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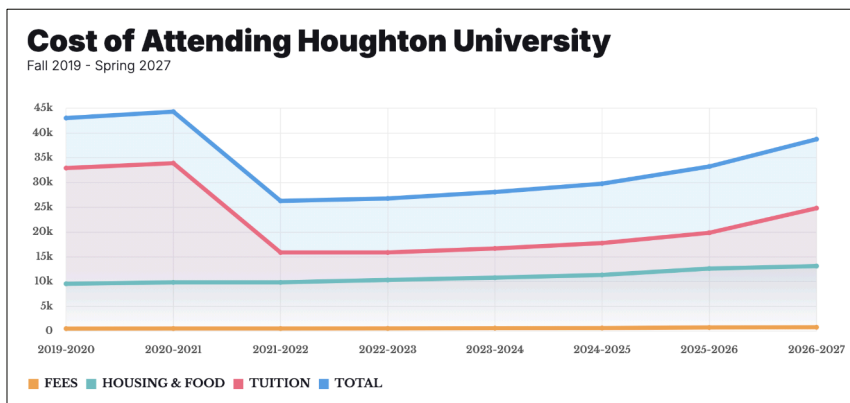
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## WHAT'S UP WITH TUITION?

SADIE NAKAMURA '26

Why does Houghton University's (HU) tuition keep increasing? Dale Wright, HU's Vice President for Finance, identified two main reasons: inflation and rising operational costs. He said most universities across the country raise tuition annually to keep pace with inflation. "Over the last several years, inflation has been rampant," Wright explained. "Operating costs for universities have increased significantly, particularly in New York, which is one of the most expensive states to operate in." To keep up with rising business costs, HU increased tuition to remain financially sustainable.

Inflation is a term frequently used in today's economy, but many people do not fully understand what it means. Assistant Professor of Finance and Economics Jared Pemberton explained inflation as the change in the cost



Data Courtesy of Houghton Student Financial Services  
Graph made with Graphitup

of a "basket of goods" over time. To show how inflation works, economists compare the price of the same products from year to year.

The average college student is unlikely to track inflation through formal economic comparisons. However, if workers notice changes in wages or the cost of living, it is often the

result of inflation. "How much was a double cheeseburger this time last year compared to this year? That price increase was primarily due to inflation," Pemberton said. "Has your wage changed at all? When you're given a cost-of-living raise this is typically associated with inflation."

Pemberton also com-

pared current inflation levels to those of past years. During the COVID-19 pandemic, economic disruption caused inflation to rise to 7-8%, which had a detrimental effect on the economy. Pemberton added, "Right now it sits at about 2-3%, which is typically where economists like to see inflation. I'd say for 2025 in

general, inflation has not been that big of a deal."

HU's tuition is increasing because of inflation. But how is tuition revenue used? According to Wright, revenue from tuition, housing and meal plans is used to cover the costs of running the institution. Faculty and staff salaries, building maintenance and technology replacement are all costly parts of keeping HU operational. As inflation increases, so do the costs of maintaining campus facilities. Salaries are HU's largest expense, followed by facility-related costs. Nearly 50% of the university's revenue is allocated to wages, while about 20% goes toward maintenance, depreciation and other facility costs.

Beyond covering current expenses, tuition revenue

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## Carry the Love: Bringing Hearts Together in Worship

ABIGAIL LLOYD '27

On Feb. 13 at 7:00 p.m., Houghton University (HU) is hosting a worship night called "Carry The Love" in the Recital Hall in the Center for the Arts (CFA). This gathering is a university outreach where college students gather for worship and a message. The following day, Feb. 14, "Carry The Love" will host small group sessions on Evangelism in Library rooms 223 and 224 at 9:00 a.m.

"Carry The Love" is a missions group that started nearly 15 years ago in Huntington Beach, California. It started with a group of twenty-year-olds who had a burning passion

to see the Lord move in college and high school students around the world. Each year, 25 different worship teams are sent out across 6 continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe and Australia to affirm the Gospel. Leader of the Western New York "Carry The Love" tour, Gabrielle Bush, explained, "The mission of 'Carry the Love' is to bring the Gospel of Jesus to universities and high schools all across the globe, and to equip students to carry the love of Jesus to their campuses." In a world that can feel overwhelming and uncertain, boldly proclaiming

God's name is not always easy. "Carry The Love" aims to inspire college students to pursue the Great Commission with courage and in truth.

Emmalee Coffin '27 shared her passion for this tour, "I love 'Carry The Love' because of the beauty of coming together to worship our Lord with our brothers and sisters in Christ from across the country, encouraging each of us to step out...and be a bold generation in this crazy world." Our world can be a dark and trialing place to live in, making it difficult to boldly proclaim the name of God. "Carry The Love's" hope is to en-



COURTESY OF ABBY LLOYD

Touring missionary group, Carry the Love, poses in the Recital Hall.

courage college students to carry out God's love through the sharing of the Gospel. This night of worship has impacted HU students, including alumni Graham Cook '25. He shared, "Carry The Love" is a true encouragement to my heart and soul. That night provided a continual

reminder of how big of a blessing it is to seek and find Jesus." It can be easy to forget or take for granted the gift of salvation. "Carry the Love" strives to ignite the fire of the Lord in believers and encourages students to take collective action in sharing the message of Jesus. ★

# Susannah's Suggestions

SUSANNAH DENHAM '26

Musicians rehearse, practice, and pour out their hearts and souls for the joy of finally sharing music with an audience. From someone who lives in the music building, don't miss these upcoming concerts and recitals!

On Feb. 16, Sarah Brunone '27, soprano, will perform her vocal junior recital at 6:30 p.m. The repertoire includes some musical theater, but focuses on opera, sacred music and art songs. Translations will be available for pieces in a foreign language. Brunone will collaborate vocally with Dominic Larson '27, Grace Keir '27 and Bailey Lewis '28, accompanied by graduate student Rachel Huchthausen '23 on the piano. After hearing some of their work together in voice studios, I can confidently recommend that you attend. Junior recitals are about a half-hour long, but if you can't make this one, you should plan to attend Brunone's senior recital next year!

Speaking of senior recitals, graduate student Allie Leary '24 put together an incredible program for her final collaborative piano recital at 8 p.m. on Feb. 23. The pro-

gram is titled Kontrast (the German spelling of "contrast") because all of the lyrics in her recital are in German. Leary selected pieces of music to represent the themes of darkness (sadness, loss, and death) and light (hope, peace, and serenity). She will accompany voice Professor Luke Ogden as he sings "Er-lkonig" by Schubert, a German romantic song symbolizing loss. Leary and graduate student Faith Kaschube '27 on the violin will perform "Scherzo" from the "F-A-E Sonata," a piece by Johannes Brahms that expresses triumph and joy. Along with these two pieces, Leary will collaborate with many more students and faculty, vocalists and instrumentalists.

If you prefer large ensemble performances, the Houghton Symphony Orchestra has a stellar line-up for their concert on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. To open the concert, the orchestra will premiere a piece by Brooke Pierson, with the composer in attendance. The two central pieces will feature Bailey Lewis '28 and Sarah Hoppough '26, the winners of last semester's Aria and Concerto competition. Lewis will sing an aria from the Ital-

ian opera "Don Pasquale" by Gaetano Donizetti. Hoppough will perform Movement 2 of Jacques Ibert's "Concertino for Alto Saxophone & Chamber Orchestra." Finishing out the night is Joseph Haydn's Symphony no. 13 in D Major, featuring Professor Jeremy Russo on cello.

Last, but certainly not least, is an exciting collaborative piano recital by the well-loved student Huchthausen. She will wrap up her seven years at Houghton with a recital focusing on "dialogues." She hopes to explore the nature of language and music as we talk to God, to ourselves, and to each other. On March 11, at 8 p.m., Rachel and her collaborators—Ogden, Dr. Soo Yeon Kim (violin), Leary (piano), and Dr. Kimberly Prins Moeller (voice)—will present works by Benjamin Britten, Arvo Pärt, Gabriel Fauré, and Brahms.

Except for the Orchestra concert, which takes place in Wesley Chapel, come support your friends, professors and peers for each of these performances in the Center for the Arts Recital Hall! ★

## TUITION from page #1

Lewis Jr. shared several financial goals for the institution, including increased employee salaries, raising funds for residence hall renovations, adding new faculty and expanding elective offerings. Lewis predicted that tuition will continue to increase each year because of financial priorities, HU's commitment to an excellent academic experience and the increasing costs of operation.

While administrators focus on institutional priorities and long-term planning, students experience tuition increases on a more personal level. Some say the rising cost has not significantly altered their college experience. Julia Collins '26, a history major, reflected on her decision to attend HU as an incoming freshman. "I definitely looked at [HU] for the price," Collins shared. "It wasn't the only or primary consideration but it was definitely a perk. I think that today I would still choose to go to Houghton even though the price is accelerating."

While some students say tuition increases have had little impact on their decision to attend HU, others describe significant financial strain. The rising tuition mattered for Rachel Bedell '25. She explained, "I have a lot of

student loans. I'm paying for my own college and every year when I get the bill, the stress goes up." Bedell also reflected on whether she would have returned to the college, saying, "If that had changed last year, I don't know if I would have gone back to HU. It would have been a hard decision to finish here."

Like many college students, Bedell said that student loans remained a constant concern. "It's just this thing that exists in the back of my mind and I kind of hate it," she declared. Bedell's experience reflects the challenges many students face with their finances as tuition continues to rise.

Lewis recognized the financial strain of rising tuition and assured students that the university will continue to help those in need. "Even as the cost of providing an academically excellent education increases, we remain committed to providing scholarships and grants that make it possible for students from economically challenging backgrounds to still be able to come to Houghton," he said. "That's a long-standing commitment for us and that won't change." ★



## THE WEEKLY W'S

These Highlander teams took home the win this week.



### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
HOUGHTON	20	24	24	19	87
SUNY POLY	15	6	11	13	45

	1	2	3	4	FINAL
HOUGHTON	14	17	28	16	75
OSWEGO	21	18	14	21	74

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

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# Jesus' Love is Enough



HANNAH FISH '27

combination led to me being quite a hopeless romantic, dying to get my hands on books and movies that depicted the sweet, unexpected, challenging, often excruciating stories that told of great loves, even if they involved great losses. Despite the beauty of fairytale love, the tragic endings that left true love between two characters forever unfulfilled occu-

evident to me that every love story has both.

I have never been in a romantic relationship, but as I've been learning, I (along with many others) am destined to be the bride to an eternal love, from the beginning of time. The Bible says that "For [God] chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love" (Ephesians 1:4). As

The day is almost here. The day dreaded by singles and noncommittal couples alike: Valentine's Day. Now, if you talked to past me about this particular holiday, I would normally joke and pretend I hate seeing all the cute couples spending time together. However, God has been revealing to me in more detail the bigger picture of true love, and it's not just about having a significant other.

Growing up, I was an imaginative child and my parents practically raised me on Rom-Coms. This

*"As a Christian and also belonging to the Church, we are all recipients of Jesus' love..."*

pied my mind as much as the sweet happy endings. I always thought the story ended one way or the other, with either great loss or great love. But as I've grown up, both in this world and in my faith, it is

a Christian and also belonging to the Church, we are all recipients of Jesus' love through his death on the cross. We were separated from God because of our sin, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of

*"...don't take for granted the wonderful part you get to play in mirroring the love of God..."*

His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)" (Eph. 2:4-5). If you are saved, you already participate in this love, whether you're dating or not.

In the fairytales, in the rom-coms, in the historical fictions, in the sci-fi stories, we see the selfless sacrifice that one person makes to save the hero, or to give up their happiness so that someone else could find love. But in the Bible we see the ultimate resolution, the greatest display of love where Jesus died to pay for our sins, yet

rose again to keep us with him in eternity. This love is on display for us everywhere we look; God designed human relationships to mirror that of Christ in the church, telling husbands to "love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25). So, if you are in a relationship, don't take for granted the wonderful part you get to play in mirroring the love of God to everyone around you. But on the other hand, you don't need to find "the one" here on earth to be happy forever, just remember that there is a true and perfect love waiting for you in the arms of Jesus. ★

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT  
Elijah.Baciuska27@houghton.edu

## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

SUBMIT TO  
star@houghton.edu



*Hannah is working toward a dual major in Biochemistry and Studio Art with a concentration in ceramics. Hannah also plays on the softball team here at Houghton University. She enjoys hanging out with friends and family.*



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

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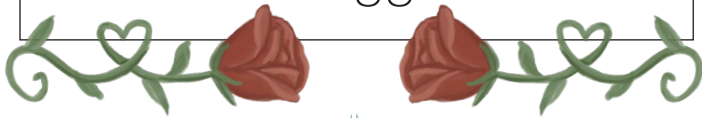
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## Movie Suggestions



### Valentines Day Cinema

DR. JESSE DAVID SHARPE

If you're anything like me, well, then, I'm sorry. But if you're anything like you, that's great! And you being you, you're probably wondering what movie to watch to get you in the mood for Valentine's Day. And have I ever got some suggestions for you!

Now, when it comes to love, why not indulge in a little something old or something new or something borrowed or something blue? For something old, nothing beats a screwball comedy. It's romance and laughs with quick, witty dialogue. You could start with *My Man Godfrey*, the film that gave the genre its name. William Powell is a butler that wins hearts, looks out for the downtrodden, and knows just how to maintain a bank account. His love interest is played by Carole Lombard, and Lombard's wild performance was described by one critic as "screw". Thus, a genre was named.

But say you're worried because you love love, but you also love murder. You're afraid screwball has nothing for you. Well, fret not, screwball has murder too! This needn't be a disaster, no St. Valentine's Day Massacre. *The Thin Man* will give you great screwball wit with a murder mystery to boot. William Powell is in this film too (what a guy!), but now as a detective. He's recently married to a wealthy society gal (played by the perfect Myrna Low - she stole my heart in this role), and together they must solve a crime. They are possibly the greatest married duo ever portrayed on the silver screen, and nothing says love like seeing a married couple have such fun catching a murderer.

Then again, perhaps, you actually do want a screwball film with a killer plotline, well we've even got a film for that. Do you want to witness a murder, hide from the mob, and hobnob it with Marilyn Monroe? Then look no further than *Some Like it Hot*. Yes, Houghton's outdoors may want to give you frostbite right now, but you can jazz it up on the Florida coast with a

movie that has been called the greatest American comedy by the American Film Institute. Nobody's perfect, but this film may just about be.

However, you might be someone looking for something new to watch. You may be saying, "Professor Sharpe, I need a new movie. Something in color. I can't watch black and white films. I suffer from arrested development." Then I say, "Grow up." And since you've never watched black and white films, they'd all be new to you. May I suggest you watch one of the movies recommended in the previous paragraphs?

If you need something borrowed because you're doing love on a budget, you could do worse than borrowing from Mr. William Shakespeare himself. I would not recommend reading *Taming of the Shrew* to the one you seek to woo, but I would recommend watching *10 Things I Hate About You*. It's got laughs, romance, dancing, people about your age, and none of Shrew's torturing of women (seriously Billy-boy Shakespeare, why all the torturing of Kate?).

And then there are the blue ones. The people who want a side of sorrow with their joy. Who want the sweet and the bitter. Well, you know what to do. Look no further than the French. *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* is just the film for the melancholic lovers, whomever you may be.

Nothing pierces the heart like a beautiful song with a tinge of sadness, and, in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, all the dialogue is sung. The music is perfect, the colors are vibrant, the cast is easy on the eyes, and the ending has just the right amount of sadness mixed with its romance. This movie really does prove that the heart is best preserved with the salt of your own tears.

Ah cinema. The love. The passion. And all available at your local Houghton University Library (um, except *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, oops. But it's too good to leave off this list)! Always remember, the "L" in library is for love! To the library, you lovers! ★

## Artist of the Month



### EPHRAIM LANGDON '27

Ephraim Langdon is a photographer from Central Pennsylvania and a senior at Houghton University, where he is completing a degree in applied design. Growing up in the woods, Ephraim developed a love for outdoor adventure and action sports — experiences that shaped his sense of movement, energy, and composition behind the camera. Ephraim's photography work combines the spontaneity of his outdoor roots with the intentionality of studio photography, exploring how light, color, and gesture can reveal human presence in its most authentic form. ★

