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Students to Travel to Israel this Summer

KRISTEN SAVASTANO

This summer, a group of Houghton students will travel to Israel with Passages for a ten-day trip from June 9 to 19. Passages is described on the official website as being “sponsored by both The Philos Project and the Museum of the Bible Foundation, offering Christian college students with leadership potential a creative next-generation approach to experiencing the Holy Land.” Marcus Dean, Director of Off-Campus Studies, says that last year two groups of Houghton students went on the trip. Two of those students were Juwan Moore '20 and Lysette Vazquez '21.

Moore said that before they went on the trip students were required to “read and watch videos about Israel and about the Israeli and the Palestinian conflict and about the sights we were going to see”. Vazquez added, “We were encouraged to read the Scriptures before getting there.” Moore was in awe of how much media misconstrues our views of the conflict happening in the area. He said, “The information that we get through TV and through the news about [the] Israel and the Palestine conflict.. It's way different than what you learn when



The Garden Tomb

COURTESY OF LYSETTE VAZQUEZ

you're there because they make it seem like they're fighting all the time... which is not true... the government and the officials, that's where the conflict really is... the Israelis and Palestinians are living in harmony and community... in Israel, they get along for the most part.” Vazquez said

it was “really cool” to meet and talk with Palestinians and Israelis who are friends and contributed, “Our tour guide was Israeli but our bus driver was Palestinian... and they were friends... at the end of the day we're all just people whether you're Palestinian, Israeli, American, everyone was

so friendly and so kind.”

They went on excursions to places such as a Holocaust museum, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Holy Church of Sepulchre. Moore remembered, “the thing that was beautiful, the Bible came alive, we were walking in the Bible... especially

when we were walking through the old city of Jerusalem... They haven't built anything new on it.” Vazquez added, “The cool thing is, people still live there... time is just continuing,” and Moore continued, “We were walking on the same ground as Jesus walked on” and “You learn so much about the roots of the faith... We learned a lot about the way that our faith used to be before the new testament, it's really the foundation of everything that happened.” Vazquez recounted on the experience saying, “What I loved most about the experience was just being able to read the Bible... when we got to a significant place they would take time to read Scripture... We sang everywhere we went... I felt the presence of God in a completely different way [than before the trip].”

According to Moore, after the trip students were asked to do “things to connect with what we did”. This included activities such as creating a photo essay, a video, taking a leadership course, taking a survey and/or writing an essay. Marcus Dean explained that this year, the faculty that are attending the trip are going in order to assess Houghton's future with the program. ★

SGA Creates New Role to Increase Outreach

JAKOB KNUDSEN

The subtitle of the SGA (Student Government Association) webpage, “Of the Students, by the Students, for the Students,” neatly summarizes the SGA's mission statement. It is the goal of the SGA to contribute to the Houghton student's growth in all facilities and to represent the student body to the rest of the Houghton community. Traditionally, the SGA focuses on matters on the Houghton campus such as financing for clubs and events. However, it has increasingly come to the attention of the SGA cabinet that there is a need for the SGA to do more to represent the Houghton student body to the wider community of Allegany county. In response to this need, the SGA has reorganized its cabinet, removing the Executive Officer of Committees' position and replacing it with the Executive Officer of Community Engagement. This new position will be responsible for assisting and enabling students to perform community service off campus, organizing outreach programs, and will be a liaison between current community organizations and students.



COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL ON PIXABAY

“We saw a need for... interaction with the community outside of the immediate Houghton college campus context,” comments Thomas Hallman '21, the current Executive Officer of Spiritual Life. The decision to create this new cabinet position was the “brainchild” of Hallman and the current Student Body Vice President, Hannah Sievers '20.

This year, the SGA plans

to address this need directly. Rather than add this task as a sub-responsibility to an existing position, the SGA decided to consolidate the responsibilities of Executive Officer of Committees and Student Body Vice President, opening room in the cabinet for a dedicated Executive Officer of Community Engagement. This new position will be directly responsible for interacting with

the community off the Houghton campus and enabling students to more easily assist Allegany county. “We want this to be a really action based position,” explains Sievers, one that is distinctly “humanitarian.” She expects the Executive Officer of Community Engagement to be responsible for tasks like arranging transportation to and from volunteer activities. This will allow students to more easily get off campus and

help at the local food banks, rake up the local parks and cemeteries, help out with projects around the local school districts, and more. “We don't want it to be something people feel forced to do either,” Sievers was sure to say, but now more options will be opening up for those students looking for community service opportunities.

“This is going to be new,” says Hallman, and will require time and effort to build the network necessary for the role function at its finest. It will require a minor amendment to the SGA constitution to bring into effect, and the support of the Houghton community to realize. The SGA is also making minor amendments to the constitution to clarify language and to allow flexibility in the scheduling of elections, which will allow future leaders to receive in-depth training prior to taking office. In regards to the new position, the SGA is willing and ready to take on this increased load of responsibility in order to, in the words of Sievers, “Reach out to the community... and show the gospel through our actions.” ★

Springtime is Here

PAIGE COLLINS

Its official, spring has arrived. After sitting inside for months through the long Houghton winter, fresh air is just what we need to make it through the remainder of the semester. I find that nothing makes it feel more like spring than an outdoor adventure. I'm always looking to find a new trail to hike, river to trek and waterfall to admire. There are lots of great places to explore in the surrounding area. Some are just a few minutes away, while others require a bit of a drive, but somewhere in between there should be something to suit every adventurer. There's the lovely Houghton trails, woods and fields to explore of course, but if you're craving a new adventure, or simply want to get off campus, here are a few places in the surrounding, Western NY area to adventure and experience the fresh spring air in. ★

- Rushford Lake
- Cuba Lake
- Wiscoy Falls
- Moss Lake
- Amity Lake
- Genesee Valley Canal
- Hanging Bog Wildlife Management Area
- Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area
- Bully Hill State Forest
- Coyle Hill State Forest
- Allen Lake State Forest
- Allen Lake
- Palmer's Pond State Forest
- Keeney Swamp State Forest
- Almond Lake
- Oswayo Creek
- Letchworth State Park
- Stony Brook State Park
- Genesee Valley Greenway Trail
- Hunters Creek County Park
- Tifft Nature Preserve
- Finger Lakes Trail
- John W. Chanler Island Preserve
- Indian Fort Nature Preserve
- Bentley Sanctuary

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STAR Rerun

Silversides

W.V. RUSSELL

They told their wondering comrades of almighty fish that had snapped their lines of braided silk, as if they had been so many cobwebs; and now at last, Jack of the Hills, aroused by the tale of Silversides' prowess, decided to visit the old king in his cool, forest retreat.

He started one fine spring morning, just as the glorious dawn was flooding the skies with its rosy tints. The air was cool and invigorating, laden with the fragrance of pine and balsam. At once he headed straight for the valley of Lost River, farback in the very heart of nature where old silversides was holding his court. His lithe, springy stride carried him swiftly through the winding valleys, and over the rocky hills which lay between him and his goal; till nally, far down in the ravine, at the foot of the ridge on which he stood, he could catch a glimpse of the silvery, sparkling waters of Lost River. The dull thunder of distant cataracts came up faintly to his listening ear. There under the Ferguson Falls was the home of Silversides, and Jack of the Hills quickened his pace. And now hurrying down through the dark evergreen groves of spruce and cedar, which spread out on each side of the valley, he reached the banks of Lost River.

Silversides' favorite haunt was a mile further through the ravine, but between this and the guide lay the best fishing grounds of the North Woods. Here the turbulent, mountain stream hurried on, now forming a roaring cataract, and then changing to broad tranquil poos, so teeming with

voracious trout that this little river was often called, "The Fishermans Paradise." Through these pools the cautious angler fished carefully, and many an unwary trout fell a victim to his skill; but for such game the old woodsman had not come; he was thinking of the monarch under the lower falls, and even a galient, victorious battle with a spelanded, two pound rainbow, scaresly recalled him from his reverie. Finally, with his creel overflowing with treasures taken from the deep pools above, he reached the Lower Ferguson Falls.

Here the swift current plunged headlong in a graceful arc upon the dark rocks below. As the fisherman stood watching the broad sheet of falling waters, the white spray was flung into his face. Below the falls, the seething current swept through a narrow channel, ending at last in a wide rockhound pool, flecked with soft, white foam. This was the retreat Silversides. Selecting his most tempting lure, Jack of the Hills climbed down the steep sides of the gorge, and stepped out upon a flat rock, directly below the old trout's hiding place.

Then he adjusted his leader carefully, and prepared for the first cast. Three times he cast the fly lightly on the surface of the shining waters. The fourth time he skipped it past the edge of a great boulder, around which the waters eddied and swirled. Suddenly the eye of the fisherman caught sight of a huge fish. It lunged out from the shadows, seized the bait, and started back toward the lower reaches of the pool. It was Silversides! Jack of

the Hills, tingling in every nerve, felt a powerful surge on his slender rod which bent almost double. He gave a light, short jerk, to set the hook deeper, and Silverside In response to the sharp point, plunged towards the foaming rapids below the pool.

At the first terrific rush a less skilled angler would have lost him, but the veteran sportsman, increasing the pressure on the line in spite of the reels defiant scream, turned the struggling monster at last, only a few feet above the rapids. Then the angry fish leaped from the water in a graceful curve, trying in vain to shake the relentless barb from his wounded with a fuller heart, he strode slowly jaws. The guide gasped in amazement as he saw the real size of the great trout. Quickly he lowered the tip of his rod to prevent the sharp jerk, which would otherwise have snapped the silken cord holding the struggling leviathan. Back and forth, up and down the pool, the contest raged. At any second the slender thread might part, letting the huge trout sweep back in kingly triumph to his old covert beneath the boulder.

Nevertheless the line held, until at last the weary angler saw a flash of silver, and caught sight of a white foam near the surface of the shining waters. The end seemed to be at hand for Silversides was floating there motionless. Gently reeling in, the fisherman drew the great trout almost to his feet, and stooped to grasp his prize. Once more the desperate monarch tried to regain his freedom; but in vein. The victorious angler reeled in again and

brought his gallant antagonist, still battling for life and liberty, to the shore. A Quick dip of the landing net and it came up filled with a glowing mass of gold and crimson. Silversides was conquered at last! The sportsman veteran experience told him at once that his splendid prize was the largest trout he had ever taken. Surly it wiced more than five pounds.

And now Jack of the Hills thought of his triumphal entry into the small village which he called home, he thought of the fame which this exploit would bring him, the conqueror of Silversides, the greatest trout ever seen in all that woodland country these visions passed before him in quick succession.

Then he cast one more glance on his fallen foe. A noble impulse seized him. Gently taking the fallen monarch in his hands he turned and tossed him back into the crystal waters of the pool. There the old trout lay motionless, but only for a second. With one sweep of his fan like tail, he disappeared from view, never again to be tempted by the false lure of an angler.

In deep meditation, Jack of the Hills gazed long at the spot where silversides has vanished from sight-looked till the last out spreading ripple has lapped against the rocky sides of the chasam; then slowly he ascended the winding footpath which led up the craggy sides of the hill. At the summit he looked back once more, and then with a full creall but with a fuller heart, he strode slowly along the homeward trail. ★

This rerun column features various Houghton STAR articles from our archives. These articles do not contain current information, but are meant to show the past culture and events on Houghton Campus throughout the College's history This particular article is from Volume 7 Issue 9 of the STAR published in June 1915.

Many years ago, Jack of the Hills was the best guide that lived among the sheltered forests of the rugged Adirondacks. Six feet from head to foot, with muscels of steel and with the clear keen eye of a true child of nature, he was every inch a man. Many are the tales told of his bravery: how he tracked "the bear of West River" to its frozen lair on Prospect Mountain, how the panther of Hutchings pond and the "sixteen point buck" fell victim to his unerring aim; but all true lovers of the rod will agree that his last exploit, the capture of old Silversides, was the greatest of them all.

Silversides was monarch of the pool; no trout like him had ever been seen in the wild mountain streams, winding in and out among the hidden recesses of the Adirondacks. But all fishermen despaired of catching him. They said it was impossible. Only a few of them had ever succeeded in getting a strike from the wary fish, and these had returned home, baffled and empty handed.

Highlander of the Week

Cori Beck

PAIGE COLLINS

Cori Beck, a Junior at Houghton College, achieved Female Highlander of the Week this week for the Women's Lacrosse Team. This isn't Beck's first encounter with the award as she also achieved Female Highlander of the Week for her efforts and achievements on the Women's Basketball Team. Beck is no stranger to hardwork and dedication as she is a Triple Major in Business Administration, Human Resource Management, and Sports, Recreation and Wellness Management.

As one would expect, Beck was happy to hear she had received the Highlander of the Week award. When asked what

earning the award meant to her, Beck repealed "Its definity an honor." Beck has had a productive and successful week to earn this award and she remarks, "It's a recognition of my hard work."

Beck doesn't take the credit for reaching such a productive week, when asked where credit for productivity was due, she replied "My teammates" Beck continued to explain that, "You can't play the sport without having good teammates". Although, she concludes that "Hard practices" had a significant part to play in her productivity as well.

Even when it comes to her personal success, Beck gives the credit to those shes plays with and for, saying that her success comes from "My coach and my

teammates." Beck continues to clarify that " My coach definity pushes me a lot" Beck admits that she doesn't always like being pushed to the limit, but concludes with a smile that "a lot of the time it's for the best" Beck appreciates the push she gets from her fellow teammates as she states that "My teammates are hard on me [because] they know I can do it."

Beck has two key goals as the season progresses, to win games and develop relationships with her teammates. Beck states that "Our team is young this year." because of this one of her key goals is "Building chemistry between my teammates."

Beck enjoys playing La-

crosse and spending time with her teammates. Ultimately, as the season continus, Beck strives to "Have fun and grow with my teammates."

For those who want to get to know our Female Highlander of the Week a little better, they would be interested to know that Beck's favorite sport (other then the two she plays) is baseball. And her favorite athlete is Aaron judge. Beck's favorite movie and TV show are The Longest Ride and Fixer Upper respectively. You will likely see her watching these will a big bowl of popcorn in hand as it is one of her favorite food items. And finally, Beck's favorite animal and spirit animal is the much beloved elephant. ★



Photo courtesy of Houghton Athletics website

Anna Schilke Brings Women Out of the Attic

KAYLA SIMMONS

Anna Schilke's honors project, titled "Coming Out of the Attic," is unique: split between two disciplines, covering both English and Writing. During the fall semester she focused on the literary analysis half of the project, looking at the various stereotypes of women that appear in literature. Then during the spring semester, she has been applying what she has learned to her own writing, creating short stories that revolve around and examine these portrayals of women.

Schilke admitted that the inspiration for her project came from an interesting source: Bollywood movies. She noticed the phenomenon of what she described as the "Uber-Chatty woman" whose role was to raise the depressed male lead out of his funk and give him a reason to enjoy life. "Wait, is that something I'm supposed to be doing?" she asked. "Am I supposed to be uber chatty? Am I supposed to be super loquacious because I don't talk to strangers; that's not a thing I do. Is that a thing I should be doing?" That experience, Schilke said, "was the beginning of my interest in the portrayals of women in media and that interest eventually focused into literary stereotypes in British and American fiction."

According to Schilke, "Stereotypes as a feature have a very negative connotation, but they're not necessarily bad, they're a writing tool just like any other

tool. The problem becomes when women are only represented in very specific, narrow stereotypes." During her research, she determined two classifications of stereotypes, "Angels" and "Monsters." From there she identified various sub-stereotypes, such as the "Subservient Woman," the "White Woman," the "Mysterious Woman," and the "Independent Woman."

An integral part of Schilke's research involved discovering how these stereotypes have changed and evolved as feminism has progressed in the past half-century. As she's worked on the project, she has found that "stereotypes of women, generally speaking, are becoming more complicated because of the work that feminism is doing in the world." Throughout the process she incorporated "quite a range" of literature, including *Twilight*, *Jane Austen*, *F.S. Fitzgerald*, *Dracula*, *Harry Potter*, and *Anne of Green Gables*.

All in all, her research resulted in a seventy page paper. "Part of the point of an honors project is to prepare you for an eventual dissertation," although Schilke admitted she was not likely to pursue a research dissertation, and would probably go towards a M.F.A. "So I wanted my project to have a practical outcome, more than 'Oh I did all this research now it can be held in my heart forever' and there can be a book in the library that nobody will ever read," she said. "I'm now taking those stereotypes of women and writing works of fiction around them- not all of them, I just picked two." By ap-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAYLEE HALLER

Students involved with JET travel to Buffalo each Saturday to work with refugee families.

plying what she has gained from the research, "the short stories are the writing component of the project and my way of using information in a tangible and practical way."

However, the creative writing aspect has been just as complicated as the research. Schilke admitted that her first drafts were less than stellar. "I can't say that I've ever had two pieces of writing fail as spectacularly as those two did," she said. "I basically decided, with the help of my advisor, that I needed to start over." But on a positive note, she claimed that "It's been a good experience for me as a writer."

Overall, Schilke felt like the experience was a rewarding one.

She highlighted the independent nature of the honors project, noting that, "I was the one deciding if I wanted to read more books in this area or that area or some other area; I was the one who said okay we're done with this part now. And that was really cool because it meant that I got to fulfil my own desires as far as how much knowledge I would get to attain. I could just keep researching if I was curious about something. It also meant I had to become good at setting limits, and there was definitely some trial and error in figuring out how to do that."

The project is also time consuming and challenging: "From conception to completion

it will take about two years," Schilke said. "It's been strange to inhabit a single world for that long, although these were always ideas that I was curious about, so in some sense I would've been inhabiting this world anyways, but it's been interesting and useful to dig so deeply into a single topic."

The honors project is an intensive process, not your average senior seminar or independent study. For students who may be considering taking up an honors project, she advised, "I think you have to ask yourself, firstly, are you a person that enjoys living in the library? Because that will be your life for a year." ★

Photo
of the
Week

COURTESY OF HOUGHTON
COLLEGE



Review // Captain Marvel

KYLA NIES

From the minute audiences watched the trailer of an alien crashing through the roof of a “Blockbuster”, they’ve been ready for the 90s superhero, Captain Marvel, to make her entrance into the Marvel cinematic universe. Some have been waiting even longer, for the day when Marvel would give a female superhero her own movie. No matter why audiences went to see *Captain Marvel*, however, one thing is certain: they got their money’s worth.

Captain Marvel is a solo-hero movie depicting the origin story of Carol Danvers (aka Vers), an Airforce pilot turned space hero who finds herself in the middle of an intergalactic struggle between the Kree and the Skrulls. She and her allies (some of whom will be familiar to Marvel fans), must uncover the purpose of Project Pegasus and confront those who wish to continue the intergalactic war.

There are a few things that make this film both unique and engaging. The first is its 90s setting, which viewers have not seen in a Marvel film before. Though audiences

born after 1999 may not be able to fully appreciate Carol’s first visit to a radio shack, Nick Fury’s 1992 Impala, or the characters’ general frustration with “compact discs”, the rest of the audience is sure to get both a laugh and burst of nostalgia. The only shortcoming in the 90s aesthetic is in regards to the soundtrack. Maybe we’ve just been spoiled with incredible soundtracks like that of *Thor: Ragnarok*, or maybe they are saving the great 90s songs for the next *Guardians of the Galaxy*, but overall *Captain Marvel* definitely could have used more epic 90s music moments. Additionally, in the few times 90s songs that were used, they were often poorly integrated or failed to fit tone of the scene. Overall though, the 90s setting was perfect for the film and gave audience members something they hadn’t seen before in a Marvel Film.

There’s no way to write a review about *Captain Marvel* without considering her role as the Marvel’s first female superhero to get a solo movie. Fans and internet trolls alike have been waiting for this moment; either to declare the film a victory for feminism or to assert that films like this are why women should only be cast as scantily clad love interests.

In one scene, Captain Marvel faces off with her rival, who challenges her to fight him with-

out her super powers in order to prove herself. Instead of caving to the expectation to “prove herself”, Carol simply says “I have nothing to prove to you” and moves on. That is exactly what the film communicates to fans and trolls alike, in regards to the expectations put upon it as the first female hero solo-film. When watching the film, the audience is simply watching a superhero movie. Obviously, it is hugely important that women be represented in Marvel films, but *Captain Marvel*’s understated tone positively represents women by normalizing their roles and portraying them simply as superheroes (with the same practical uniforms as other heroes) rather than “female superheroes”.

Another positive thing about *Captain Marvel* is that it appeals to both people who love the Marvel universe and want the film to connect to the metanarrative, and people who have never seen another Marvel film and don’t really care about the Marvel Universe. For the first group of people, *Captain Marvel* introduces not only Carol herself, but Nick Fury and Phil Coulson. It also provides an explanation for Nick Fury’s final actions in *Infinity War* and, perhaps most importantly, the best backstory ever as to how Nick Fury lost his eye. If someone doesn’t care about the Marvel Universe at all but are just



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARVEL.COM

Captain Marvel premiered in theaters on March 8.

looking for a good action movie, *Captain Marvel* has something to offer them as well. It is a great stand-alone story with intriguing characters, great comedic timing, and some pretty incredible *Top Gun*-esque fighter jet scenes.

Overall, *Captain Marvel* is with worth the watch, offering the audience a 90s themed, action packed and humorous origin story that is nothing short of, yes, marvelous. ★

Poythress Publishes on Dawkins

DANIEL BERRYMENT

Four years of research and writing have come to fruition for Biology professor Dr. Ransom Poythress, who published his critique and analysis of evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins in November of 2018. As part of Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing’s Great Thinkers series, the book focuses on bringing a Christian perspective to Dawkins’ influence on modern thought and society using language accessible to readers with only the average background in science and philosophy. He hopes to provide both a sincere critique of Dawkins’ ideas and a “loving” case for understanding Christianity as scientifically valid.

Poythress described his approach as one emphasizing “language and concepts that are familiar, while . . . still grounded in rigorous research and academics.” In describing the focus of the book, he said, “It crosses everything from science, theology, apologetics and philosophy - there’s a lot of stuff, it all intermixes, with

a lot of time spent on talking about Christian worldview.” Other books in the series take a similar approach to reviewing classical thinkers from history like Hegel, Marx, and Foucault - but Poythress’ book is the only one to cover a living figure. “There are many respects in which putting him in the same boat with [figures like] Thomas Aquinas doesn’t feel right,” he admits, “but what we decided was that his influence is very significant right now. He, along with three other guys - Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, and Daniel Dennett - more or less launched what came to be known as the New Atheist movement, back in the early 2000s.” Over the years, Dawkins rose to prominence among the four, as evidenced by his numerous book deals and 2.8 million Twitter followers.

Poythress hopes to offer a balancing perspective on Dawkins’ intelligence and popularity. While the work Dawkins has achieved within evolutionary biology contributed significantly to the field, his “wandering” into other disciplines has not held

up so well with experts. “He still gets a lot of respect within the science community,” Poythress noted, “because he’s done a lot of amazing research scientifically. He’s very well-researched, very well-published, and he gets a lot of respect there.” However, Poythress says, “There are other fields where he doesn’t get as much respect. He has no training philosophically.”

From Poythress’ perspective, this manifests most heavily as a lack of self-awareness in his philosophical arguments about the nature of the universe, which argue strongly against the existence of God. “The assumptions that he makes to ground his worldview - a lot of them - are kind of based on Christian assumptions,” Poythress said with a wry smile. The irony of arguing against a Christian worldview from that position is not lost to Poythress, who brings up Christian apologist Cornelius Van Til’s image of a little boy sitting on his grandfather’s knee as a vantage point to slap him in the face. He explained, “[Atheists are] relying on God, sitting on his lap, in order to reach up and

slap him.” He notes that not all atheistic philosophers are fans of Dawkins’ thoughts on their field of work, either, and considers Dawkins’ example of the perils of making bold statements outside of one’s discipline, no matter how intelligent or educated one may be, as “humbling” and “a warning to all of us, even as Christians.”

For his own part, Poythress is a little nervous about entering into the field of publishing outside academia, despite taking care to receive extensive feedback on his work from philosophy professor Dr. Benjamin Lipscomb, as well as helpful remarks from biology professor Dr. James Wolfe. Poythress explains, “When you write an academic paper and you publish it, unless you’re really bright, you’re publishing to a pretty select audience, and part of research is being proven wrong. Having my own thoughts and opinions going into a public marketplace, where other people can make comments, and I can’t respond, or I don’t have control over my own thoughts anymore, once they’re out there - is really, really terri-

fying, and very humbling in the sense of ‘Okay God, help me to not be too upset if people don’t like it, or on the flipside not to be too proud if people do like it, because this is God’s work showing me these ideas, and helping me through this.’”

Ultimately, Poythress’ goal is to help Christian readers better understand Dawkins’ part in the perspective that many contemporary atheists may be coming from, and to engage with them in a way that seeks to make a connection rather than destroy one in order to prove a point. He emphasized, “You need to understand and love the person in front of you for who they are - and yes, that means eventually maybe bringing some of the truth to bear that we find in science and scripture, but it also means acknowledging, ‘There’s a history here behind this person’, that people don’t just exist as a series of mental calculations . . . getting to know a person for a person, and loving them. It’s not just speak the truth. It’s speak the truth in love.”

Philosophy and Faith: A Defense



ANNA SCHILKE

ANNA JUDD

Early last semester, I got to travel to Michigan with a small group of professors and students to attend a national conference of the Society of Christian Philosophers. The first evening, Nicholas Wolterstorff (a big name in the Christian philosophy world) gave the keynote address on the history of the SCP. I was enraptured. As he talked about the resurgence of religious perspectives into a secular academic world during the 20th century, and how lucky the younger attendees were to live in a world where the SCP was possible, I was struck with a sense of camaraderie with the rest of the banquet hall - despite being one of

only half a dozen people there without a PhD. We were all philosophers. We were able to practice that discipline and live out our faith at the same time. Surely, as Wolterstorff said, we were in a golden age.

But then he took questions. One person asked how the work of the SCP could impact the larger church, and he gave a nonspecific one-sentence answer about “strengthening the evangelical mind,” then moved on to the next raised hand. The feeling of camaraderie melted and I looked around the room, suddenly unsettled with the suits and chandeliers and fancy bits of bread with hummus and

discovering the underlying ideas that drive the things we see. It’s about the truth that isn’t easy and apparent. The church needs that if we’re going to survive and minister effectively; we can’t handle the world around us if we don’t understand it.

For instance, philosophical thought can help unravel hot-button issues for the church, such as LGBT issues. How much clearer would our discourse on that debate be if we understood that it’s about more than the authority of a few biblical proof-texts? The Christian tradition was shaped by ancient purpose-directed

personal autonomy and self-determination above most else. On this view, it’s morally repellent to make value judgements about people’s inclinations or free expression, provided no one is harmed.

I leave it as an exercise to the reader which of these views fits the biblical picture more closely. The point is, the contours of the current debate over LGBT issues were formed by a long intellectual history and involve deep questions about human nature and the nature of ethics. Speaking truth in love requires understanding the ideas and assumptions of our hearers, and that’s an essentially philosophical undertaking.

I think this is true of every point of tension between the church and society. It’s true within the church too. Throughout history, theologians have reacted to and been influenced by the philosophical ideas around them; until relatively recently, the two disciplines often overlapped. This overlap gave us many of the best apologetic arguments we have; and even our ideas of whether, why and how to practice apologetics involve philosophical assumptions about the nature and acquisition of knowledge. I’ve talked to lots of peers about their struggles to maintain their

faith when they weren’t sure it held up to rational scrutiny; these are not just academic concerns for our generation.

This is a lot, I know - and if you’re still reading, thank you. I’m not claiming everyone needs to be a philosopher, or study all the complicated issues I’ve alluded to; trips to Michigan and talks by Nicholas Wolterstorff aren’t for all of us. But philosophy should exist outside the conference center, too. The word “philosopher” means “lover of truth,” and as Christians, that ought to be all of us. We’re all doing ministry in our own ways, and that means we all ought to pursue a deep and precise understanding of our own beliefs and the essential human issues; we all ought to learn to see the cultural water we swim in. We cannot afford not to. So why not try taking a philosophy class or two, or attending the department book club? At the very least, pay attention in that mandatory humanities class. Bringing a little philosophy into your life will make you not only a better student and a better thinker, but a better minister of the gospel. I’d say that’s worth the effort. ★

Anna is Sophomore majoring in Philosophy

“...The word philosopher means ‘lover of truth,’ and as Christians that ought to be all of us...”

apricots on them. A golden age of Christian philosophy - and yet something is still wrong. We’ve brought faith into philosophy, but we haven’t yet brought philosophy into faith. And I believe we urgently need to.

Before you write me off as a zealot insisting that her own major is the best, hear me out. Philosophy is all about

theories of human nature, which hold that humans are designed to live a particular kind of life, in not only actions but desires and priorities. We flourish by conforming ourselves and our identities to this design. Meanwhile, contemporary Western culture has been shaped by different notions, developed in the modern period, which prize

Why Anyone Can Benefit From Art



ANNA SCHILKE

MICAH MODESTO

Pablo Picasso once proclaimed, “art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” There is a certain escape that comes with taking a break in your day to work with your hands instead of your mind. This relief from busy schedules and the normal stress of the day is available to anyone in the form of an art class. It may seem counterintuitive to add something to an already busy schedule to somehow find relief, however, intentionally dedicating time for fun or a break is incredibly important for self-care, and art can be

that. An art class can provide that necessary break for anyone, no matter their skill level.

My own experience with art is not an impressive one. My parents always praised my older sisters’ realism and skill, while I was told I was better at the abstract things. Yes, abstract art is incredibly difficult to create well, and as Abby Taylor wrote in a recent STAR article about abstract art, “a non-artistic person most likely could not create something as successful.” Likely, my parents were trying to encourage me, rather than actually thinking my art was successfully abstract. The point is: I am not a skilled artist, and I never have been, however I have always wished I was. I wanted to be able to fill the margins of my notebooks with beautiful forests of ink rather than the battleground of crossed off drawings.

Once I reached college, I gave

“...I learned that art does not have to be tangible. Art can open the mind to new worldviews...”

“...Finding a way to reduce waste is essential in many developing countries...art can be good for the world, not just the human eye...”

up on my hope of improving my limited artistic ability. I threw myself into my major and added three minors all in subjects that do not require creativity, but mostly encourage following strict formulas and guidelines. I was tired. My discovery of art as a remedy was more accidental than not. Two classes for my major were cancelled and I needed to quickly fill my schedule with credits. What looked interesting was art, specifically Women in Film with Ted Murphy. My

homework had never been so simultaneously fun and distressing.

In that class I learned that art does not have to be tangible. Art can open the mind to new worldviews.

I found *my* art in Fiber Studies and Papermaking with Alicia Taylor-Austin. Art can be a gift of rest, and this class exemplifies that. We practiced the process of breaking down dead plants and recycled paper and clothing to be reused for art. I was even able to relate art to my major in International Development, as reusing materials decreases the amount of waste thrown into landfills and reduces the need for the production of completely new materials. Finding a way to reduce waste is essential in many developing countries and could

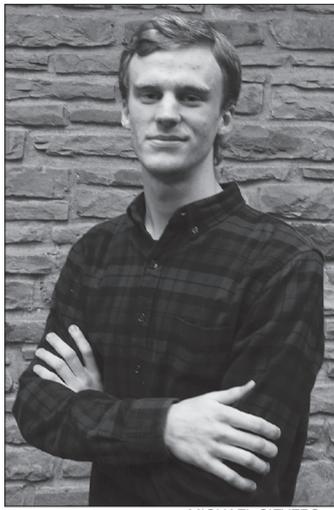
even provide a source of income if implemented in the right way. Art can be good for the world, not just for the human eye.

The idea of an art class could be daunting for a non-art major, but it does not have to be. My personal attempts at art have never been impressive and are always more abstract than real. I have never been able to draw or paint something that people would want to look at, and I have a hard time imagining I could sculpt any better. However, even I have found relief in the methodical processes of making paper, weaving, and binding books. My mind has been opened up to the intricate mystery of film, and I have found joy in physical creation. I certainly will never be featured on the back page of the STAR, or in the Ortlip Gallery, but I choose to continue learning about and producing art while I am here at Houghton.

Art is available to benefit anyone, why not take advantage of it? ★

Micah is a Junior majoring in International Development

A Price on Carbon: Viable?



MICHAEL SIEVERS
DAVID BOWERS

Amid deep concerns over the prospect of a warming world, policymakers have proposed solutions ranging from revamping world diets by cutting most meat to subsidizing companies harnessing renewable energy. To be sure, surmounting a challenge of the magnitude we face will require a multi-faceted approach. There is no magic bullet. But I believe putting a price on carbon is one of the best options available to the United States as we seek to lead the world in reducing our environmental impact.

First, a caveat: I can't give a comprehensive outline of such a strategy in an article like this. I will leave out a lot of details. What I am going to try to do instead is to convince you why a price on carbon isn't just a radical's solution to climate change, one that would cause a lot of economic harm

in exchange for some abstract future returns. In fact, I believe the opposite is true: a price on carbon could actually be beneficial economically, socially, and medically in the short term, before we start to see returns environmentally. Therefore, I'm not going to try to convince you that man-made climate change is true. Your belief one way or another shouldn't affect your agreement with what follows.

The three most common ways to price carbon are through a fine, a tax, or a fee. A fine, in what is called the cap-and-trade system, would be applied to companies who use more carbon than they're allowed. If a company

“...Almost every citizen will come out ahead...with more money to spend, Americans in the lowest income tiers will be able to feed themselves well, attend classes...or support a local business...”

wanted to avoid paying this fine, they could buy an efficient company's excess allowance on a government-run marketplace. The level of government involvement and bureaucracy, however, leaves this solution dead in the waters of single-party support. A solution that's going to last longer than a single term must be viewed as a priority by both sides of the aisle. A tax on carbon, often offset by a decrease in another tax like the income

“...A carbon fee and dividend model is good for everyone [,] even if you aren't certain that climate change is caused by humans...”

tax, is also unviable. It would only expand the current divide between the rich and the poor.

The third and most viable option is a carbon fee and dividend model. Under this model, a per-ton CO2 fee is applied to producers of fossil fuels, and the revenues are returned in equal shares to every citizen. Almost every citizen will come out

ahead. The small increases in energy costs are easily offset by the monthly checks. With more money to spend, Americans in the lowest income tiers will be able to feed themselves well, attend classes to finish a degree, or support local businesses. The economy would benefit.

I wrote first about the environmental benefits, but the benefits of a carbon fee don't stop there. Fundamentally, the price of fossil fuels is a market failure:

it accounts for only the direct costs of fossil fuel production. Meanwhile, the economy suffers under the full weight of carbon's cost. The cost of natural disasters has ballooned over the last two decades; hospital bills are increasing and people dying from pollution. The current cost of fossil fuels reflects none of this. A carbon tax corrects this failure.

More legislation to decrease carbon output is inevitable. The choice facing the American people is not whether we will increase or decrease legislation. The choice facing the American people is whether we will accept legislation in the form of more regulations, or demand a less intrusive, market-based solution. The regulations we have turned to so far are unduly restrictive and further bloat an already lumbering government. With a carbon tax, we could scrap these regulations and free the invisible hand of the market to do its work.

This model is not a pipe dream. A carbon fee and dividend model is supported by companies such as Exxon, BP, and Shell. Twenty-seven Nobel Laureates, all living former Chairs of the Federal Reserve, and top cabinet members under Reagan and both Bushes have thrown their support

behind the model.

Legislation for this model is on the floor of the House in the form of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. It is forecast to reduce emissions by 40% in the first 12 years, 2.5 times faster than the Paris Agreement. It will do this while reducing the reach of the government through decreased regulation, putting an extra \$500 a year in the hands of every American (creating, in turn, more than two million jobs), and saving 300,000 lives through 2030 with better air quality.

A carbon fee and dividend model is good for everyone. Even if you aren't certain that climate change is caused by humans, wisdom and prudence demand we act. If there is even a small chance that we are at fault, to withhold action is to have a hand in the destruction of many livelihoods and lives. If you're driving at dusk and someone points to a dark shape on the road ahead and says it looks like a person, you don't continue driving because stopping is inconvenient. In the same way, even if you feel climate change probably isn't our fault, you don't just ignore the possibility that it is. We must act. ★

Special thanks to Brian Webb for a great deal of input to this article.

David is a Sophomore majoring in Pre Med and Intercultural Studies



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.



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Artist of the Week

Oluwabusayomi Fadiya

// senior business major and art and communication minors



untitled, photography

“My name is Oluwabusayomi (Busayo) Fadiya. Born and raised in Ibadan, Nigeria. I am currently a senior graduating this May. I guess I became very interested in photography when I realized I’d rather be behind the camera than in front of it. I am more into fashion and Portraiture than any other genre of photography. I really enjoy portraitures because I love using it to tell a story and evoke some kind of emotion. The dream is to travel and recount stories with my photos and work for one or multiple Fashion Magazines (#Vogue). I hope to be a full-time Photographer.”



untitled, photography



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