Daloia ’17), the 60 meter hurdles (Fink), the high jump (Fink), the 4x800 meter run (White, Taggart, Garns, and Friesen), and the 4x200 meter run (White, Garns, Daloia, and Kasey Cannister ’17).

In each event on the women’s side, the Highlanders placed sixteenth or higher, with the distance

medley relay (DMR) barely missing All American status, finishing fourth with a time of 12:29.01, less than a second short of the six-year-old school record of 12:28.60. Also noteworthy was the 4x800 meter relay performance, in which the DMR foursome of White, Taggart, Garns, and Friesen came together again to, not only set a new school record, but also finish second with a time of 9:27.85 to gain All-American honors.

Of the record-smashing performance, Taggart said, “I have never run that fast in my life.” She recognized her teammates, and added, “Being able to receive an All American title is very special and exciting, but running with three other girls who are incredible teammates and

friends is priceless.”

On the men’s side, the Highlanders put forth solid performances with eleventh place in the 4x200 meter relay (Cory McCarty ‘17, John Zamites ‘19, Chris Roe ‘19, and Austin Andryshak ’19), eighth place in the 800 meter run (McCarty), and tenth place in the triple jump (Malik Bullock ’19). McCarty ran a season best in the 800 meter run, with a time of 1:58.53. “Everything went as planned,” McCarty said of his solo performance, “I mentally trusted Coach Hager’s plan, I mentally and physically trusted my legs, and in the end I popped out a 1:58 which was a season best, and one of my fastest college indoor times. Hopefully as [the outdoor track and field season] comes along I’ll be

able to get [my 800 meter run time] down to 1:54.”

Head track and field coach Patrick Hager expressed his pride in a Highlanders press release, and said, “[McCarty] ran with a higher sense of purpose, and it paid off.”

Hager also observed that the men’s 4x200 meter relay recorded the fastest time the Highlanders have seen in the last three years. First year student athlete Austin Andryshak ‘19 said, “I think it was obvious how prepared we were. Any meet where you are able to record your best time shows how much preparation you put in during practice....[Hopefully] by senior year we aren’t just there, but we are in the mix [to win].”

The trend of confidence among the men’s first year athletes also extended to

Bullock, the lone triple jumper that represented Houghton at the meet. Bullock noted how much he enjoyed experiencing the NCCAA championship as a freshman, as well as befriending his fellow competitors. Shifting his focus to the upcoming outdoor season, he said, “The elements outside won’t be enough to stop me from reaching for the stars.”

While both the men’s and women’s national teams brought home a determined focus on the spring track and field season, the memories made at the NCCAA track and field championship will last a lifetime, according to Taggart. “It was an overall amazing team effort we put forth,” she said. “This will be something I remember forever.”★

Sports: Scores and Standings

Men’s Baseball
Overall Record: 1-7
Current Streak: L4

Women’s Softball
Overall Record: 5-5
Current Streak: L2

“The Phantom of Opera is Here”

CARINA MARTIN

For the first time in two years, a Broadway musical is coming to Houghton. In two performances over March 11th and 12th, members of the Houghton Lyric Theatre will present Andrew Lloyd Weber’s classic *The Phantom of the Opera* on the chapel stage. The production features Tim McGowan ’16 in the titular role. Katie Kriedler ’17 and Andrea Crickard ’17 will portray Christine Daaé on Friday and Saturday respectively, while Ian Patrick ’17 and James Johnson ’18 will likewise share the role of Raoul de Chagny.

Traditionally, the Houghton Lyric Theatre presents a musical or opera every spring. Shows are selected based on current students’ skill sets, and *Phantom* was chosen as this year’s production both because of its legendary popularity and the current ensemble’s potential. “We have an award-winning ensemble,” said Assistant Professor of Voice and Opera Mitchell Hutchings, who is helming the show. “I knew we had a student body that could fill the main roles in



Students of the Houghton Lyric Theatre practicing a sequence in *The Phantom of the Opera*. *Phantom* was chosen as this year’s production due to its popularity and the current ensemble’s potential.

Phantom this year.”
The Phantom of the Opera first opened on Broadway in 1988. Featuring a now-iconic score from Andrew Lloyd Weber, the show was an immediate smash hit. Lauded by critics and eagerly devoured by audiences, the show collected an impressive seven awards—including Best Musical—at the 1988 Tonys. *Phantom* is still running strong after over eleven thousand performances, making it the longest-running show ever to hit Broadway.
Over the years, the saga

of the outcast composer who haunts a Parisian opera house and his infatuation with the precocious soprano Christine Daaé has enchanted audiences all over the globe. *Phantom*’s ubiquity in the theatre world comes with a unique set of challenges for adaptation for the college stage, but matches those challenges with plenty of opportunities for growth. “It’s challenged me vocally and required me to perform at a very high standard,” Johnson shared of his role. “The entire cast is extremely talented and I’ve been

inspired by them to work hard.”

Such a large and intricate production provides diverse opportunities for student collaboration. According to Hutchings, about thirty students are registered for the associated course and involved at every level of production, from the principal cast and the technical crew to the chorus and pit orchestra. Hannah Jager ’18, a member of the chorus, said that the experience has been a uniquely rewarding one: “While the number of people who we’re trying to coordinate is intense, it’s been amazing getting to know some many different, talented individuals.”

Starring in a show that has had such an undeniable impact on generations of theatre-goers can be intimidating—but it’s a challenge that the current Houghton cast is excited to take on. “I first saw *The Phantom of the Opera* when I was about twelve,” Crickard shared. “I started listening to the CD and singing the music all the time.” McGowan recounted a similar experience: “When I was a kid I went as the *Phantom* for Halloween...it has been very intimidating, but even more exciting!”

Can audiences expect to see the famous opera house set?

“Think of it as an elaborately staged concert,” Hutchings explained. Although the show will not feature a full Broadway-style set, it will incorporate the show’s trademark elegant costumes, thrilling staged combat and choreography, and the titular character’s iconic masks. “Musicals encompass so many forms of art in one” said Kriedler. “I believe there really is something for everyone to grab on to and cherish.”

Hutchings is enthused by the high amount of tickets sold so far, and hopes for an even larger turnout. “The energy between a cast and audience is vital to a successful run,” he shared. “A large and energetic audience changes the entire presentation.” For this reason, Houghton Lyric Theater is encouraging students to invite friends and show up to support the cast and crew’s hard work.

“People love *The Phantom of the Opera*,” Hutchings acknowledged, “and we are ready to give it our all.”

The Phantom of the Opera will run on the Wesley Chapel stage on March 11th at 7:30 p.m. and March 12th at 2 p.m. Admission is \$15, or \$5 for Houghton students. Tickets are available at the door or at houghton.edu/opera.★

Review: Brooklyn

THOMAS ECKERT
SOPHIA ROSS

Among the darker period films nominated for Best Picture at this year’s Academy Awards, *Brooklyn* stands out as a tender, but equally powerful tale. The 2015 film, directed by John Crowley, is based on the 2009 novel of the same title by Colm Tóibín. It stars Saoirse Ronan, Emory Cohen, Domhnall Gleeson, Julie Walters, and Jim Broadbent.

Brooklyn follows Eilis Lacey, played by Ronan, a young woman whose sister arranges for her to leave her small hometown on the coast of Ireland to live and work in Brooklyn, New York in the early 1950s. Upon arriving, Eilis experiences extreme homesickness as she observes the Irish culture permeating

Brooklyn in that era. Slowly, she begins to acclimate to her new life, first by enrolling in bookkeeping classes, and eventually meeting a young, Italian-American man named Tony, played by Cohen. When a family tragedy occurs back home, Eilis returns to Ireland, and is forced to make the decision of whether or not to remain in the comfort of her hometown, or to return to the life she has begun to make for herself in Brooklyn.

The film shines in its character development. Eilis’ arc from shy timidity to assertive independence is carefully sculpted. The audience can’t help but root for Eilis as she grows into her own as a member of the boarding house where she stays in New York. Throughout the film, she maintains her agency while growing in her independence. Always capable, she is able to work through the

problems, both logistical and emotional as she navigates the new landscape. As her life progresses, these problems become greater, but with her moxie, she pushes forward, her abilities increasing in step with what she faces. In New York, she is guided by three mentors. One of the mentors, Father Flood, played by Broadbent, is excellently written as a caring father-figure, who encourages Eilis to blossom without being overbearing. He represents so much of what Ireland is to her: peace, comfort, and security. With the help of her mentors, she composes New York into a place that also has those qualities, building something of her own, instead of relying on what she has inherited.

Brooklyn’s plot is generally strong, featuring well-developed dramatic themes and narrative. Many of the dramatic el-

ements of the film feel genuine, such as Eilis’ strained relationship with her mother, but some of the plot points connected directly to the character’s romantic storylines feel forced. A few of Eilis and Tony’s interactions are overdone, and do not fit with the rest of the film’s deftly crafted narrative. Still, *Brooklyn* offers other cinematic moments that strike the viewer as authentically heartwarming. When Eilis leaves the immigration building at Ellis Island and sunlight bursts through the door, the viewer understands the implications of the character entering her new life. Later, at a Christmas dinner for impoverished Irish immigrant men where Eilis volunteers, an older man sings an Irish Gaelic song that brings Eilis to tears. Sweeter moments like these make the film feel light despite the difficult decision Eilis is

forced to make between the country and culture in which she was raised, and the new world in which she came into her own.

While it might seem strange that a film about an Irish woman set in 1952 could relate to the lives of college students, *Brooklyn* will likely resonate with a young viewer. While the Houghton bubble might not be the same as a busy New York City borough, it is a place outside of our homes where we are given the tools to grow. This film conveys how small decisions may affect the future drastically, and emphasizes the value of a life you make for yourself. Rather than allowing yourself to be constructed by others, *Brooklyn*’s narrative suggests that young people ought to use the opportunities they are given to construct themselves.★



Photo
of the
Week

Sarah Makosy ‘16

Review: #OscarSoSatisfying2016

JACKSON WHEELER

The Oscar’s have been maligned for many things: “They’re too long”, “No one’s even seen the Best Picture nominees”, “The host won’t be funny”, “If Leo’s not winning, I’m going to bed”. Year after thankless year these criticisms are levied against the Academy in its putative inability to accurately reflect the interests of “The Average Moviegoer”, to honor the films that people actually care about. As if those allegations aren’t jarring enough on any given year, the familiar flak has been all but eclipsed by the ongoing and widespread allegations of prejudice within the film industry, Hollywood’s behind-the-scenes racism supposedly has been responsible for the lack of diversity among this year’s very pale nominees.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, in a move undoubtedly made to appease those disappointed with the #OscarSoWhite controversy, decided to invite edgy stand-up comedian Chris Rock to host. Thankfully enough for both audience and Academy it turned out to be a smart move. The Academy, to its credit, held

up a mirror and allowed itself to be subjected to a healthy dose of reality that they may realize how difficult it has become for minorities to penetrate the upper echelons of Hollywood.

Rock’s opening monologue was as funny as it was poignant, even becoming wincingly uncomfortable at times when some jokes began to feel less and less funny and more and more unsettling in the truths underlying them. Of course, some punchlines missed their mark, as is customary (see above, standard complaint #3), but the continual presence of the energetic host and several others throughout the night who managed a laugh or two kept the admittedly over-long ordeal moving along at a relatively brisk pace. More than most, this year’s Oscar’s experience was an introspective one, the audience having to grapple with several complex issues, not only of race, but of sexuality, big business, and the environment, to name a few of the accompanying themes that manifested themselves as the show went on.

All that taken to heart, the Oscar’s are still, by their nature, an awards show meant to honor excellence in cinema and in that department the presentation went off largely without a hitch. Two female first-time nominees

walked away with the Academy Awards for Best Actress in a Leading Role and Best Actress in a Supporting Role. Brie Larson winning the former for her role in *Room*, and Alicia Vikander securing the latter for her performance in *The Danish Girl*. Always-the-bridesmaid-never-the-bride Leonardo DiCaprio finally (FINALLY) won his long-awaited Best Actor Oscar for his visceral performance in *The Revenant*. Both the film’s director and cinematographer, Alejandro Iñárritu and Emmanuel Lubezki taking home awards in their respective fields as well.

Cleaning up in nearly every category it was nominated was 2015’s best reviewed blockbuster, *Mad Max: Fury Road*. The action movie titan didn’t win any “major” awards per se but did manage to come away from the night with six Oscar’s for Achievement in Film Editing, Hair and Makeup, Production Design, Sound Mixing and Editing, and Costume Design, the film being more than deserving of such accolades.

The show was not without its upsets, however, the distinction of Best Actor in a Supporting Role causing the biggest stir of the night. Mark Rylance won the award for his role in Stephen Spielberg’s *Bridge of Spies*,



This year’s big winners from left to right: Mark Rylance: Best Supporting Actor, Brie Larson: Best Actress, Leonardo DiCaprio: Best Actor, and Alicia Vikander: Best Supporting Actress.

many believing Sylvester Stallone’s emotional return to the Rocky franchise in *Creed* being the superior performance. Pixar collected its eighth Oscar for Best Animated Feature for *Inside Out* many critics wondering beforehand whether the more mature, Charlie Kaufman film, *Anomalisa* with its existential gravitas and unique romance made it a more deserving candidate.

While *Mad Max* did not win the coveted Best Picture Oscar, *Spotlight*, the little film that could and did, was the most welcome

upset of the night. The emotionally compromising story of the group of Boston Globe journalists who worked tirelessly to uncover the Catholic Church’s involvement in the molestation of children was not only the year’s best film but its most important one. Perhaps, it’s telling that both *Spotlight* and this year’s Oscar’s share the admonition that when it comes to securing justice, it is genuine perspective that seems to be key.★

From Injured Player to Coach



Taylor Button, above left, and Emily Cronin, above right, both experienced career-ending injuries, but that didn't stop them from continuing to be involved in the sports they love.

MICAH CRONIN

We’ve all heard a story like this: the star athlete performs a routine drill and, with no warning, suffers a catastrophic injury, permanently sidelining her. What comes next for those who can no longer play the sport they’ve poured their hearts and souls into? For two Houghton students, the answer was simple: coach.

Taylor Button, a fifth year senior, has been a student assistant coach for the women’s basketball team since her sophomore year. Emily Cro-

nin, also a fifth year senior, just began her coaching career as a student assistant for the softball team.

Both basketball players, Button and Cronin suffered their injuries on the court. Cronin, who began playing basketball when she was seven years old, played without incident all through her first year of college. In high school, Cronin dominated. In high school, the power forward put up an average of 25 points per game, while pulling down 12 rebounds per game and dishing out 5 assists per game. When she started college at Cairn University in Philadelphia, Cronin joined the softball team and excelled with

a .325 batting average.

In 2013, Cronin transferred to Houghton College. She joined the basketball team and remained healthy during the regular season. Unfortunately, Cronin’s luck ran out during a summer league basketball game, she felt a pop in the arch of her foot. The seemingly harmless pop turned out to be a rare injury; Cronin had torn her plantar fascia tendon lengthwise. After recovering, she proceeded to re-tear the tendon two more times, the final tear occurring last spring during a routine base-sliding drill on the softball diamond. She was then barred from athletics by her podiatrist. “There was definitely a period of mourning after that”, she said.

The end to Button’s playing days was gradual. Button has suffered nine concussions, suffering her first in the 8th grade. She continued to play basketball and soccer throughout high school, excelling at both. The concussion that ended her career occurred during warm-ups before a basketball game her first year at Houghton. At just 19 years old, Button’s reign as a quick-thinking point guard was over. Remembering her feelings in the days after the incident, Button said, “That was a really difficult time in my life. I really struggled with not know-

ing my identity without athletics. I didn’t know where to go from there. . . .I found myself at probably the lowest point of my life.”

In the wake of their losses, Button and Cronin found solace in assisting their respective head coaches: Alicia Mucher of women’s basketball and Brianna Allen of softball. “Nothing is the same as playing, but it enables me to stay close to the game”, Cronin said. “It’s a different style of leadership [than playing], and it’s a different way of thinking and strategizing about the game.”

For Button, becoming a student assistant coach was a matter of “accepting what [her] new reality would look like”. While Button admitted that coaching will never fill the void she feels in not being able to play, it “brings out a whole new level of passion I never knew I had for the game of basketball”, she said. She continued, “I thought being an athlete was the only thing I was good at. But now I realize that I can do more. I can be a good coach if I want to be.”

Cronin has also seen personal development since commencing her coaching career. “I’ve grown in understanding all of the small things that go into coaching a team,” she said, “and I’m learning how impor-

tant it is for leaders to be intentional with their words and actions.”

Of course, the best people to ask about a coach are her players. Bailey Shattell ‘17 is a guard on the women’s basketball team and an outfielder on the softball team. “It’s awesome that Taylor and Emily can still be a part of [their teams] and share their insights from a coaching perspective now,” she said.

Of Button, Shattell noted her drive to learn. “She is always looking to learn from other coaches and leaders. . . .I think this also speaks volumes about her as a person,” she said. “Taylor is passionate about coaching and the game of basketball”, Shattell continued, “and she knows how to push us as players and still get the best out of us.”

Shattell encountered Cronin as a coach for the first time over February break, when the softball team travelled to Florida for an intense week of competition. “Emily is willing to do whatever the team needs and is always an encouraging presence on and off the field. She brings a different outlook to the game,” she said. Most importantly, she “makes sure we don’t take our time on the field for granted.”★

Confinement is Not Conservation



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

When I was young, my dad took my sister and I to the circus. Acrobats, clowns, and animal trainers alike hypnotized the audience with tricks. However, the most vivid memory I have from that day isn't of the acts, it's of the elephants. Their scarred faces were sad and worn, their ears sagged, and their feet dragged when they walked. It was clear they were miserable.

My eyes were again opened later that year when we took our annual school trip to the local zoo and looked on as animals paced in their pens with sad eyes and limited space. Since then my love of animals has only grown, as has the need to protect our planet's creatures.

With the extinction of species on the rise we need to understand one thing: confining animals to cells and traveling torture shows do not promote education or conservation in any way.

Let's start with the (sometimes) lesser of the two evils, zoos. Yes, zoos protect animals from poaching, provide food and shelter, and allow animals to bask in adoration from staff and captive audiences. However, we must ask ourselves whether this is enough? If someone protected you from harm, gave you meals, housed you, and stopped by several times a day to look at you through a window and comment on how cute you were, would you be happy? Before you answer know this, keep in mind that you wouldn't get to choose what you got to eat or where you lived the rest of your life.

This would be even more miserable if you'd spent your childhood somewhere like Florida and were then forced to move somewhere like Buffalo with cold winters and obvious season shifts. This happens all the time though, places like the Buffalo zoo contain animals

“If you really love animals and have your heart set on helping them, sign petitions for their release or donate to sanctuaries dedicated to humane treatment, care, and release of animals.”

such as Asian elephants and Siberian tigers. These animals are indigenous to parts of the world that are notably warm and humid, not at all like Buffalo, especially in the winter. In the same sense Rochester does not get cold enough to be home to polar bears.

Animals don't stand a chance of avoiding extinction if we can't provide them with an atmosphere identical to their home in the wild. No scientist would study a polar bear in Rochester and expect ones located in the wild to act the same way. So, how can we claim zoos educate when they are not an accurate representation of how animals naturally live? With 3,200 of the world's 5,000 tigers in captivity, I worry there will come a day when we will have to read about how they used to hunt, play, mate, or simply live in the wild because there are none alive

“Animals don't stand a chance of avoiding extinction if we can't provide them with an atmosphere identical to their home in the wild.”

to study.

Zoos also tend to breed inbred species, sometimes causing serious physical deformities. And this breeding also created the white tiger. Originally a genetic abnormality, zoos have monopolized on their rare nature. This, however, prevents them from ever being released into the wild as they would not be able to hunt without being noticed by their prey.

Circuses are just as bad, if not worse. Traveling shows and circuses alike do not own their animals, instead they lease them from dealers. The thing that people often forget about animals in circuses and zoos is that they are wild animals, and are not born to think of human safety before their own safety and life. The documentary Tyke the Elephant Outlaw tells the story of a circus elephant named Tyke who, in 1994, became aggressive during a performance and killed one of his trainers.

Tyke was then shot 87 times before dying in the streets; 87 bullets were aimed at him simply for following his natural instinct to protect himself. Despite

common beliefs, animals do not perform out of love, rather they are forced to perform against their will. They are trained using bullhooks, beatings, food deprivation, and other cruel practices and when they try to protect themselves, they are killed. How is that educational? Why would you want to teach a child to kill a creature that is trying to escape torture? If a dog bit someone that gave it daily beatings, would you kill the dog for biting?

If you want to make a difference, stop giving your money to these organizations. It is as simple as that. Seaworld, based on protests and demands of their guests, recently decided to halt their orca shows and instead launch a program based on the environment of the whales. While the whales should not be in confinement at all, this will hopefully lead to the release of these creatures back into their natural habits. If you really love animals and have your heart set on helping them, sign petitions for their release or donate to sanctuaries dedicated to humane treatment, care, and release of animals. Whatever you do though, do not sit by and let such a vital part of our planet be abused by our need for entertainment.★

Dani is a junior writing and communication double major with a minor in political science.

“Why is This So Damn Expensive?”



ANTHONY BURDO

SEEMA JOHNSON

Momentarily awakened from my post-lunch reverie amidst the antiseptic odor of the general practitioner's office, I sharply turned in the plush brown waiting room chair to see an older gentleman in crutches signing away five hundred green ones. As a seven year old with automated abhorrence to the feeblest of expletives (and perhaps no concept of heavy spending), I was instantly shocked at the perceived crude disdain of what I eventually came to realize as harsh

reality for the majority of the world's population—expensive healthcare.

With the upcoming presidential elections, most of us have recently heard some form of a promise for free, government-funded healthcare or perhaps the more “costly” privatized version as a remedy for this worldwide predicament at the country's level. Some of us have even ascribed to certain stances on these systems citing familial circumstances, moral convictions, or even mere general preference in support of our personal viewpoints. However, a large majority of us have failed to thoroughly examine these systems in terms of broader, far-reaching pros and cons.

Numerous countries have adopted one of three forms of healthcare on a spectrum between full government coverage and privatized coverage commonly labeled the Single-Payer, Two-Tier, and Insurance Mandate systems. The entirely

government funded Single-Payer system has been utilized by the majority of countries in these three categories of healthcare and contains a number of recurring problems. Long waiting lines of patients in need of care result in long wait times ranging from weeks to months. When patients finally receive access to care, the quality is comparatively lower due to reduced incentive from health care providers receiving diminished wages.

Limited funding provided by the government (due to limited taxing) in the face of unlimited lines of patients also limits the amounts of needed supplies contributing to the long waiting lines. While everyone subjected to this system at the very least receives some basal level of care debt-free, the structure of the system promotes potential abuse as a form of welfare, further diverting taxpayer dollars from those in need of critical care. Strict adherence to this system also stunts potential innovation

regarding the more effective distribution of any kind of higher quality healthcare to any of the population. Innovation in medical advancements is further stunted while more government funding is used to pay for the healthcare rather than for research in the field (particularly in the face of the impending national debt in the United States).

The Two-Tier system provides a government-funded basal level of healthcare while allowing those with the means to purchase supplementary insurance. This system however, leaves those lower-income individuals in need of critical care in the dust, as the privileged in society receive access to much higher forms of healthcare while problems concerning the basal level still stand.

The third system requires a government-mandated purchase of some form of insurance by all citizens (e.g. Obamacare). While this system promotes a competitive private market

for insurance companies (potentially providing better benefits with lower associated costs), those lower-income individuals are restricted to more inexpensive forms of insurance with potentially inadequate benefits.

If all of these systems in one way or another inadequately reach those in need of care, what is the solution? Some have opted for an entirely market-based form of healthcare. Millions of people would potentially revert to being uninsured. Non-mandated insurance would also potentially only be purchased by those thinking they're actually in need of such a service, contributing to potential market failure. In essence, uninsurance and rising costs for health care would continue to exist. The answer cannot merely lie in extensive government involvement or a sole market-based system. However, a necessary first step should perhaps involve extensive reevaluation of efficient resource allocation—an evident power of the free market. ★

Seema is a junior biology major with minors in chemistry and psychology.

“While everyone subjected to this system at the very least receives some basal level of care debt-free, the structure of the system promotes potential abuse as a form of welfare, further diverting taxpayer dollars from those in need of critical care.”

#Adventure

The Need to Restore Relationship with God



ANTHONY BURDO

HOPE MCKEEVER

Social media is strewn with the catchphrase, #Adventure, which is meant to embody an outdoorsy and daring spirit. Yet, the opposite message is being sent. What started as an innocent expression of “granola culture” has slowly morphed into a trivializing statement that not only exploits nature, but also warps self-perception for wander-lusting youngsters. Because of countless

cables under the sea, twenty-first century people have access to an entire technological world. Through Instagram and the pursuit of being trendy, part of our identity has become dependent on the reactions of others. We can manipulate and create a self-image that we are comfortable sharing with the world through filters and editing. We are even willing to abuse the natural world through selfish thinking to achieve this goal. Introspection slowly morphs into loneliness when we become dependent on the approval of outside observers.

Have we invited a thief into our lives? A thief who has stolen away intimacy with God and His creation? An intimate experience with God or nature should not feed the flame of social anxiety, but rather

“Nature exists whether I pause to photograph it or not.”

should encourage the pursuit of truth and beauty. Thanks to #Adventure, experiences in nature have the tendency to become a competition rather than an affirmation of the inherent worth that people and nature have. Nature exists whether I pause to photograph it or not.

The word “adventure” does not need to exclusively pertain to mountain top experiences. The non-technical root of the word “adventure” is “advent”. Adventures in life are not merely the moments of aesthetically pleasing hat-wearers holding pine cones and ferns in the woods with

their eyes closed. Adventure can also exist in the moments of suspension over the unknown.

During Praxis week, Pastor Meredith Griffin spoke about the tension of waiting. He addressed how much of life is a transition phase. Change is not possible without waiting, learning, and growing. If Christians created a theology after the way many people use the hashtag #Adventure, it would be one void of hope and void of redemption because much of the spiritual Journey is preparing for the long awaited return of Jesus. Jesus’s incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas time is the commencement of the advent we all experience as Christians.

Speaking of commencement, for us seniors, this period of waiting for our futures to line up is not #Adventurous because we are all scaling mountains like billy goats as some of

us wish we were doing. It is #Adventurous because we can wait expectantly knowing that God is present and actively involved in our waiting.

With this promise in mind, for Christians, advent is not hopeless because we know the end of the story. We wait with the assurance of expected justice that will be restored to the earth. Isaiah brings us the news from Zion as he proclaims God’s promises, “My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations.”

As we pursue a state of active stillness, contentment in Christ will override our culture’s idea of being at peace. And this contentment, not #Adventure, is the restoration of a deep, intimate relationship with our creator and His creation during mountain top experiences and valley wanderings.★

Hope is a senior English major with a minor in international development.

“Through Instagram and the pursuit of being trendy, part of our identity has become dependent on the reactions of others.”



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.

Letters to the Editor:

Response to “Syrians are Not the Only Refugees”:

Dear Editor,

Nothing is as tiresome as professors crowding in on a student forum--the Star is (among other things) a place for students to share opinions, and I have many other channels which I can use to share my thoughts with students. Still, in Raisa Dibble’s opinion piece she raised a question about Praxis that only I can answer. “I don’t think it’s fair,” she writes, “to only have African-American speakers highlighted. Racism and

ethnic prejudice happen to millions of people in so many different countries around the world...Why were only African-American speakers brought in?”

Raisa is rightly concerned with drawing the circle wider--this is one of her many lovely and admirable qualities. And she raises a fair question: because reconciliation is obviously complicated, why invite only black speakers? Here was my reasoning: the divide between black and white in America is an unusually difficult one. There

is ugly history there, and it’s very personal for all of us who grew up in America. People who looked (sort of) like me brutalized and enslaved people who looked (sort of) like many of our black students. This means we have a complicated history together. Because we feel ashamed, many white folks run away from this history. Black folks cannot escape it.

If we are to be a reconciling people, we need to do more than just educate people about how much racism really exists in the world. Such knowledge

is debilitating if we don’t feel like the tools we have to address the racism right in front of us. Simply, if we learn to listen well in this very thorny relationship, we are better equipped to listen well to the many victims of racism around the world.

I don’t intend to dominate the dialogue, but just to answer Raisa’s question. Students can (and should!) debate about whether it was the right decision--and that’s what college is for, thinking critically about the problems we all face. I trust you to

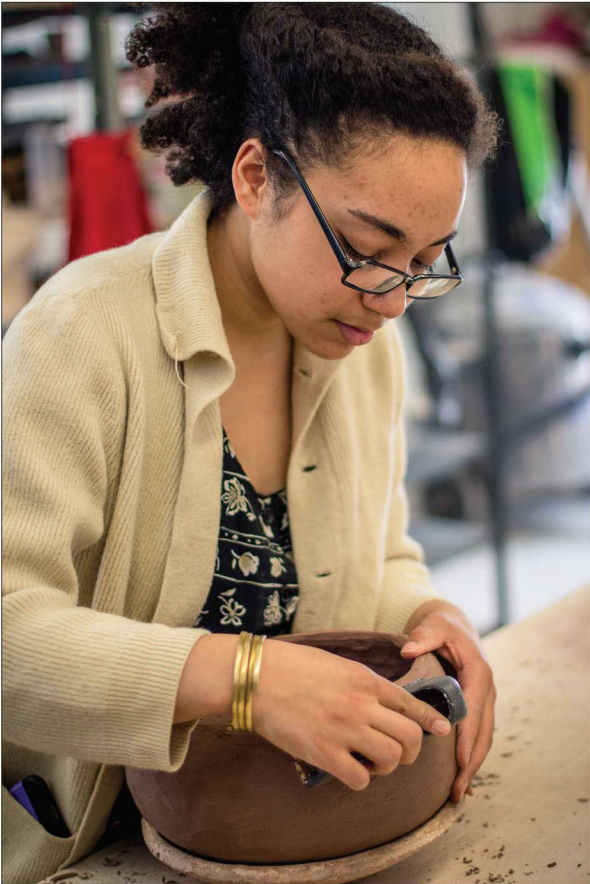
debate that fairly and well. I should add that I hope that this decision has not hurt the feelings of non-black students of color, or seemed to trivialize the difficulties that they face. I honor them and hope that by teaching our students to listen to one group in depth, they learn to listen to all groups sympathetically and with an ear to repentance, change and growth.

Love in Christ,
Mike Jordan (’99)

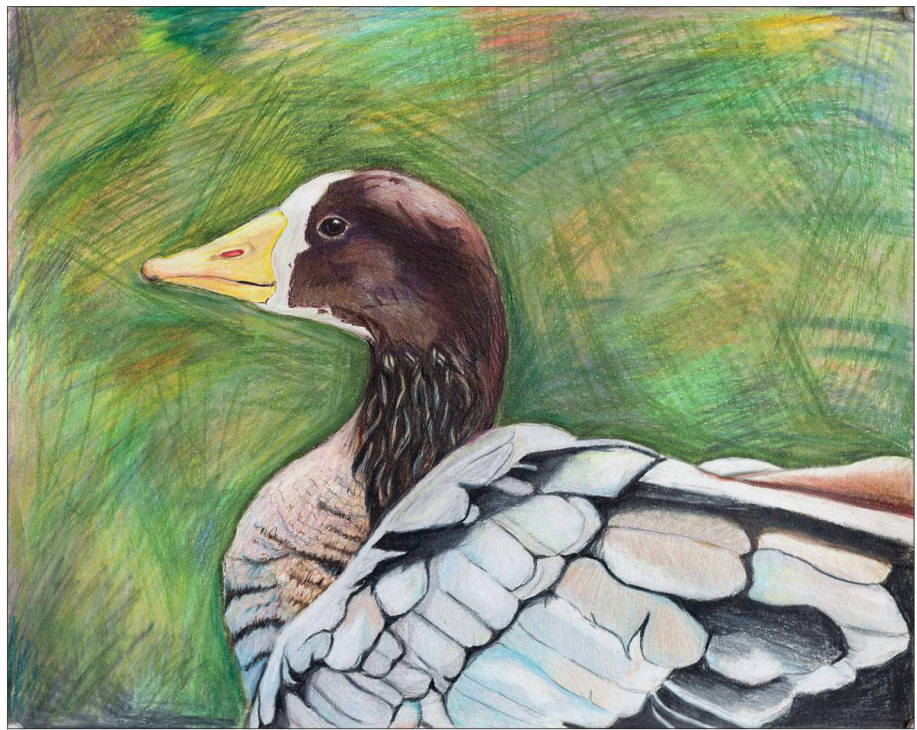
Artist of the Week

Emma Brittain

// senior theology and art double major



ANTHONY BURDO



Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Green Ceramic Bowl, *ceramics*

Bird By Green Water, *colored pencil*

For He Has Made Me Glad, *oil pastel*

Marbled Mug, *ceramics*

Scratch That, *ceramics*

“ I would like to learn, or remember, how to live. ”

-Annie Dillard

