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## ONE DAY GIVING CHALLENGE RETURNS TO HOUGHTON

MARITH ANDERSON ('22)

It's that time of year again—Houghton's Annual One Day Giving Challenge. Today, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students will be encouraged to contribute during this fundraising event and help support student scholarships, capital projects, as well as academic and co-curricular student experiences.

Grantwriter and Donor Communications Director Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano acknowledges that the Challenge has been so successful in the past partly due to donation challenges prompted by generous donors. For example, this year, Student Scholarship Fund donations up to a predetermined amount will be matched dollar for dollar. Additionally, in honor of the year in which Houghton was founded, if a threshold of



President Lewis and Houghton students greeting new students last fall.

more than 1,833 donors is reached, additional funds will be awarded. Also, for the alumni class with the most donors, \$25,000 will be endowed in a scholarship in their class name, helping to benefit students in the future.

“Special just for Houghton’s current students and their families is a

challenge made by President Lewis and our First Lady, Mrs. Lewis,” continues Amanda Zambrano. “For every (current) Houghton student, parent, and grandparent who makes a gift, the Lewises will make a matching \$19 gift to our Student Scholarship Fund. When three generations of the same

family make a gift, the Lewises will give an EXTRA \$19. The number 19 draws on scriptural reference to Joshua 1:9, celebrating our Fearless campaign.”

Houghton College’s Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement Karl Sisson reiterates the excitement and importance of the day,

“With even more lead matching and challenge gifts this year, I continue to both awe and humbled by the generosity of the Houghton faithful. I am also grateful for the student leaders and ambassadors who are coming alongside us to help make this year’s One Day Giving Challenge even more fun and successful.”

On the day of the challenge, there will be a takeover on Houghton’s website and affiliated social media accounts. Students are also invited to attend and participate in activities being held in the Van Dyk Lounge between lunch and dinner, and there will be friendly competitions being held in the Kerr-Pegula Field House from 8-10pm.

Sisson also revisited today’s chapel announcement from President and

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## Censorship in Russia

JOSHUA CARPENTER ('24)

As the Russo-Ukrainian war wages on in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, another war is being fought within Russia: a war between the Russian government and the Russian citizen, between the taking of freedom and the expression of it—the war on Russian censorship.

Since Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity in February of 2014, which was led by Ukrainian protestors who overthrew their government in a series of deadly protests, the country has been in a state of war with Russia over its independence. The goal of the Ukrainian protestors was to turn their government away from choosing closer ties to Russia after Victor Yanukovich (Ukraine’s



COURTESY OF RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT

president at the time) was pressured by Russia into rejecting a political association and free trade agreement with the European Union (EU). According to BBC News, Yanukovich argued, “Ukraine could not afford to sacrifice trade with Russia, which opposed the [EU] deal.” But this argument did not keep the Ukrainian parliament from overthrowing him

with, as Kyiv Post, the oldest English-language newspaper in Ukraine reported, a “328-0 vote to impeach Yanukovich.” Agitated, Russia considered the overthrow of Yanukovich to be an illegal coup and did not recognize parliament’s implementation of an interim (acting) government. Ukraine has been breaking ties with Russia ever since

then with a focus on empowering itself as an independent nation.

What the world is seeing in 2022 is a similar story to Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity. Russian citizens have become increasingly aware of what many of them would refer to as government corruption, abuse of power, and violation of human rights—all of which fueled them to

protest the war against Ukraine and to call for Russian President Putin’s impeachment. While doing so, however, they are being met with aggressive censorship.

As illuminated by the Human Rights Watch, an international non-governmental organization that reports on abuses happening throughout the world, “The 2019 ‘sovereign internet’ law [Russian law] requires internet service providers (ISPs) to install equipment that allows authorities to circumvent providers and automatically block content the government has banned and reroute internet traffic themselves.” With this law in place, Russian authorities have the legal right to suppress public expression of disapproval of the government’s official narrative (being that there is no war,

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# MANNRS HEADS TO FLORIDA FOR CONFERENCE

MARY VANDENBOSCH & CASSIE CAVELL ('23)

In late March, after extensive preparation, the Houghton College MANRRS Chapter, including eleven students and two advisors, traveled to the MANRRS National Conference in Jacksonville, FL for a one-of-a-kind learning, networking, and professional development experience. With over a thousand students in attendance, it was valuable for the Houghton chapter to meet and connect with students from all over the country.

MANRRS is a national organization that works to support Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Science, through academic and professional advancement. At Houghton, the mission of the chapter is to bring students from diverse backgrounds together and provide them with resources to be successful. Students might have heard of MANNRS through their resume competition, campus-wide events, and supporting other campus groups and events like BEST Talks and the Center for Sustainability. However, it is

much more than that. There are six different regions all across the United States, with colleges and universities from Cornell University, Michigan State, to Texas A&M. Students range from Agriculture Business Majors to even a Houghton student who is a Psychology major.

A conference highlight was Chapter President, Mary Vandenbosch ('23) being elected as the Region 1 Vice President for this coming year, a very prestigious nationally elected position. She was also recognized as a Cargill Scholar. As a part of the scholarship, Vandenbosch received financial academic support and monthly leadership training. In August, she will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to visit the Cargill headquarters. Scholarships are a very big part of MANRRS, and some can even assist with graduate funding to general education. Cassie Cavell ('23), an Exercise Science major, will be utilizing her scholarship granted by the Dairy Farmers of America essay competition toward her first semester of Chiropractic school this fall. To apply for these scholarships, all

students have to do is be an active member in MANRRS and submit the various applications.

Cavell was also one of five finalists in the national Research Presentation competition. She had 8 minutes to present her biology research proposal entitled Substitution of Cannabidiol Formulations for Migraine Headache Treatments before fielding questions from the judges and audience. Reflecting on the experience, she said, "I felt incredibly proud to represent Houghton, one of 70 national chapters, and compete against large universities like Oregon State and Florida A&M. I'm really appreciative to Dr. Antigoni and my friends who provided me with an audience to practice before I competed at such a prestigious event!" Another Houghton student, Sarah Gard ('25), a Business Major, competed in the Research Discussion Contest. The national conference has competitions with prizes for all areas of interest including STEM, communication, business, and more.

Students relished the opportunity to spend valuable time with two

Houghton MANRRS alumni, who are now both data scientists for Land O'Lakes, John Khalaf ('18) and Jacob Annis ('18). Both alums secured internships and subsequently their jobs as a result of their own MANRRS national conference experiences. Along with three other fellow MANRRS alumni (Michael Cha ('18), Erik Sorenson ('20) and Ryan Ozzello ('21)), they also treated the group to a pizza party and served to be a great source of encouragement to the students.

Our students experienced incredible success during the Career Fair where they secured interviews, internships, and leads on careers following graduation with highly-respected national and international corporations and organizations such as John Deere and the USDA. One student did not know her Digital Marketing interest would be desired by various companies. Andrea Taboni ('22), a Communications major, stated, "This was an experience like no other. Throughout the conference there were many different opportunities for networking." Andrea helped show the true na-

ture of MANRRS and how it is for all students from all backgrounds.

"I am confident this unique conference experience will prove to serve as a springboard for our current and future servant-leaders," explained Karl Sisson, faculty advisor and Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement. "I was very proud of their confidence and composure, and how they represented Houghton College."

"I relished how our students bonded—referring to themselves as a 'team' and re-creating the Houghton community away from campus," commented Sisson. "They fully supported and encouraged one another. It was a very special thing to witness!"

*To learn more about getting involved in Houghton's MANRRS Chapter, contact houghton.manrrs@gmail.com or reach out to Chapter President Mary Vandenbosch ('23) for more questions. Karl Sisson also contributed to this article.*

## PRO Talk: San Francisco 49ers

ANDREA TABONI ('22)

On March 10, 2022, the Center for Data Science Analytics (CDSA) hosted their second PRO Talk featuring Brian Hampton, Vice President of Football Administration, and Demetrius Washington, Manager of Football Research and Development from the San Francisco 49ers.

During the talk, students and faculty got to hear about how the San Francisco 49ers use data within their organization. At the beginning of the talk, there was a surprise guest, Maurice "Mo" Hurst, the 49er's newly signed Defensive Tackle. Hurst gave some insight on how he and other players on his team use data to improve their performance on the field.

Once Hurst was done talking, the conversation about data usage was turned over to Hampton and Washing-

ton, who focused on the skills that one needs to be a data science professional in the sports industry. Hampton stated, "It does not matter how well you are as a data scientist, what matters is how well you can present that information to someone." This shows how "communication is key" in everything that you do.

Hampton and Washington also mentioned the key skills and practices that an individual needs to get a job in the professional sports industry. When they were asked about one piece of advice that they would give for students looking for a job in professional sports, Demetrius stated, "Sharpen your skills as much as possible, network, and to reach out." Hampton echoed Washington's point about networking, stating, "Networking is the key word of all of that. A lot

of people in this industry get the job from some form of reference."

The CDSA provides hands-on opportunities for students in data science. To learn more about future PRO Talk speakers, or about the CDSA in general, subscribe to their monthly newsletter at [cdsa@houghton.edu](mailto:cdsa@houghton.edu).

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Mrs. Lewis regarding the President's challenge, which includes the aforementioned \$19 gift-matching, as well as the naming of 5 things in President Lewis' office.

Zambrano believes whole-heartedly that this event has great value. She shares, "The One Day Giving Challenge is such an inspiring day for Houghton College. Seeing the thousands of alumni, friends, employ-

ees, students and families who come together to support the Student Scholarship Fund is a profound reminder of the importance of the Kingdom work that happens on our campus. The energy and enthusiasm makes for a great day for us to come together as a community to love, support and care for the scholar-servants of today

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only a special military operation).

Stepping outside of the internet, peaceful anti-war protestors on the streets of Moscow are being arrested by the thousands. The Human Rights Watch reported, "The [Russian] police used excessive force against protestors while detaining them and, in several instances, inflicted abuse amounting to torture or inhuman and degrading treatment, on those in custody."

In a security council meeting, Putin com-

mented on what he thinks of anti-war protestors, "The Russian people will always be able to distinguish true patriots from scum and traitors and simply spit them out like a gnat that accidentally flew into their mouths." When asked about the Russian government's excessive force against such "scum," Putin said, "I am convinced that such a natural and necessary cleansing of society will only strengthen our country, our solidarity, cohesion and readiness to respond to any challenges."

For further information on the war between Russia and Ukraine, websites like The Human Rights Watch provide regular updates on this as well as other human rights violations occurring throughout the world.

# Ukrainian Students: What Education Means in Times of War



JACQUELINE JOHNSON ('23)

Like many others, I have been trying my best to follow the issues and events concerning the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Recently, I was granted an eye-opening experience to which I am very grateful. On Friday, March 11 Ukrainian Catholic University hosted a conversation involving over 200 universities worldwide, where several Ukrainian students shared their experiences and thoughts surrounding the conflict and what it means in their lives.

I am a history major here at Houghton, and it is moments like these that strike a renewed realization in me on the importance of history and the importance of listening. The first woman who spoke cried for her friend, who had recently been killed as a result of the conflict. Another shared how she and fellow students had been spending their time writing letters, making blankets, and baking cookies to aid Ukrainian soldiers and refugees. While my free time is spent playing nerf or

*“While my free time is spent playing nerf or enjoying the fleeting spring weather, these university students spend their time thinking about the growing conflict all around them.”*

Following this experience, I was also thankful to have a conversation with Dr. Francesca Silano, Assistant Professor of History, who specializes in Soviet History, and who organized the live viewing of this confer-

tory is always the responsibility of teaching students to meet people...trying to meet them, and understand them, and be where they are.” Thinking back to hearing the student’s stories, I think I can understand that.

I think that when one looks at history or current events, it is extremely important to remember that history is made up of people. People with their own motivations, fears, wishes, and lives. I recognize that I am in a position of great privilege. I am able to pursue my education, and I am able to do so with rela-

tive stability. I am grateful for this. I am also grateful to know that I am privileged. We live in such a globalized world, for better or worse, and one of the most important things to be gained from that is the ability to see others and try to understand. I am grateful to the professors who organized this event and events like this, and I am grateful for the students who shared their lives with strangers all over the world so that they might understand. I urge others to pray for peace and to listen to the stories that people need to share.

*Jacqueline Johnson is a Junior double majoring in history and in writing. They can often be found in the library, or out enjoying the swings when the weather permits. They enjoy both stories and coffee in every form.*

*“...history is made up of people. People with their own motivations, fears, wishes, and lives”*

enjoying the fleeting spring weather, these university students spend their time thinking about the growing conflict all around them.

ence here at Houghton. During this conversation, I asked about her perspective as a professor during this conflict. She said, “The responsibility of teaching his-

Have an opinion you want to share? Contact [christian.welker24@houghton.edu](mailto:christian.welker24@houghton.edu)

## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be less than 600 words

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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 College 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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The Houghton  
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## In Review

## The Batman (2022)

CALEB TIEDEMANN (\*25)

With Marvel producing more content than rabbits producing offspring, I have grown somewhat tired of the continual unchanging and bland structure that they have adopted. Sure, it's cool to see new heroes, but eventually the same paths will be tread. DC, on the other hand, is the literal opposite of Marvel, they lack the ability to start their own universe, they shoot down success, and interfere in the productions, causing bad blood among cast and crew alike. In short, Warner Bros. has no idea what they want other than bringing in that sweet green paper. In recent times, movies like *The Suicide Squad* and Zack Snyder's *Justice League* have garnered enough revenue that will hopefully mean they are on the right track. However, if their idea of "on track" is to hire the guy Marvel fired, and finally let the guy who needed a break because his daughter died to finally finish his dream movie nearly four years later, due to extreme cast and fan backlash, I would say they still haven't figured it all out yet. With all that in mind, let's talk about *The Batman*.

Batman is a somewhat controversial hero, some dislike him, and some love him. Personally, Batman is the best superhero, a man without powers who has to rely on his gut, intellect, and self-created gadgets to solve crimes from increasingly insane villains. But one of the things that makes Batman such a great hero is his enemies. A hero is only as good as his villains. Each of Batman's main foes offer up a different challenge to him, whether a challenge of intellectual prowess or physical will.

Over the years there have been many actors to play the Dark Knight, Michael Keaton, Christian Bale, and most recently, up until this movie, Ben Affleck. With the last solo Batman film releasing in 2012, we were long overdue for another outing. Enter Robert Pattinson. Now, I will fully admit when I heard that they cast Edward Cullen as Batman, I could not stop laughing. I was sure this movie would be a flop, but then I saw the trailer and became intrigued. Leading up to my viewing of *The Batman* I watched multiple movies in Robert Pattinson's filmography, and I have to say that I was very impressed with how much better of an actor he had become. I was hopeful.

Matt Reeves's *The Batman* is quite a good film; however, it is not the best Batman movie by a long shot, in my humble opinion. *The Dark Knight* is still the proud owner of that title. Clocking in at a whopping 175 minutes, *The Batman* is a dark and gritty detective tale, the likes of which we have never seen on the big screen. For the first half an hour the movie was amazing. The opening scene is masterfully shot and bone chilling. It all builds up so well and then manages to fall apart so easily. It is impossible to write this review without spoilers so there is a warning in effect. The beginning is solid, setting up Riddler as this sadistic killer, and I was in love with it. It was the Riddler of my dreams, insane and designing Saw-like traps just to prove that he was smarter than the Batman. However, all his traps had a purpose to

expose the rich elitist evil in Gotham. It was not what I wanted exactly, but I was still happy.

For me the entire film falls away once Batman gets involved with Catwoman. From that point on, we forget about Riddler and instead focus on the other villains: Catwoman, who is doing the exact same thing in every single Batman movie that she appears in; Carmine Falcone, who half the world either does not know or care about; and Penguin, who is hardly even the Penguin. He's literally Falcone's lapdog, and for the most part, his entire character is wasted in this movie. My biggest gripe was how much was done with Falcone. Falcone almost never takes center stage in any Batman related content, so it was really weird to see Matt Reeves take on a superhero *Goodfellas*. We then go on this whole tangent, for a solid ninety minutes about Bruce's parents and their ties to the mob, Catwoman and her ties to the mob, Penguin and his ties to the mob, etc. We even find out that Catwoman's father is Falcone, a reveal that was about as interesting and wanted as mowing the lawn. It turns from detective thriller to soap opera.

There were also a lot of inconsistencies, like how Catwoman instantly trusted Batman and then got suspicious later on. Catwoman never trusted Batman in any other media, why did she start now? Just because of her friend? Also Gotham streets are rampant with a drug called "Drops" yet we never learn anything about them or what they do. It is referred to multiple times.

The final thing that the movie has going for it is the deleted scene that was released online, the one with our new Joker. He was teased in the movie, but now we get to actually see him. He's... something. I am not ruling him out based on his looks, yet. There is potential. Barry Keoghan might do very well with it. I have hopes, and we all know a new Joker will roll in the big bucks.

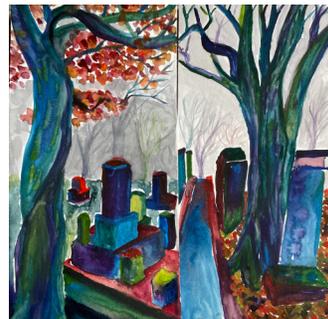
However, all these concerns are relatively minor. Where the plot is lacking, the movie still manages to stand with amazing performances from Paul Dano as the Riddler, Robert Pattinson as Batman/Bruce Wayne and Jeffrey Wright as Gordon. Zoe Kravitz was never really an amazing actor and seldom plays a unique role. Her acting ability is decent enough, but she hardly ever gets to showcase it. Colin Farrell was good whenever he was on screen, but that was not too often. John Turturro was a surprisingly good actor and fit the role of Falcone. The fight choreography, visuals and cinematography are jaw dropping and stunningly gorgeous. Then there is the score... beautiful, absolutely beautiful. These factors become the leg that this movie stands on.

In conclusion, *The Batman* is a very fun movie to watch. It does not always feel like a Batman movie but there are many qualities that make up for everything I dislike. Reeves is very obviously building up for a sequel, so I will still attend and pay my tuition to Hollywood for making another movie.

Final Grade: B+

## Artist of the Week

## Rachel Smith



## About the Artist

Inspired by her travels and the people she meets along the way, Rachel Smith once slept in 18 different beds across three continents in under a year. She grew up in the city of Philadelphia where she had the opportunity to experience different cultures doing life together, which served to inspire both her art and her education. Both the places and the people she meets along the way inspire her pieces.

She is currently a senior at Houghton majoring in Studio Art and Intercultural Studies.