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## Faculty Travel to Prestigious Conference



AVA BERGEN

Mills Woolsey, having represented Houghton at conferences off and on since 2001, was elected to a four-year term on the National Network Board for LFP last year.

SOPHIA ROSS

Over the second weekend in October, representatives from the 98 member institutions of the Na-

tional Network for the Lilly Fellows Program (LFP) in Humanities and Arts gathered at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee to attend the program's twenty-fifth annual National Con-

ference. Among them were Houghton College's two designated representatives: Linda Mills Woolsey, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, and Stephen Woolsey,

professor of English.

While the organization hosts their yearly national conferences at member institutions all over the country, the Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and Arts is based in Christ College at Valparaiso University, a Lutheran institution in Valparaiso, Indiana. LFP's mission statement declares that it "seeks to renew and enhance the connections between Christianity and the academic vocation at church-related colleges and universities." The organization attempts to achieve this goal through three major initiatives: the National Network, the Postdoctoral Fellows Program, and the Graduate Fellows Program. The Postdoctoral Fellows Program is a two-year residential fellowship specifically at Valparaiso University, while the Graduate Fellows Program supports ten fellows who hold bachelor's degrees from LFP member

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## New Vision Week Discusses Missions

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

This week at Houghton College, New Vision Week, gave students the opportunity to learn explore a call to missions, both abroad and stateside. "The body of Christ as the church is meant to be missional," junior Elizabeth Chedester said. This was the emphasis of New Vision Week, when Houghton students have the chance to learn about and consider their call to missions, whether it be abroad or at home. The event occurred this year from October 26-30, with a variety of speakers and events to raise awareness of the global church.

This year's co-coordinators, Bethany Rudolph and

See **NVW** page 3

## Counseling Center to Host Annual Relationship Retreat

MARY CRONIN

This weekend, 22 Houghton College students will travel to Camp Asbury in Silver Lake, NY, to attend the eighth annual Relationship Retreat. Dr. Bill Burrichter and Wendy Baxter of the Counseling Center will also attend with their spouses for the Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon sessions.

"The Relationship Retreat is funded by an anonymous grant," Baxter stated, "which Houghton adds to. Students are also charged a small (\$25) fee per couple." The retreat is coordinated by the counseling center through the Center for Relationship Enrichment, which operates out of John Brown University in Arkansas. The program runs on a two year cycle, year one focusing on healthy communication and year two (this year) emphasis-

ing conflict management. "It's basically all communication, just different aspects of it. [The retreat] helps couples start off on the right foot instead of waiting until a marriage is in trouble," Baxter added.

Burrichter and Baxter will help facilitate conversation and follow-up with groups during the retreat. The two mental-health professionals had different opinions on the most pressing challenges for new or young couples. Burrichter noted he has seen new couples that are "naïve...about what they are getting into. They tend to be blinded by the emotional experience [of a romantic relationship] or by lack of experience." He continued, "A lot of times couples think 'when we get married, this [problem] won't happen,' but annoying

See **RETREAT** page 3

## 18 Pounds of Food Wasted

SARAH VANDERBRAKE

On Tuesday, Houghton College Eco Reps and Sodexo partnered for a "Weigh the Waste" event to raise awareness about food waste.

This week was Sodexo's Wasteless Week, a week where the company is especially mindful about how to cut down on waste that occurs in the dining hall. This year, food waste was the focus.

To collect data about how much food is wasted during one meal, volunteers from Eco Reps collected the waste from students' plates before they were sent to the dish-room. The waste was collected in buckets, which were then weighed.

According to an article published by Jean Buzby in the journal ScienceDirect, almost half of all calories produced by animals and less than one-fifth of those produced by crops in the U.S. go to waste. During Tuesday's dinner, 81.25 pounds of food was wasted. "That weighs as much as a small hu-



COURTESY OF SARAH VANDERBRAKE

Brielle Kwata '18 and Lauren Bechtel '16 from Eco Reps collected waste Tuesday night during dinner.

man," said Gabrielle Papia '19. According to this data, 12.6% of the food prepared went to waste.

"I want to thank our Student Sustainability Intern and the Eco Reps for facilitating

the Weigh the Waste event. We hope that this event encouraged student awareness and behavior change as they make food choices and select amounts of those items," said general manager, Kathie Guylar.★

# International // Hurricane Patricia Hits Mexico



ANTHONY BURDO

DAN BELLEROSE

On Friday, October 24, the strongest hurricane in the history of the Western hemisphere hit the coast of Mexico. The U.S. National Hurricane Center warned that “life-threatening flash

floods and mudslides” were likely to occur in rural areas, but the Mexican people were well prepared to react. Hurricane Patricia made headlines as the strongest storm to hit the west coast of the Americas, climbing up to a category five storm. The Weather Channel reported the storm was unprecedented among Pacific hurricanes, dropping ten millibars lower in pressure than any previously recorded storm.

According to BBC news, the storm lessened to a category four by the time it hit the Mexican coast and the results were not as catastrophic as they might have been, helping the government of Mexico go into the natural disaster well prepared. The Los Angeles Times suggested that the president of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, “benefited from what appears to have been a successful emergency response and extraordinary

good luck.” Therefore, what might have ended in a major loss of human life has been nothing more than an indicator of the Mexican government’s ability to handle such natural disasters well.

The government initiated a mass evacuation of the area that could possibly be affected by the storm. More than 10,000 people were evacuated from their homes, and 1,200 shelters were set up to house the evacuees. Ricardo Aleman of El Universal newspaper said “the hurricane put to the test the reaction of all three levels of government - and unlike many other occasions, the coordination [this time around] was almost perfect.”

USA Today suggested it was not only the proper governance of the storm situation, but the natural landscape of the Mexican coast that slowed the storm and lessened damage. The area

that the storm struck was a sparsely populated area, with an occasional fishing village on the coast. Immediately to the left and right of the area are the dense populated centers of Puerto Vallarta and Manzanillo, which were just missed by the storm. Dennis Feltgen, a meteorologist with the U.S. National Hurricane Center, said the storm “could have been far worse. A little jog to the left, a little jog to the right and we’d be having a different conservation.”

Another factor that affected the progress of the hurricane was its collision with the Sierra Madre mountain range. Over the course of Friday night, the mountains broke the storm apart until it dropped from a category five, to a category one by 4 a.m.

According to USA Today, the death toll, as of Sunday, had reached six citizens. Despite such a low death toll for such a massive

storm, coastal Mexican infrastructure and agriculture were heavily affected. The Los Angeles Times reported as many as 3,500 homes were destroyed or damaged, and that 19,000 acres of crops were ruined by flooding and storm winds. The federal authorities are still working to assess the gravitude of the damage caused, but it is clear that in the months to come efforts must be made to restore the coastline and the livelihoods of the Mexican people.★

*Dan is a junior international development major with minors in political science and world religion.*

## RETREAT from page 1

traits, addictive behaviors, and bad habits” still exist after marriage. Baxter felt communicating strong values and needs are often overlooked by young or new couples. “[New/young couples] tend to get caught up on superficial things,” she stated. Baxter expressed concern over this, because when communication is shallow, couples do not learn how to “talk about

hard issues.” This is bad news in a culture where already “we don’t see good examples of commitment.”

Newly married student Britany Peak ’16 feels “more and more young couples are accepted in our generation.” Peak and her husband, Jeremy, plan on attending the retreat this weekend, provided that Jeremy, who is in the U.S. armed forces, has no military obligations. “I love that the theme is conflict management” she said, “I hope that Jeremy and I learn skills and tools that we will think deeply about

and remember for the times we will argue as a married couple. It is my desire to be in a healthy marriage so that our children have two parents who love them and each other very deeply.”

A seriously dating couple, Kayla Brophy ’17 and Andrew Montoro ’17 also plan to attend. Montoro first brought up the possibility of going on the retreat, thinking that participating “could be a good way to develop [their] relationship.”

Brophy felt that in her relationship with Montoro, striving for balance is the most impor-

tant task, saying, “We’ve recently figured out that it’s good for us to do different things; it’s good to have

separate lives to a point.” Montoro agreed, adding that he feels couples who neglect their individuality are unhealthy.

The two believe that learning strategies of conflict management will help them meld their individual lives and aspirations cohesively. Montoro said, “Anyone you see every day can become a bit much. Obviously if you’re on your way to marriage, that time will come [so it

is important for] each individual has a plan and a call. [A relationship] is about easing each person’s goals together.”

About a month following this weekend’s Relationship Retreat, all of the participating couples will be invited to go out on a “Great Date Night,” a follow-up to the program. The outing will include pizza and laser-tag, as well as a discussion led by Dean of the Chapel, Michael Jordan. Jordan is expected to discuss differing vocational goals within a marriage or serious relationship.★

# WORD ON THE STREET



“Did it actually need to be campus wide? Is there such a prevalence of sexual assault on Houghton campus that they needed to make a survey for every single Houghton student required?”

-Justin Livergood, Sophomore



“I think it was an issue that needed to be discussed so I was glad that they were trying to do it in some way, since the transitions way that they do it isn’t that effective I feel like. But I also think that it came at a bad time. It would have been better if the college had sent it to us maybe not at midterms, at the beginning of the year or something.”

-Emily Barry, Junior



“It’s an issue that needs to be discussed and we cant pretend that its an issue that exists only outside of Houghton so we need to listen, we need to learn, and we need to take the issue seriously because it is serious.”

-Marina Cull, Junior



“I think the survey was an important issue to discuss, but it was kind of annoying that they forced us to do it.”

-Nathan Peace, Senior

“It did surprise me, but I think it is a good step in the right direction to opening dialogue.”

-Laura Johnson, Junior



“I think it was a good idea. I think it should have probably either been phased in over the four years or there should be one event that everyone has to go to.”

-Michael Sievers, Sophomore



“Why do we need to take it? It’s not a matter of- really it’s a heart thing. If a person is going do it, it doesn’t matter how much training you’re going to use.”

-John Hunter, Sophomore



“It provides strategies for situations that we might encounter and how people become more aware of issues, but at the same time I wish it had addressed issues of avoiding situations that are potentially dangerous like going out to parties when you know there are going to be people drinking.”

-Alyssa Rogan, Sophomore



## What Was Your Initial Response to the Campus Wide Sexual Assault Survey?

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Elizabeth Chedester, highlighted the theme “from the cross, through the church, to the world.” It was meant to “reveal the way a personal relationship with Christ can translate into actions with a global impact,” Maria Waterfield, ‘17 explained. “It’s turning something personal into something more tangible, visible.” Rudolph and Chedester echoed this in their emphasis on the call of all Christians to missions. “Missions is not intended only for special people,” Chedester said. “We’re all

called to missions.”

The choices for New Vision Week speakers reflect this emphasis. Rudolph and Chedester chose speakers with a variety of backgrounds, Christian and non-Christian, American and non-American. “We want everyone to be able to relate,” Bethany explained. From this touch-point, they hope for students to consider the challenges issued by the speakers as well as the events. “New Vision Week challenges students to consider missions,” said associate professor of intercultural studies and missions, Marcus Dean, noting the variety of ways a Christian can be involved in missions,

from going overseas to financial support to prayer support.

Besides the various speakers, New Vision Week featured several events, such as a documentary, prayer walk, and culture fun night. “We really tried to put something fun or interesting every day,” Waterfield explained. “The goal this year to make it more the forefront of people’s minds.” The events combine to raise awareness for the call to missions and the global church. Rudolph noted the intention of the documentary on persecution “to create more awareness for what it looks like to be a Christian in the world.” Waterfield, who looks forward

most to the prayer walk, explains that it will inform participants of situations throughout the world while creating the opportunity for prayer. The week ends with worship night, “a nice way to close off the week,” said Waterfield.

Dean notes that New Vision Week has “a long tradition at Houghton College,” for at least fifty years, although it has changed in name and in structure. As it has continued to grow and change, Dean too emphasizes the universal call for Christians to missions. “We can’t think anymore that the mission field is someplace else—so how do we get involved?”

New Vision Week both raises the question and offers information for students to reach their own conclusions.

Rudolph’s hopes for New Vision Week reflect this, “for Houghton to become a place of more global awareness, more intentional living.” This can occur through the week’s goal of “increased awareness of brothers and sisters around the world” in Christ as well as “those who don’t know the gospel yet.” Ultimately, as Maria Waterfield says, New Vision week hopes “to show people that there are ways to be involved no matter where you are, what you’re doing.”★

**Want to write? Email us at [editor@houghtonstar.com](mailto:editor@houghtonstar.com)**

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institutions over three years as they pursue doctoral work in the humanities and arts. Two past graduate fellows are Houghton alumni: Kyle Vitale (‘09) and Gerard Gentry (‘10).

“One of the best things about going to the most recent conference was that I got to see Kyle Vitale and talk to him about his experience,” said Mills Woolsey. “He talked about the Lilly Graduate Fellows program as being a lifeline during such a discouraging time for students in graduate school in the arts and humanities.”

Mills Woolsey, having represented Houghton at conferences off and on since 2001, was elected to a four-year term on the National Network Board for LFP last year. As a board member, she attended discussions and panels at the 2015 conference, but also attended a day-and-a-half-long board meeting. The LFP National Board, which is composed of twelve members, meets twice a year. Meetings are packed with discussions in which they decide what initiatives LFP will fund in the coming year, what themes they will pursue for future conferences, and what prospective institutions they might accept into the network.

Although Houghton maintains memberships in other Christian national organizations, including the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities and the Christian College Con-

sortium, LFP stands out as a Christian network that crosses denominational lines.

“Lilly overlaps with CCCU in that it does include some evangelical colleges, but it’s broader,” said Mills Woolsey of the organization. “You get to interact with faculty from Roman Catholic colleges, Lutheran colleges, United Methodist and Presbyterian colleges, and some of the Baptist colleges. It’s a more varied pool, but it’s amazing how much we share in common.”

The commonalities in these academics’ commitment to their faith and vocation are celebrated at LFP’s annual National Conference. This year’s conference, entitled “Created for Creativity: Music, Culture and Faith,” took place from October 9 through 11. In conjunction with Belmont’s strong music program, the conference focused on the theology of cre-

ativity. Participants had the opportunity to network by exploring Nashville together, sharing meals, and attending sessions that featured speakers who specialize in some aspect of the music profession. These speakers included the director of Belmont’s Religion & Arts Program, a music professor and choral director from Auburn University, a record label executive, and an award-winning songwriter and performer.

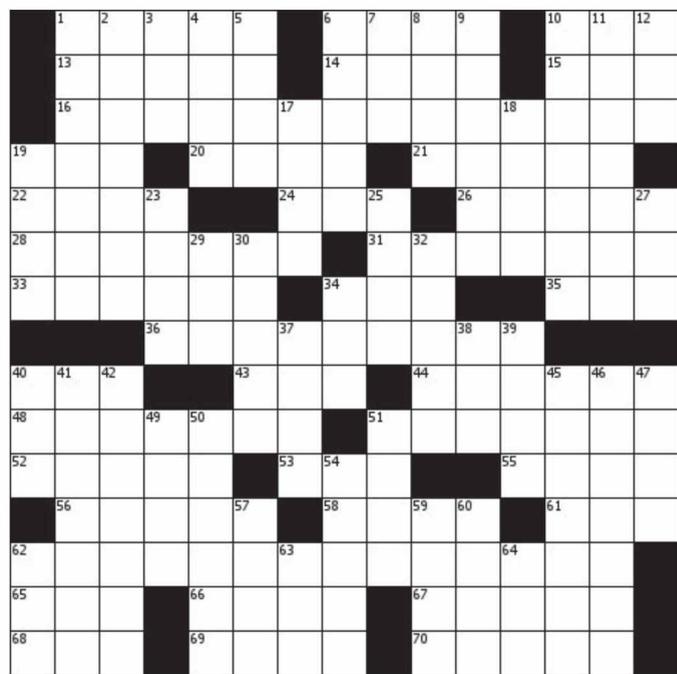
While each conference has its own unique theme, with past conferences discussing such diverse topics as racial justice and urban issues, music and worship is always an important part of the National Conference. According to Mills Woolsey, Roman Catholic and Protestant members alike share in ecumenical worship services together that are especially meaningful, and inspire a sense of fellowship among

its participants. This fellowship is ultimately what makes LFP special as a National Network, whether members experience it through worship, conversation, or a speaker’s message. Mills Woolsey affirmed this, saying:

“As a speaker, you want to draw your audience into a conversation that discusses what are our shared beliefs, and what are our shared problems and concerns, rather than focusing on the things that divide us.”

In the midst of a challenging time for higher education in the arts and humanities, LFP allows schools like Houghton to continue to grow in their mission, while connecting with other like-minded institutions. Fortunately, Houghton’s strong and lasting connection with LFP has and will continue to benefit the college’s lasting legacy in the liberal arts.★

**Crossword of the Week**



- Across**
- 1. “Quo \_\_\_?” (1951 film in which 70-Across played Nero)
  - 6. “Sheesh, \_\_\_ you

- 10. Liq. measures
- 13. Sports spot
- 14. Owns, biblically
- 15. Olive \_\_\_

- 16. Start of a quote
- 19. Pressure prefix
- 20. Gusto
- 21. Simon Legree
- 22. Post office objective?
- 24. Was in front
- 26. Double’s doing
- 28. Fit to be tied
- 31. See 70-Across
- 33. Ice in the spring, e.g.
- 34. Quebec’s \_\_\_ d’Orléans
- 35. Urban railways
- 36. Middle of the quote
- 40. N.C. summer hrs.
- 43. Lodge frequenter
- 44. Ideal place
- 48. Agatha’s inspector, and frequent role of 70-Across
- 51. Bulls’ vindications
- 52. South Korea’s capital
- 53. \_\_\_ Nabisco
- 55. LPs
- 56. Some tap-ins
- 58. Richard of “A Summer Place”
- 61. Sloth is one
- 62. End of the quote
- 65. Address that begins

- with “http”
- 66. Champagne name
- 67. Doomed mission
- 68. Bar order
- 69. Leaves speechless
- 70. With 31-Across, author of the quote

- Down**
- 1. Shot contents
  - 2. Stirring
  - 3. FDR or JFK
  - 4. Don Juan’s mother
  - 5. “No Ordinary Love” singer
  - 6. Andean land
  - 7. Small batteries
  - 8. Accident investigation gp.
  - 9. Water shortage consequence
  - 10. Top 40 number
  - 11. Headache helper
  - 12. Clever
  - 17. Eli’s home
  - 18. Conductor Ricardo
  - 19. Actor Tamiroff
  - 23. Lady of Sp.

- 25. Fittingly
- 27. Sets in dens
- 29. Pershing’s WWI command
- 30. Thin cooked cereal
- 32. Clinch
- 34. Pen filler
- 37. S.F. Giant, for one
- 38. Sprint competitor
- 39. Part of BYOB
- 40. “How’s that again?” syllables
- 41. Cook at McDonald’s, perhaps
- 42. Difficulty
- 45. Take for granted
- 46. Cutting tooth
- 47. Org.
- 49. Adorable
- 50. Last syllable of a word
- 51. Sudden desire
- 54. Speaks facetiously
- 57. Misllead, slangily
- 59. Give \_\_\_ (care)
- 60. Longest river
- 62. “\_\_\_ Father, who art...”
- 63. “How about that!”
- 64. Feed bag bit

# Gaertes Galore

## A Family's Investment at Houghton

CASEY GREENE

Imagine you see Professor of Communication, Douglas Gaerte, and three people from the advancement office sit down at a small table for dinner in the dining hall. The automatic assumption would be that this is a business dinner. It is just as likely, however, that you are witnessing a family dinner. Doug, his wife, and their two children Andrew Gaerte and Emily Spateholts all work for Houghton College.

The Gaerte family hasn't always been associated with Houghton. Doug and his wife Phyllis met and started dating at Grace College in Indiana, a college not entirely unlike Houghton. Doug said they had a great experience there and upon graduation he decided he wanted to do something similar. The couple had family in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, so Gaerte sent resumés to colleges all over the North East. At that time Houghton had a communication professor who was looking to retire, and Doug was offered the job. According to Doug their original plan was to only stay for a couple years, but they fell in love with the are the wonderful students, and colleagues they



COURTESY OF DOUGLAS GAERTE

Doug Gaerte is the Department Chair of Communication and teaches in the department as well, while Phyllis, Andrew, and Emily work in different capacities in the Advancement Office.

found here.

They stayed and Phyllis began work for Houghton as the Director of Alumni and Community Engagement. When it was time for Emily and Andrew to choose their prospective colleges, they both said their parents en-

couraged them to look elsewhere. However, they knew the people here and knew they could get a great education at Houghton. Ultimately, both Andrew and Emily decided to attend Houghton.

Andrew graduated from Houghton in 2008 and returned

in October 2013, to take the position of Regional Director of Development at Houghton. He said he was never opposed to coming back to Houghton, but never planned on it. However, he realized that Houghton was doing new and exciting things and he wanted to be

a part of it.

Emily Gaerte, now Spateholts, graduated in 2012. After graduation she worked in the campus store as the office and course materials manager. She left in the Spring of 2014 to help her friends start a business. When the business was established, she returned in January 2015 as the Development and Reunion Specialist.

The Gaertes all mentioned how much they enjoy working together. Since three of them work in the Advancement Offices, their jobs tend to overlap. Emily mentioned how she specifically enjoys getting to work together on something they are all passionate about. Another unique opportunity this offers is for parent and child collaborations. Doug and Andrew were able to team up with Professor Ryann Cooley, the Associate Professor of Digital Media and Photography, and get the college a \$10,000 grant for a new lighting studio. Doug summed up their family's involvement best when he said "the mission of Houghton College has become such an important thing for our family". By working together they can serve their family and the college they have all grown to love.★

# Summer Research Institute

## Students and Faculty Work Side by Side

EMMA CARPENTER

While most students spend their summer sitting by the pool, traveling, or working, this summer a group of students spent their summer on campus, conducting research and experiments.

Physics professor Mark Yuly, helps lead and guide students through research each summer. "It's a time when professors and students can work on research projects during the summer... and stuff." Yuly laughed. "It's nice, because during that time—during the rest of the year, professors and students are still working on research, but in the summer you can really focus."

According to its webpage, the Summer Research Institute (SRI) allows students "to interact with faculty in a much more collaborative sense than in the

classroom setting" through research in physics, chemistry, biology, math or computer science. This research ranges from studying genetic modifications in influenza viruses, to exploring spam message detection on Twitter.

Yuly has been involved with the SRI since it began, writing the initial proposal for the program. He then worked with computer science professor Wei Hu to make the SRI a reality.

Hu is the director of the SRI. He coordinates the research projects, in addition to doing his own research with students each year. Hu said he and Yuly met with Ron Oakeron, the Dean of the College, in 2006, and received approval to launch the program in 2007.

Seniors August 'Gus' Gula and Thomas Eckert worked with Yuly this summer on research involving inertial confinement fusion (ICF). Yuly explained ICF as a process "when you take a little tiny

pellet of nuclear fuel and hit it with laser beams from every direction." This results in an implosion which is incredibly dense and hotter than the core of the sun.

Unfortunately, the scientific instruments which may be used to study the implosion are too delicate to withstand the experiment. Therefore, as an alternative, scientists "put a piece of carbon in [the test chamber], a piece of graphite, and the neutrons that are coming out of the explosion cause the graphite to undergo a nuclear reaction." This can hopefully be used to determine what happened inside the implosion, said Yuly.

For this technique to work, scientists need to know "how likely it is that a neutron would interact with the graphite and not just go right through it," said Yuly. Until recently, no one knew what that likelihood was, so Yuly and his two students spent the summer finding out.

Yuly's days at the SRI started early. "A typical day for me would be to get here at 5:30, and work for a couple hours before Gus and Thomas came," Yuly said.

Once the students arrived, they would meet with Yuly to review their plans for the day. Each student had a focus area, tailored to their individual strengths. "Thomas mostly worked on simulating the experiment using computer codes," said Yuly. "Gus primarily worked on collecting data."

The objective of the research project, according to Yuly, was gradually tweaking and improving Eckert's simulation, so it coincided with the data Gula collected. Yuly said by the end of the summer, all the collected data, aside from one set of results that Yuly is "still not completely sure" about, aligned with the final simulation Eckert had created.

For science students interested in going to graduate

school and someday carrying out their own research, hands-on experience during undergraduate school is crucial, said Yuly. "You won't get [research experience] in a normal class unless you have some experience that you can point to," he said. Yuly said the reason graduate programs want students with hands-on experience is because it teaches them key skills that will help them in later research. He said, "You learn a lot of things that you wouldn't learn just by taking a normal class or listening to a lecture."

According to Hu, faculty members benefit from the program, as well, "Our SRI faculty learn how to work with students in research, which is not possible in a standard course work."★

# A Tale of Two (Married) Couples

KASEY CANNISTER

While some students may be waiting for a “ring by spring”, four current Houghton students are learning what it’s like to be a student while being married. Juniors Rachel Brunea and Dan Bellerose, as well as seniors Cherith Saylor and Ben Yuly got married over the summer.

Rachel and Dan met as freshman and dated for a year before they got engaged. Both Rachel and Dan lived in the dorms their first two years. Now they live with their dog Mandy in a rented apartment on route 19.

Cherith and Ben first met in second grade when they played on the same T-ball team. They forgot about each other after attending separate middle and high schools, but met again during their first year at Houghton. The couple dated for six months before they got engaged. Both Ben and Cherith have been commuters throughout their time at Houghton and are now living in a rented apartment, attached to a professor’s house, on Fancher Drive.

Although it is a lot of responsibility, both couples have enjoyed having a sense of freedom as well as leaving the dorm atmosphere and living in a real house. Rachel commented, “It’s been a little stressful as we are both working 15-20 hours every week and doing school. It’s been difficult doing that as well as home life and making time for friends.”

In taking on the responsibility that comes with being married, one of their biggest challenges has been finances, both Rachel and Dan doubled their work hours in order to pay rent

and taxes.

Dan said, “We had to form a plan and realize, sometimes school isn’t always the most important thing. It’s easy to get sucked into work and school, but it’s important to make sure Rachel and I spend time together.” The couple reflected on a time they got home from classes and instead of doing homework right away, went to Moss Lake, to spend time together.

While being married in college can be difficult, it also has its advantages. As the dynamics of social life around campus have changed for both couples, they have enjoyed the changes and feel like they are not missing out on college life.

On the weekends Rachel and Dan try to fit in everything they haven’t been able to do during the week, like hanging out with friends. The couple take their dog for a walk every Saturday, and carpool with friends to Mt. Irinaeus every Sunday morning for Church. However, despite being busy, the couple has been striving in the classroom. Dan said, “Academically, this has been my best semester yet.”

Cherith and Ben have also had to adjust to the daily life of marriage, but overall they have felt it is less stressful. In the past it was very difficult to try and find time to spend together because they were both commuters, living in separate towns, without cars. While they still don’t have a car, it is much more convenient to be with each other.

Cherith’s father works at Houghton, so she would have to rely on his schedule to get a ride to and from school every day. She commented, “It has been great to sleep in a little bit, walk to school when I’m ready, and just come home and hangout at the end of



ANTHONY BURDO

Rachel and Dan Bellerose are tackling college as a newly married couple this year.

the day.”

Ben and Cherith eat all their meals at home together and enjoy supporting local businesses when they go out. Ben commented, “Dinner’s not always glorious, sometimes that means ramen on the couch while watching TV, but we love getting to share our meals together.”

On the weekend, they catch up on homework from a busy week and attend church every Sunday. Since both of their families live close, they try to see them at least once a week. Ben

commented, “We see our families pretty consistently on Sunday or we invite them over during the week.”

Since they were both commuting from home, Ben and Cherith have enjoyed the freedom of living away from their parents. They have felt like they have more independence and control in their lives. Ben said, “It’s nice to have our own place to go back to and get away from people when we want. You can force yourself to relax.”

Cherith commented, “It’s

been difficult trying to juggle being my mom and being a student.” In the past both Cherith and Ben could focus on school and work while their parents took care of the house. Now, they have had to create a plan to take on all of the responsibility.

Through the busyness of school life both couples agreed that they still see friends as much as usual. They’ve really enjoyed having a place where they can invite friends. Cherith commented, “We spent more time with friends now because we have a place to invite them to.”

With graduation quickly approaching, both couples have started thinking about future plans. Ben and Cherith will graduate this spring. The couples will move out of Houghton after graduation and travel to a new home based on the outcome of Ben’s grad school applications for Fall 2016.

Dan and Rachel will study abroad in Tanzania this spring semester and will be the first married students to enroll in Houghton’s Tanzania program. Following graduation in 2017, the couple wants to move to Oregon where Dan will attend grad school and Rachel will find a job working with plants and botany.

While Ben, Cherith, Dan and Rachel are all living different lives compared to most college students, through their marriages, they are really very similar to regular students. They take on the same activities and schedules of the everyday student. Marriage has simply made their relationship easier as they get to be with each other every step of the way in a home they can enjoy together.★

## Alumnus Becomes New Director of Counseling Services

NAOMI PRENTICE

As you walk into the counseling office in the Campus Center, you immediately feel welcomed by a smile, beautiful paintings, and a quiet atmosphere. This sense of acceptance continues as you walk into Bill Burrichter’s office, the new Director of Counseling Services at Houghton. After graduating from Houghton, Burrichter thought it would be great to return to Houghton someday. Now, 23 years later, he’s back.

While speaking with Burrichter, he reflected on his time in Lancaster, PA where he has spent most of his life. He also spent time working in the Boston area, Philadelphia, and even spent a year in Venezuela. In Venezuela, he served as a house parent alongside his wife, who served as a school nurse where he counseled. “I kept trying to go other places, Burrichter said,



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Houghton alum Bill Burrichter, the new Director of Counseling Services, is happy to be back and is looking forward to a slower pace of life here.

but God kept bringing me back to the Lancaster area,” he said. After meeting his wife at a summer camp in Pennsylvania and then marrying, they they pursued their common goal of overseas missions. However, their plan to stay overseas was short-lived when they felt God calling them back home to the U.S. Burrichter said, “Sometimes His path

doesn’t make sense to us, but He directs them in ways that we never would’ve imagined.”

Burrichter graduated from Houghton with a Bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in sociology. Following his four years at Houghton, he went on to graduate school at Villanova for counseling and later earned his doctorate from Walden Uni-

versity in Indianapolis, Indiana. Burrichter and his wife now have three kids, who are still making the transition from Lancaster to Houghton. He reiterated, “God has a plan” and is hoping to buy a farm near Houghton for their family and their pets.

Burrichter worked in Lancaster for 15 years, including teaching at Lancaster Bible College, where he started and directed a counseling center for students. While teaching full-time and working at a private practice in addition to his work in the counseling center, Burrichter was contacted by Michael Lastoria, the former counseling director, about the position at Houghton. Lastoria told him that he was retiring and Burrichter fairly quickly declined. After receiving more emails from Houghton faculty about the position opening, Burrichter decided to ask his wife and kids about the job. Upon hearing their approval instead of the “no’s” he was expecting, Burrichter knew he should listen to God. He ap-

plied and was offered the job last April after extensive interviews.

When asked about his passion for counseling and reaching students, he replied, “Seeing lives changed, seeing lives impacted by the services they get, it keeps you going.” His love for counseling can be traced back to the Introduction to Psychology Burrichter took with Professor Richard Stegen, in which he realized he wanted to interact with people and help them. Burrichter also said, “One of the things I think is really cool about Houghton is that it has a Christian faith foundation.” For Burrichter, “the ability to freely integrate [his] faith with what [he does]... and to be able to talk about faith issues is pretty exciting.”

Burrichter is happy to be back at Houghton, to see students and how far they have come and will come, and to be back to the slower pace of life in our open and rural community.★

# Our Idolatry of God *Just Another Supplement*



ANTHONY BURDO

MATT YOUNG

Many of you will not like what I have to say; but I believe it is the truth, and it needs to be said. Professors, administrators, and fellow students; even if we have never met, we all share in the friendship of God. But I agree with Aristotle when he said that we must honor the truth more highly than we do friends. So, here's the truth as I see it.

We have a God problem. That is to say that we have a problem in the way that we relate to, talk about, and sell (yes, sell) God to each other

and the world. More specifically, we have turned God into an idol, some *thing* we elevate to a place in our lives in the hope that it will provide us with ultimate satisfaction, happiness, fulfillment, comfort, peace, etc. An idol promises to give us life. It promises to satisfy our desires in an ultimate sense, in a way that nothing else can. Anything can be an idol; money, fame, prestige, health, beauty, a partner, and even God. When we treat God as a thing -- as an object sought for gaining personal satisfaction in our search for meaning -- God becomes an idol. For God is not a thing; there is no thinghood in God. Rather, God is that which calls us to relate to all things in a certain way. Put another way, God is the non-thing that organizes our relation to all things. But we have treated God as a thing -- a product that will satisfy us -- and this turns God into an idol.

At this point you are probably close to accusing me of being

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**“We have a problem in the way that we relate to, talk about, and sell (yes, sell) God to each other and the world.”**

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**“If fairs are events for advertising and selling products, what does this say about the church fair?”**

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dramatic, nonsensical, and ridiculous. You want evidence; some “for instances” that explain just *how* we are committing this grave sin I speak of. I will offer two evidences of this idolatry of God. The first has to do with the way in which we have tried to sell God to each other. The second is what I will call a supplement, something we use when the God-product isn't working the way we had hoped. For when this God-product fails to satisfy our desire and search for meaning by itself, we create *supplements*, or apps (if you will) as add-ons promised to complete the God-product experience. God is not enough, else we would have no need for

these supplemental apps.

Several weeks ago we had a “church fair” in the Campus Center. Representatives from a dozen plus churches or faith groups set up tables filled with shiny flyers, pamphlets, posters, bagels, cookies, coffee, etc. One poster said: “What we can offer”. Let's be honest: What is the point of a fair? Well, I participated in the Activities Fair, and the point was to present your club's activity to interested parties, hoping to pique their interest with something you had to offer. In a sense, we were peddling a product, an activity, a form of entertainment. If fairs are events for advertising and selling products, what does this say about the church fair? What product were we selling to each other if not a God-product -- a God-as-thing-to-be-peddled?

The thing with products is that they are never enough on their own. We need supplements. Any good salesperson knows this. An Apple product wouldn't

be an Apple product without the Apps. The iPhone would be a virtually useless, unsatisfying piece of metal and software if not for the infinite number of supplemental applications one can download and use. “Oh c'mon”, you say, “we don't do this with God”! What, then, did people line up for hours a couple weekends ago to take part in? To worship God? Certainly not, for we could all do that in the privacy of our own homes or in our local churches. People lined up for a concert -- a “Christian” concert -- a supplement to the God-product unique to our modern, Western, would-be-relevant, form of Christianity.

Is the church fair fundamentally different than any other fair? No. Were the long, snaking, endless lines for TobyMac fundamentally different than what we see at the latest release of an Apple product? No. What are we selling? Why are we selling it? I fear that rather than approval, Jesus would have cause to invoke “den of thieves” language if he were to step foot on our campus. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy. ★

*Matt is a sophomore philosophy major.*

## Being Queer at Houghton *Sally Murphy '11*

When I was a kid I was known for a few things- crazy hairstyles, my buck teeth I shot water through, and the fact that I never had a crush on any boys at school. Famously at every sleep over- my friends and I giddy with sugar and the freedoms of a late night- we would play truth or dare, never have I ever and eventually settle solidly on the topic of the cutest boys in school. In earlier days I was asked and I smirked and shrugged- even the most popular didn't interest me. Eventually they stopped even trying, Sally simply didn't like any boys.

What I didn't know at the time was that Sally just didn't like boys...at all. And quite frankly, Sally still doesn't.

I am lucky honestly. I am lucky that I grew up going to a school that didn't put too much stock in one's dating or sex life. People did or did not date, there were even a few openly gay kids smattered through my middle and high schools and while I am sure they did not have it 100% easy time of it, most of us never really second guessed it. I didn't think too much about what made me different because I didn't have to. At home my parents made it clear that issues of sexuality were not issues. I went to church, but I didn't feel comfortable there for a myriad of reasons. It might not have been a safe space, but again- I was not necessarily looking for that.

It wasn't until college that I began to learn the nuances of being rejected.

It should be noted that I am, in fact, a local kid. I was born in Warsaw, NY and carried home to a house on rt. 19. I moved once in my childhood, when I was 7, to a quiet home next to the president's house. I loved growing up in a college town. I loved the picnics on the quad every year to welcome back faculty and staff. I loved talking about my parent's professions with confidence and pride, I loved listening from the railing at home while my parents discussed lofty topics far past my bedtime and I loved seeing the students come in and out of our home and my life leaving behind them a sea of unobtainable fashion and wit. But growing up in Houghton and attending the school are very different. One doesn't get a full understanding of what it means to be in a Christian place until one must sign a paper to abide by their rules.

I remember reading the community covenant for the first time when I was 17. I don't remember signing it- but I am sure I did. I think I pretended I didn't to save myself the shame of feeling that I had somehow broken it.

Because, after all, it was just around that time- entering college- that I knew I was different. And I suspected I was queer.

I won't go into gritty details

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**“Where was this line between me just being me and me being the sinful predator the church had made me out to be?”**

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**“This issue has hurt people. Houghton has hurt people. And so long as the covenant is the way it is- that will continue to be true.”**

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of my coming out or the nuances of what I have learned along the way, but I will say it was hard. It was a lot of dark conversations, a lot of reading the Bible and googling articles about sin and a lot of self-abusing. But one of the things that made it the hardest was the conversation about “practicing homosexuality” or “homosexual behavior.” This made no sense to me. Besides the obvious problem that homosexuality was not a choice, I was ironically constantly being told that I was not committing a sin because I was not acting on it. I was not “practicing it.”

Here is the thing though- I was still gay. I never dated in college, I certainly never had sex and I barely dipped the romantic pot but I was still gay. We talk a lot about homosexuality but little about the romantic or emotional that is intertwined in that. I wondered if I talked to a girl I liked innocently after chapel if that counted. If I fell in love- was that a sin? What about

walking next to someone? Doing homework together? Where was this line between me just being me and me being the sinful predator the church had made me out to be? It's a question that continues to bother me. It's a question that remains imbedded in the community covenant to this day.

I am lucky. I had a great college experience. My sexuality has never been the most important part of my being and so though I bear a few scars on my arms I have not had the trial so many of us in the LGBTQ community have had coming out. I have been loved by my family and friends and I enjoyed my time in high school and even college. I love Houghton. I loved growing up there, I loved attending school there, I even loved working there after college. Really- I really do just ask me, I will gush for hours.

But recently I was asked if I would return if a position became available. And the answer is, quite frankly, that I could

never do that. Not only have I spent the past few years more honestly exploring who I am and understanding how wrong the community covenant is, but I am dating someone and it is clear that Houghton does not want me.

In my time at Houghton I followed the community covenant really well. I never did drugs, I attended way more chapels than needed, I never attempted witchcraft (although one time I snuck off campus to read some Harry Potter- JK, I would never) and I only cracked a beer one time on campus after the death of a friend. And yet, I broke it- every day, every hour, every minute. And that's hard, because I love Houghton, and there is not anything I can do about that.

I am lucky- I get to walk away from this with a little sadness and a little more hope. But I do want to say- that's not often the case. This issue has hurt people. Houghton has hurt people. And so long as the covenant is the way it is- that will continue to be true. It's a step in the right direction at least.

Who knows, maybe one day a job will open up and I will be able to apply.

But in the meantime, I will stay where I am- happy, accepted, loved, a Christian trying their hardest, a human doing what they can, wearing crazy hairstyles and wishing she could still shoot water through her teeth. ★

# Keep Our Government Accountable



ANTHONY BURDO

EMILY FRIESEN

On Saturday, October 3rd, the US Government ordered an airstrike that inadvertently hit a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan. This hospital provided trauma care for Afghani victims of war. It is also one of the only medical centers left in this region of Afghanistan. In its response to this negligence, the Pentagon stated that “there may have been collateral damage to a nearby medical facility,” according to the New York Times. The hospital had released their GPS coordinates, prior to the strike, to all active parties in the region. How does this happen? At the highest levels

of government, how can such flagrant “errors” occur, and why have we, as a nation, accepted the rationalization of ‘collateral damage’?

This kind of thing has happened before and it will continue to happen as long as the public passively accepts the so-called “realities of warfare”. Reports about drones, airstrikes, and civilian casualties are so common, it is hard to feel outraged anymore. In the news cycle, there is an unspoken rating scale for tragedies. There’s a VIP list of who was killed: “how many?” and “were any US citizens killed?” On such a scale, this incident in Kunduz falls pretty low.

To counter this kind of hierarchy, I won’t tell you how many people died, or their individual nationalities—our guilt and grief shouldn’t be tied to numbers—it belongs

“This kind of thing has happened before and it will continue to happen as long as the public passively accepts the so-called ‘realities of warfare’.”

to the fact that a hospital was bombed and our government representatives basically said, “Oops.” Patients burned to death in their hospital beds. Innocent civilians seeking medical treatment should not have to fear hospital-bombings. The United States should not be paying lip-service to peacekeeping while simultaneously hindering the work of international doctors who are giving their time and expertise to treat individuals with limited

medical access. Days after the airstrike, Doctors Without Borders evacuated northern Afghanistan because of severely damaged facilities and staff casualties. Afghans from the Kunduz region will now have to travel hours to be treated.

I am by no means a journalist, so if you would like to know more about the airstrike, the New York Times has a number of informative articles on their website. Please read more about this!

Believe it or not, we are the voice of our government, and while our national attention has been focused on the election, this is what has actually been happening. I’m worried about the national election outcome; and (I think) like a lot of people, I follow the daily gaffes, comments, and pronouncements of both the Republican and Democratic candidates. I worry about who the future president might be, but this is just one office, of one branch of government. In

comparison, so little of my time, thought, and outrage is given to the daily actions of the Pentagon, the top military officers, or the Department of Defense.

As citizens, we have the privilege and responsibility to stay informed and to speak out about all areas of government. Examine how you spend your political efficacy: Staying politically active is more than just voting. Keep our government accountable: email your state representatives and stay informed on international events. Through your political activity, force the presidential candidates to address these issues. As citizens of a democracy, we have intrinsic political power. When we don’t take action as citizens, I believe we are, in part, responsible for the consequences of our complacencies and indifferences. We have an obligation to ourselves, to our country, and the world to do more than just vote. Government decisions are made every day, every hour, that radically affect the world—who could honestly believe that just voting once every four years makes a difference? ★

*Emily is a junior studio art and English double major.*



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.

## Letter to the Editor

### Stop Complaining, Start Writing

To my Fellow Highlanders--

The STAR is a great resource for public discourse. If you do not agree with items in the STAR send a letter to the editor or request to write an article!

The paper *wants* dialogue. It invites it. Therefore, if you disagree with an opinion, *engage* in the discussion-- it only makes you and I better and more informed people. But to deny the invitation to engagement and to resort to simply bad-mouthing the paper

around campus only disgraces the concept of civil discourse and distracts those who can learn from one another.

So please, if you have an opinion start writing and let’s talk.

- Jiwan Dhaliwal



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# Artist of the Week

## Emily Friesen

//junior studio art and English major



ANTHONY BURDO



### Titles & Media

*clockwise descending*

Pond at Poppop's, *watercolor sketch*

Bear Quilt Detail, *fabric and thread*

Untitled, *watercolor*

Watership Rabbit, *ceramics*

Untitled, *oil painting*



“ Pearl and her outlaw friend swept off into an ethereal November heaven. I watched the plane’s shadow ripple over the desert and drift across the Grand Canyon. We talked and laughed and ate and sang. Stars and the lilac of twilight filled the air, and the Rocky Mountains, shrouded in blue snow, loomed ahead, a lemony slice of new moon hovering above them. ”

–Truman Capote