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First Inclusive Adolescent Education Major to Graduate

MICAH CRONIN



DANI EATON

Justin Bullard '16, pictured with department chair of the education department Sunshine Sullivan, will graduate in December as the first Houghton Student to major in Inclusive Adolescence Education.

classroom.”

Like the Adolescence Education major, IADE majors may choose a second content major. For example, a student who desires to teach math in

a classroom inclusive of differently-abled students would major in IADE with a math concentration. Bullard's major will be accompanied with a generalist concentration,

enabling him to teach a broad range of subjects. Bullard said his wide range of studies gives him the tools to “help

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Data Science Works to Develop Major

BJORN WEBB

The New York State Board of Education approved Houghton College to offer data science as a major in December, 2015. Since then, faculty have been hard at work developing the program into something that has experiential learning as a foundation for the program, as well as integration with various other academic disciplines. This semester Houghton's first Data Science Consulting Group was in action using real data and analyzing it for a real client. Additionally, this summer

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Shen to Expand Upperclassmen Housing

KASEY CANNISTER

took on the role as Assistant Director of Student Programs. Through his busy dual role with campus activities and as the RD of Shen, his time has been divided. “We were able to create an assistant residence director position (ARD) for next year to help with some of the tasks it was difficult for me to complete in Shen this year,” said Stephens.

Ian DeHaas '17 will take on the role as ARD and live on the townhouse floor.

Instead of putting the ARD on a floor with first-year students--where it would take time and energy to help them through their transition into college--the college decided to put him with the townhouse floor residents where he can be more

Residence life is expanding housing options for upperclassmen by adding a townhouse floor to the basement of Shenawana (Shen) Hall starting fall 2016. The townhouse floor is a more recent option for living on campus that combines the rules of a townhouse with the setting of a dormitory.

A townhouse floor was added to Gillette in 2014. According to Jason Stephens, the Residence Director (RD) of Shen, a townhouse floor has all the benefits of a townhouse. Such benefits include extended open hours, more options when it comes to meal plans, not quite as much involvement from an RA, and a lower cost than a townhouse.

Last fall Stephens also

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Track Meet Results in NCCAA Qualifiers



DEREK BROKER

Last week, Houghton track and field members competed in their third outdoor meet hosted by Westminster College.

MICAH CRONIN

In the heat of last weekend's highly anticipated break in the weather, the Houghton Highlanders track and field team competed in its third outdoor

meet of the season. The meet, hosted by Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, began Friday with the men's and women's hammer throw at Carnegie Mellon University in the heart of Pitts-

burgh, Pennsylvania. The women's throws team, comprised of Maggie McDonald '18, Melissa Bell '17, and Micah Cronin '17 all threw personal bests in the

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National // Immigration Policy Debate Continues



HATTIE BURGHER

SYDNEY SCHUFELT

As tensions rose in Washington over President Obama's liberal immigration policies, hundreds of protesters surrounded the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to show their support for progressive action. The president's plan is to protect over four million undocumented immigrants from threat of deportation, as well as grant-

ing them rights to work legally and have access to programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

The Supreme Court remained highly divided on the issue as questions regarding presidential power and immigration policy have both dominated this year's election. The question is whether or not Obama has the authority to defer deportations of millions of people without congressional approval. Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., the top appellate lawyer defended the President's authority to take such action, but was soon challenged by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

Twenty-six states have challenged the action on the basis of executive overreach. Justice Anthony Kennedy was quoted as saying "It's as if the president is setting the policy and the congress is executing it... That's just upside down."

Other more liberal justices stepped in to defend the policy. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

argued that since there are 11.3 million undocumented aliens in the country and Congress has provided funds for removing only about 4 million, certain priorities must be set. Justice Sonia Sotomayor agreed noting the lack of resources that would be essential if the US were to deport every undocumented alien. "They are here whether we want them or not," she said.

Texas has been leading the charge of twenty-six states challenging the White House, and questioning executive power. Back in February of 2015 the case was backed by a federal judge, and the policies were blocked from taking effect. Many Republican governors and attorney generals believe the unilateral actions were unconstitutional and violated a federal law that sets parameters for how agencies can establish regulations. Scott A. Keller, Texas' solicitor general and the lead lawyer on the case, said Mr. Obama's plan was unprecedented and

unlawful.

The case, *United States v. Texas*, No. 15-674, was heard by an eight-person court making a 4-4 deadlock a real possibility. The evenly split court could mean the programs remain blocked, in that case the issue would be sent back to the district court in Texas.

The other side believes liberal action must be taken to ensure the safety of immigrants living illegally in the U.S. Verrilli is quoted as saying that "deferred action itself reflects nothing more than a judgment that the aliens' ongoing presence will be tolerated for a period of time, based on enforcement priorities and humanitarian concerns, and work authorization enables them to support themselves while they remain."

Solicitor General Verrilli also argued on behalf of the Obama administration that the "Constitution reserves exclusive authority to the National Government to make and enforce immigration policy." He

says that if the states are allowed to bring the challenge it would "upend the constitutional design." Furthermore, Verrilli says that the states don't have the legal right to be in court because they can't show the concrete injury that would give them standing.

Immigration is currently one of the biggest cases this term, however, other issues such as abortion, affirmative action, and health care have also been dominating the platform. With the death of Justice Scalia, the Court has had to look at cases heading towards a 5-4 split to see if there is a way to avoid deadlock. A decision in this case will most likely be one of the last rulings of the term, although if the justices are evenly divided we could hear much sooner. ★

Sydney is a junior with a major in philosophy and a minor in political science.

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competition.

Particularly noteworthy is Bell's throw of 33.14 meters, making her the possessor of the second farthest personal-best hammer throw in women's Highlander history, according to assistant track and field coach David Richards.

Right behind Bell was McDonald's furthest throw of the day, measured at 32.61 meters. Day two at the throwing circles took place at Westminster College, where Bell also achieved a personal best in the javelin.

Meanwhile at the track, Joanna Friesen '17 finished the steeplechase in first place, qualifying to compete in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) national

championship. Nikki Fink '18 also qualified for NCCAA nationals in the 60 meter hurdles, in which she finished sixth place. Nikki Garns '18 sprinted the 100 meter dash to also earn the right to compete at NCCAA nationals.

Zdravko Bogdanoski '19 came in fifth in the high jump, leaping 1.89 meters. While he just barely missed matching the Highlander men's high jump re-

cord, Bogdanoski did meet NCCAA national qualifying marks. To round out the national-qualifying group was Cory McCarty '17, who finished sixth in the 800 meter run with a season best time.

According to a Houghton Highlanders press release, other personal bests recorded at the Westminster Invitational are as follows: Dan Becker '17 and Derek Brooker '16 in the long

jump, Dan Schulz '17 in the 1500 meter run, Aaron Eisenhardt '17, Jed Simpson '19 and Luke Deboer '16 in the 800 meter run and Cody McCarty in the 200 meter run. On the women's side, Lydia Brown '19 sprinted a personal best in the 200 meter run, while in the 800 meter run Hannah Harrison '19, Karah Ashley '18, and Olivia Donato '19 all ran to personal best times. ★

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

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of a support to students who already know have experience navigating the Houghton college environment.

The townhouse floor setting is built to support the ARD, so he can still take on the RA role of a floor, but with residents who will not need his support as much. It has seven rooms, one being the ARD room. The basement of Shen also has a full kitchen and large lounge.

"I am really excited for the townhouse floor opportunity," said DeHaas. "I am working with Jason to develop ways the upperclassman on my floor can pour into the underclassman on other floors in intentional ways. I want them to still be

plugged in to Shen and connected with other guys."

According to DeHaas, because the basement floor in Shen only has seven rooms, compared to the other 13 to 21 room floors, it is hard to get guys to sign up to live down there as people tend to want to be on a bigger floor. "Since the level of interaction is pretty low the basement is a hard floor to start out on because it is kind of isolating," said DeHaas.

Chris Guntz '17, a future resident of the townhouse floor said, "I've always loved the atmosphere of Shenawana Hall and all that it has stood for. I love the people and living in the dorms. I'm excited I get to exercise more freedom by living on the townhouse floor combined with being able to live in the dorms." ★



NATE MOORE

Jason Stephens, the RD of Shen, and Ian DeHaas, the future ARD of Shen, will work together to manage, not only the townhouse floor, but Shen as a whole.

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Houghton will offer its first online data science course taught by Philip Martin, a data scientist for SumAll.org.

This Consulting Group will be a common component of the data science curriculum. Carmen McKell, President of Basemetrics Inc., said “the CDSA (Center for Data Science Analytics) is receiving about one request per week for future data consulting projects,” demonstrating that there is significant demand from or-

ganizations who want to get more value from their data. In the fall of 2016 she hopes to accept three of those requests. Through applications from students interested, there will be three student-run consulting teams. These teams will consist of a diverse team in order to help replicate the real-world work place. This semester’s team consisted of students from psychology, data science, mathematics, biochemistry, and communication majors. This is to provide the consulting team with an atmosphere as close to real world situations as possible. The teams will have real deadlines and deliverables to present to the client. These consulting

groups will be slightly different from what Houghton College has done in the past in the sense that students and faculty involved will receive a stipend for their work. These consulting teams have the chance to establish long-term relationships between students and clients that may lead to internships and future jobs. This has been shown in this year’s consulting group in which a couple of the students have been asked to continue research for the client throughout the summer.

As of April 19, 2016 there were 50 prospective students that have declared interest in Data Science at Houghton, 12 of which applied, and four that have committed to

Houghton. Ryan Spear, Director of Admission, expects the numbers to be much better by May 1. Also, Spear stated, “For a program that is new, not just to Houghton, but to higher education in general, it is very encouraging to see this kind of demand within the first year of the major being approved.” There are about three current students that have declared their major as Data Science along with about six confirmed minors in Data Science. The current students majoring in Data Science only consist of current sophomores and first year students because juniors and seniors do not have the ability to major in Data Science given time constraints

and course requirements. There is expected growth in numbers of students involved for next year given that the major was only approved four months ago and Houghton College is one of the first liberal arts colleges in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in data science. “Houghton College is the first Christian liberal arts college to offer any sort of degree in data science,” said McKell. This is projected to be the largest growing job field in the United States. This is a monumental step for Houghton College, because there is an 18.7% projected increase in data scientist jobs between 2010 and 2020.★

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my students in all subjects.” He continued, “I can bridge gaps between subjects that a conventional single subject classroom educator may not be there to see how techniques in other classes could benefit a particular student in another setting.”

Education Department Chair, Sunshine Sullivan said, “If someone wants to teach, they need to be prepared to teach in an inclusive setting.” To clarify the term ‘inclusive,’ she added,

“Today’s classrooms PK- college are full of diverse learners with incredibly powerful learning differences. These learning differences have always been present in our classrooms, but they’ve often been marginalized and labeled as ‘special,’ ‘slow,’ ‘hyper,’ ‘challenged,’ ‘challenging,’ and the list goes on.” Sullivan also said, unfortunately, “There is a growing shortage of teachers being qualified to teach in an inclusive setting as special education teachers at the adolescence level.”

Bullard, who “can’t remember” a time he did not

want to educate young people, quickly took advantage of the IADE major after it became available. “I was conflicted when I came to Houghton,” he said. “I wanted to be a special needs educator, but I also greatly preferred teaching high school students. When I started at Houghton I was an Adolescent Education and Biology double major, but I felt the lack of contact time with special needs students was not something I was just going to get over.”

Bullard’s “prayers were answered” in his sophomore year (2014), when Professor

Sullivan informed him of the new IADE major. He said, “Upon hearing her describe the major I immediately said ‘yes.’ I was so excited when they added the major. It is perfect for me and sets me up for exactly what I want to do in my career as a future educator. With my degree I can run a resource room and help a great number of students by providing them with increased individualized attention. I can also participate in a ‘push-in style’ classroom, which is where I enter a mainstream classroom to aid a student with special needs.”

Education professor, Martin Coates, said that while the number of students declaring the IADE major is currently low, “We expect them to grow and we plan to continue offering this major for the foreseeable future. It has a minimal impact on faculty load as the bulk of the major consists of existing courses, so we do not anticipate problems staffing it.” He added that while Bullard is the only student of his year to graduate with the major, there are several students in the department who are at this time considering declaring the major.★

WORD ON THE STREET

Looking back on your four years at Houghton, is there anything you would change?



“I think what I would have done differently is instead of playing basketball my freshman year, I think I missed out on volleyball, a sport that I enjoy more. Leaving, I’m like ‘oh shoot, I should have played volleyball.’”

-Aicha Kuwong



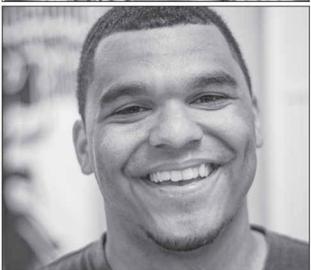
“I would have started to celebrate the unique things about Houghton sooner rather than taking them for granted.”

-Mason Wilkes



“I would have participated more in extracurriculars, especially spiritually focused ones, so that I could get to know the people around me a little bit better.”

-Chris Kinecht



“I don’t think I would have done anything differently. I really enjoyed my time here Houghton and I think I’ve had a really great, valuable experience with a lot of great friends.”

-Dan Thompson



“I wish I had spent more time sleeping freshman year instead of staying up late and socializing with people I don’t even talk to anymore.”

-Leona Nevu



“Probably not, because I don’t think it’s good to dwell on things that happened in the past. It takes away from what could happen in the future.”

-Justin Bullard



“I would be more intentional about the friends that I chose my freshman and sophomore year and who I chose to be around me and support me as the years went on.”

-Kayleen Norcutt



“I think I would have changed the fact that I didn’t do as many mayterms. I would have liked to do at least one more mayterm, not sure which one, but I feel like they’re a good way to gain credits.”

-Maggie Reynolds

Senior Art Exhibition 2016

CARINA MARTIN



HATTIE BURGHER

This year's Senior Art Exhibition features the work of twelve seniors and showcases a variety of mediums and themes. Join graduating art majors in the celebration of the culmination of their work.

On Monday April 18th, the Houghton Art Department opened its annual Senior Art Exhibition. At this year's show, twelve graduating students working toward a BFA in studio art will present work across a range of materials, including drawing, ceramics and sculpture, photography, painting, and mixed media.

These efforts represent the "ultimate convergence of the last four years," according to Professor Ryann Cooley, who taught this semester's Senior Exhibition class. Arriving at the end of the semester, along with final exams and other projects, the show can sometimes present an intimidating challenge.

"As you get closer to a show, students realize how fast that deadline is approaching," Cooley said with a chuckle. "But it's a great learning experience to be put in that situation," he added, because it forces students to grapple with the realities of the professional world.

In fact, the Senior Exhibition aims to simulate the practical realities of professional work as fully as possible. "We don't guarantee anybody to be in the show," Cooley ex-

plained. "You have to present your work, and it has to be approved, just like you would in an actual gallery." In order to coordinate a successful exhibition, students must consider how each element of the viewing experience coordinates with all the others.

Participating students are also responsible for the practical aspects of the show—such as setting up the gallery and organizing refreshments for the artists' reception—which provides

a glimpse into a visual artist's day-to-day work. "They all learn in a collaborative effort to pull all those details together," said Cooley. "It's a very real-world experience."

Organizing such a large show with such a diversity of styles can be an exercise in flexibility, but Cooley is confident in the students' ability to put out their best work. "Somehow every year, we miraculously pull it off," he mused. "This year's not any exception—the work is coming out

really strong." The artists have flourished under what Cooley refers to as the "refining pressure" of a hard deadline. "The students are realizing what they're really capable of doing. As they head into it, it's this daunting scary thing. But then they realize what they're really capable of."

All this work gives students the opportunity to welcome hard-earned encouragement and recognition from the Houghton community. "Exhibiting seniors are working across a broad

range of processes to each create a body of work that articulates their voice as an artist in today's visual culture," commented Professor Alicia Taylor, director of the Ortlip Gallery. "The senior exhibition is an opportunity for the community to recognize the achievements of our students in the conclusion of their study here as they move forward to engage in communities that reach out beyond our walls."

Is it difficult to cultivate a show that draws on so many different media and artistic styles? Challenging, perhaps, but rewarding as well. "It's really interesting to see some of the overlaps, and see where the work speaks to each other. You see some of the influence of the professors, but I intentionally allow them to think in their own ways, to find their own voice and style. They all do have a uniqueness to their work."

And this diversity makes for a viewing experience that's never dull. "It makes a very interesting show. It expands the conversation, it gets fun," Cooley said. With a grin, he added: "You're certainly not going to get bored."

The Senior Student Art Exhibition opens at the Ortlip Gallery on Monday, April 18th. An artists' reception will be held in the CFA atrium at 7 P.M. on Friday, April 22nd, with refreshments to follow. ★

Marvel, DC, and the Battle for Longevity: A Review of Two Studios

JACKSON WHEELER

Superhero movies have enjoyed an enviable run the last several years at the precipice of popular culture. Their prevalence in the mainstream, especially as of late, has been attributed to the use of serialization as Marvel's and now DC's method of organizing their release schedules. Both studios have taken a variety of comic book properties and put them all under one roof, building what is referred to as a "Shared Universe", where each individual franchise is able to stand alone to be enjoyed on its own merits while simultaneously feeding into the stories of others, contributing to the development of an overall joint-storyline.

This is nothing new for Marvel. They kicked off the serialization boom in 2008 with the release of *Iron Man* and *The Incredible Hulk*, the first two additions to their "Cinematic Universe". Even that early on, their first several films alluded to a prom-

ise of something great on the horizon. They hinted at some event that in a pre-*Avengers* world would have been difficult to imagine. Many on Marvel's current roster of superheroes would be completely unknown to the average person ten years ago (*Ant-Man*? *Star Lord*?) further highlighting their ability to make great movies regardless of who's attached to the project. Marvel's most worthwhile endeavors have also been their riskiest ones.

DC has been trying the same thing. Having seen the overwhelming critical and financial success of Marvel's Cinematic Universe, it was inevitable they would want to attempt something similar. But while Marvel had years to grow their universe organically, refining their filmmaking formula with each release, DC has been stuck playing catch-up. Results thus far being relatively lackluster.

Marvel isn't at all superior to DC in terms of source material. Christopher Nolan's *Batman* films are some of the best that the genre has to offer (DC!). While their grittiness and darker tone

worked for them, Marvel has instead built its track record on films that may appear more light-hearted by comparison. It doesn't mean they don't also explore dark thematic content but composition-wise, their releases are a stark contrast to the dourness of something like *The Dark Knight*. Marvel's films feature larger-than-life characters, sharp, witty dialogue, vivid set pieces and explosive action scenes. *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, and the *Avengers* films have closely embodied this formula but deviated from it enough to make each distinct in its own right, achieving excellent results.

Man of Steel and *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice* certainly have positive qualities. They are suitably cast, well-acted, and look great on a technical and aesthetic level. However, when it comes to telling a simple, compelling story, DC falters. To be fair, their shared universe project currently has only those two films in its body of work but their common thread, director Zack Snyder, seems unlikely to be



able to move either franchise forward in any meaningful way.

Snyder's frustrating tendency to over-prioritize visuals and special effects while neglecting things like script and character development continue to hurt these films. The unfocused structure of *Man of Steel* and *Batman v. Superman* and the uneven pacing throughout are problems not even unique to DC. Repeated viewings of *Iron Man* highlights how slowly the plot can drag in the second act and how it leaves the story out to dry. The difference is that while Marvel's films have their issues, their sense of humor, script, visuals, and characterization are usually enough to

counterbalance the negatives. DC's first two films may be truly cinematic, but their lack of heart and substance prove to be the biggest hindrance to their quality.

All the best superhero movies, the ones that leave an impression are the ones that speak to the heart and not the eyes. It's cutesy, but it's true. I may use a still from *Man of Steel* as my phone's wallpaper because it looks good but I don't own the movie on DVD. Between that and say *Guardians of the Galaxy* which one would you want to watch again? Hopefully choosing between Marvel and DC won't always be this easy. ★

When Undergrad Isn't Enough

MICAH CRONIN

While a bachelor's degree has become the standard for entry-level positions, more and more undergraduates are extending their education further by entering Masters and Ph.D. programs. Students who choose this route do not find relief from senioritis, nor are they freed from growing student loan debt. Yet for such students the payoff is worth it; namely, specializing in fields they love (and probably a higher salary, too).

Soon to be Houghton graduate Thomas Eckert, a physics major, will enter a Ph.D. program in nuclear physics at the University of Rochester. He will be doing his work at the Laboratory of Laser Energetics. His research at the lab will begin one week after graduation. "I plan on going into experimental nuclear physics, as opposed to a theoretical branch of physics. I went into college planning on getting a degree in industrial design - which is the design of products like iPhones." According to Eckert, it was his studies in the science honors program that showed him his love of nuclear physics. "Something in my head clicks with nuclear physics. [It] is elegant, there's an element of unpredictability."

Benjamin Yuly, a computer science and music composition

major, plans to attend the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. to earn his Masters of Music in composition. When asked why he decided to forego a gap year, Yuly smiled and said, "I'm not done learning." On his computer science degree, Yuly said, "Everyone knows it's hard to make a living as a musician, and I've always been pretty good with computers. I thought 'might as well'. The broad liberal arts education I've gotten here has prepared me for graduate school. It sets me apart from other graduate students."

The breadth of a liberal arts education offered at Houghton has also served senior Hattie Burgher well. An English and art major, Burgher has been accepted into the New York University Master of Journalism program. Like Yuly, Burgher "wasn't ready to stop learning." She noted that her range of involvement at Houghton, especially her role as a reporter and features editor for The Houghton STAR, was well received by NYU. "I have so many different interests, and I hope grad school will help me hone in on what I'm really meant to do" said Burgher. She continued, "I enjoy writing features, and I'm also interested in writing investigative pieces [for a newspaper]. If I were working for a magazine, I'd love to be a photo editor. I don't really know where I fit best yet, but I'm looking forward to mentors and professors

guiding me."

By contrast, philosophy and theology major Holly Chaisson is at this point fairly solidified in her future plans: "I will be entering Yale's MAR (Master of Arts in Religion) program this fall and plan to concentrate in systematic theology." Speaking to her decision to pursue graduate work Chaisson said, "I am an academic at heart. The study of theology has become part of who I am." Chaisson added that she was interested in a professorial career, as well as one in academic administration. Yet, in the interest of avoiding "sitting in a library all day," she said she may also create

a career in writing or do nonprofit work.

A pressing question for the evangelical students who largely comprise Houghton college is, "How in the world will I afford another degree?" While not a faith question, the financial issue is pertinent to those who have already shelled out plenty to attend Christian colleges. Biology major Erin Salati, who plans to attend SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY, has pondered this extensively. She admits that while earning her Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) will be "super expensive," especially in light of the

loans she has accumulated to finance her undergraduate degree, she feels called by God to pursue her passion for physical therapy. As the DPT degree is the physical therapy field's professional standard, Salati feels that completing the degree and following her calling are worth the expense and extra schooling. "I'm hopeful that once I have a job as a physical therapist I'll be able to pay off my loans quickly." said Salati. "I am trusting in the Lord when it comes to finances though, because I can't do this on my own!"★



PHOTO BY SOPHIA ROSS

Seniors continuing on to graduate school from left to right: (back row) Erin Salati, Shawna Sprout, Jon Yuly, Ben Yuly, (front row) Holly Chaisson, Thomas Eckert, and Hattie Burgher.

The Odyssey Reaches Houghton

KATHRYN MOORE

Being a student at Houghton College now means having an opportunity to write and to grow as a communicator using a professional platform.

Ava Bergen '17 defines the Odyssey as an "online aggregate." "It is a media platform,"

she said, "that takes the voices of millennials and allows [them] to discover and write about what [they] choose to. The Odyssey gives us the ability to put our thoughts out there for the world to see."

Sami Allen, the original managing editor for Houghton College, works in the Odyssey offices in New York and found Houghton College through the Instagram of Amy Abraham '18.

Allen, impressed with Abraham's social media skills, contacted Abraham to ask if she would be interested in starting a branch at Houghton College. Abraham jumped at the opportunity and chose to become the social media director. The social media director helps writers boost the publicity of their articles, gives ideas to those who are struggling come up with article topics, and promotes the articles on social media outlets such as Facebook and Instagram.

Bergen was hired as editor-in-chief, a role that entails overseeing a team of about fifteen writers in order to help them grow as writers and communicators. The editor-in-chief is the first person that writers may seek for help or advice in regard to their articles. Bergen explains how the Odyssey is a bottom-up business model opposed to the typical top-down model. This means that the Odyssey's focus is to encourage millennials to take on more responsibility and to have many opportunities open to them. As a student employee of the Odyssey, you have the option to be a writer in addition to working towards editing positions and dealing with social media promotions. Bergen reports to Houghton's managing editor over Skype, emails

and phone calls. The managing editor works in the Odyssey's offices and is responsible for going over the weekly reports with the editors-in-chief of different campuses. These reports include the number of people that interacted with the various articles written by the students of Houghton College, and how the college staff can potentially increase these numbers.

The Odyssey hires millennials as writers in order to disband the idea that one needs vast experience to produce good work. The online platform believes that it is important for the voices of young adults to be heard. Houghton College has a team of fifteen writers who are responsible for putting out one article a week on the topic of their choice. This team was hired for an apparent love of writing, an evident desire to communicate, and a responsible work ethic with the self-motivation to consistently write. These writers do not necessarily need to be writing or English majors. According to Bergen, the Odyssey offers a unique opportunity for those who enjoy writing but rarely have a consistent outlet to show it.

"We have a student who is a physics major, which is someone whom you typically do not think

of as a writer," Bergen explained. "This company gives people the chance to try something new and discover a talent of writing that otherwise may not have been pursued."

Kimberly Logee '17, the contributing editor of the Houghton Odyssey, helps aspiring writers better their work by editing articles and giving feedback. Logee gains great satisfaction from the editing process and helping individuals improve their writing. She says that Houghton students that write for the Odyssey are receiving a résumé-building experience, an opportunity to grow as a writer, and a chance to win some extra money if their article is the most shared for that particular week. Bergen also emphasized this opportunity that the Odyssey allows students.

"It is interesting—the power the internet gives to people," Bergen said. "Millennials can reach a huge audience with the power of words due to the connections of social media. The Odyssey creates an intentional community of people producing excellent work that has the power to connect with and motivate the world."★



FACEBOOK.COM

Ethical Contradictions *Abolishing the Death Penalty*



ANTHONY BURDO

ALLYSON MURPHY

Currently, 31 states in the U.S. still have the death penalty. According to ProCon.org, the remaining 19 states (including New York) and the District of Columbia have abolished it. Personally, and for as long as I can remember, I have never been in favor of this inhumane practice. Particularly from a Christian perspective, I do not believe an individual should support the murder of another divinely created being.

Before I go further, I do wish to address the simple fact that moral issues, such as the one in question, hold no cut and dry ethical answer. However,

as a pacifist I find that war is never the ideal answer. Yet, I also understand that military duty and service to protect one's homeland and the innocent may at times be necessary. Furthermore, as much as I deeply hate to admit it, sometimes nothing other than combative action may aid a desperate situation. However, condemning to death an imprisoned individual who is no longer a societal threat is far different than those deaths which occur from "just" actions of war.

Many readers may argue that our country cannot fiscally afford to imprison our most dangerous death row inmates for life. To answer that possible rebuttal, I simply ask those readers to find my article from a few months' ago. That article discusses our country's mass incarceration problems and mandatory minimum sentencing. In short, our country has every ability to cut down on federal prison costs while also nationally abolishing the death penalty.

"We, as a nation, need to stop unjustly incarcerating low-level nonviolent offenders who often need rehabilitation more than long term prison sentences."

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We, as a nation, need to stop unjustly incarcerating low-level nonviolent offenders who often need rehabilitation more than long term prison sentences.

However, let us get back to the topic at hand. According to the New York Times, In the 1990s, 80 percent of Americans supported the death penalty while presently 60 percent of Americans are in support. And while this decline is good to see, the problem still remains: the majority of Americans are still in favor. Killing another human being is still considered "okay" in the eyes of many citizens. Quite frankly, this fact disgusts me.

The death penalty--aside from being a legal form of murder--is also, as Associate

Justice of the Supreme Court Stephen Breyer firmly states, an "unreliable, arbitrary, and racially discriminatory" sentence. Furthermore, Breyer, along with others, agrees that the death penalty violates the eighth amendment's protection against cruel and unusual punishment (New York Times). It is indeed cruel to kill another being when this action is not necessary to protect the safety of others.

In continuation, I also believe that another heated social justice issue must be brought into the discussion. It is deeply contradictory for one to be both pro-life and in support of the death penalty. If all life is precious (as I agree it is), then how can one justify murder on death row? Regardless of who the criminal in question has murdered and what other crimes they have committed, he or she does not deserve death. These criminals (yes murderers) are citizens of God's created earth just as you and I are. And even when on death row, they may still have meaningful relationships

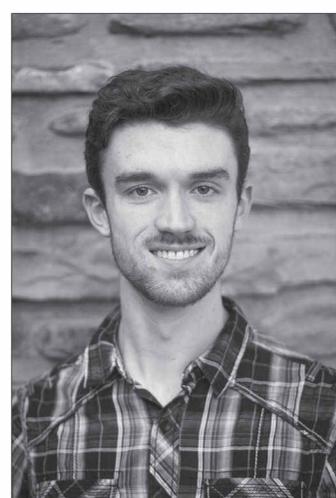
with others beings.

Thankfully the death penalty is losing support throughout the nation. And "in the past 14 years the Supreme Court has barred the execution of several categories of people" which includes "minors, the intellectually disabled, and those convicted of crimes other than murder;" (New York Times). Yet, as the article's opening statistic mentioned, justice is far from attained. The death penalty still haunts our legal system.

Lastly, I fully recognize this article is short and only touches on the surface of many incredibly difficult ethical questions. However, all individuals must recognize a somewhat simple, yet often forgotten truth of life: existence is obsolete without relationships. We, as divinely created beings, only exist because of relationships. We inevitably relate to the Sacred, to fellow living bodies and to creation daily. With this in mind, questions such as the ones presented above must not be seen as unrelated. Inherent connections are ingrained within the framework of any ethical dialogue. ★

Allyson is a senior visual studies art and English double major with a minor in psychology.

What a Beautiful Garden It Can Be



ANTHONY BURDO

MICHAEL GREEN

The world, be that the broader world itself, the smaller college world, or one's personal world, can be an overwhelming and complicated place – a milieu of clashing opinions, swirling emotions, and discouraging issues that can combine into a fog of confusion and uncertainty.

Melodramatic as this image may seem, I don't believe that it is a complete exaggeration of the chaos we can potentially encounter in our various worlds. In such situations, I and many others often find solace and

inspiration through the power of stories. I doubt I need to proclaim the ability of books and stories to heal and to encourage, but I do think that many people overlook a deep mine of often-unexplored stories – the realm of children's literature. After all, in the words of Madeline L'Engle, author of *A Wrinkle in Time*, "you have to write whichever book it is that wants to be written. And then, if it's going to be too difficult for grown-ups, you write it for children."

I often feel that children's literature is undeservedly seen as being only for children; it is viewed as having little real benefit beyond escapist fantasy for, well, everyone older than children. However, my twelve years working and volunteering at my local library have made me view these books differently. Over that span of time, I have seen

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many adults discovering (or rediscovering in some cases) new friends among the set of books that make their home in the children's section. These books resonate with adults as well as children because, in many cases, they tackle topics and themes equally as mature as many "adult" books, but they approach them in a more straightforward and compassionate manner.

Looking for a book that thoughtfully examines themes of youth, age, and life and death? Try Natalie Babbit's *Tuck Everlasting*. Maybe a

story about loss, trauma, and the healing power of nature is more the type of book you need? Nothing can beat Francis Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*. Or what about a tale of unconditional love and acceptance of yourself for who you are instead of who you wish you were? Allow me to point you towards my very dear friend, *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams. These books and hundreds more like them may veil their thought-provoking stories, characters, and emotions behind their simplicity and gentle beauty, but their power to touch the souls of readers is just as strong as their more grown-up counterparts.

Along with the wonderful classics of children's literature past, a short glance at recent winners of the American Library Association's Youth Media Awards reveals dozens of complex contemporary stories that, in addition to their high literary quality, confront

a wide spectrum of issues and themes ranging from love and imagination to race and identity.

Children's books can encourage one to engage a thought-provoking topic through a unique lens, recharge a tired imagination, galvanize the spirit, and refresh the soul by directly confronting the core ideas and emotions of a story. Furthermore, due to their accessible writing and generally compact style, many of these books can be fit into even the busiest of schedules.

So in addition to sharing these stories with the children in your life, perhaps you should pick one up for yourself, be it a recent addition to the "kidlit" canon or a revisit to a one-time literary friend. In a world that sometimes appears to hold a seriously deficit when it comes to hope and possibility, children's literature can be a helpful reminder that, in the words of *The Secret Garden*, "if you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden." And what a beautiful garden it can be. ★

Michael is a junior history major.

Social Security, What a Duesy!



ANTHONY BURDO

JOE GILLIGAN

In the 1930s, the phrase “It’s a duesy” meant “exceptionally good”, “simply awesome”. The phrase came from the automobile company Duesenberg, makers of the world’s finest luxury and race cars. At the same time the well-to-do drove Duesy’s up and down Park Avenue, the Social Security Act was passed and sold by politicians as an old-age insurance. The first checks were sent out in 1937. When the Social Security Act was challenged (*Helvering v. Davis*, 1937) in the Supreme Court, the Roosevelt Administration switched their argument of providing the American people insurance and instead called it a tax. Thus FDR

avoided another unfavorable, unconstitutional decision which had plagued his progressive New Deal agenda. It also may have been a self-preservation decision by the Supreme Court to save itself as FDR wanted to strong arm the court by packing it with his own justices. Besides, who needed the Constitution when Social Security was popular with Congress and the American people? Yet history aside, most of us still believe Social Security is a pension fund where we place money in a government piggy bank in hopes to receive these funds later when we retire.

Many Americans fail to understand there is no system set up by the government to invest their money or to provide any return on investment. The money you think you stored in the government “lockbox” simply is paid out to current social security benefactors. There is no assurance we will be able to receive social security benefits when we retire. Instead we are only given an empty promise that we will receive the money when we turn 65 years old. In the private sector this is known as a Ponzi scheme, but in Washington this is known as good politics. Ponzi schemes pay investors from new capital paid by new investors, rather than from profits earned. Bernie Madoff was sentenced to a lifetime in prison for such a scheme. Like Madoff’s investment firm, one day social security funds will

run out too.

Due to demographic changes such as decreased fertility rates, dismal work participation rates, and an aging population, the Social Security system is near collapse. When Social Security started in 1937 the ratio that supported the system was over forty workers for one Social Security recipient. By 2005 that number was three workers for every Social Security recipient. By 2037 it will be under two workers for one retiree, the year when the Congressional Budget Office projects the system will collapse. That means that my generation will only be in our early 40s, paying for benefits that we will not receive ourselves.

Not only will Social Security not pay in the future, but when it does provide benefits to current retirees, it gives subpar returns. According to the St. Louis Federal Reserve, “over 99 percent of the U.S. population would have earned a greater return by investing in the S&P 500, and over 95 percent would have earned a greater return by investing in 6-month CDs relative to the current Social Security system.” In addition to subpar returns, the Social Security tax has an adverse effect on the poor. Social Security is a regressive tax imposing a higher impact on the poor than on the wealthy capping garnishments at the first \$106,800 earned. Social Security takes more savings potential away

from the poor than the wealthy. When human nature is added into the equation the system seems to promote a person to minimize payments into the system and maximize benefits when retiring. Instead of fighting to change Social Security’s regressive impact for the working poor, socialist and Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has promoted the system and explicitly intends to increase the scope of Social Security.

Yet there are ways out of this flawed system. Similar to America’s Social Security problem, Chile was running low on their own retirement fund in the late 1970s. Instead of kicking the can down the road and raising payroll taxes, raising age requirements, and decreasing benefits as our politicians only propose to do, Chile sought to face the problem head on. Chile decided to link contributions into the system with benefits and allowed taxpayers to choose whether to stay in the current system or to put their tax contribution into an individual retirement account. According to the CATO Institute, 93 percent of Chileans decided to enter the individual retirement account system. By choosing the new system, the citizens of Chile demonstrated they could make better decisions for themselves than government elites. According to *Frontpage Magazine*, Chilean workers averaged a return of over 9 percent over inflation while our

Social Security has provided a return less than 2 percent above inflation.

Americans should demand restraint from the heavy hand of government. Shifting to a system similar to the Chilean model would be a great step in restoring economic liberty and prosperity. Instead, our current system is a burden to our labor force and will run out for those currently enrolled in college well before we retire. Thomas Jefferson once said, “I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.” It is ironic that by the end of the Second World War, the finest luxury car—the Duesenberg—was bankrupt and replaced by other manufacturers who knew how to read the market. Today, the term “duesy” (or “doozy”) now means “spectacularly bad” or “fraught with bad luck” such as, “watch out for the first step, it’s a duesy.” Or that “black eye is going to be a duesy.”

Social Security is facing market pressures and may be destined to a similar fate as the Duesenberg Auto Company. My only hope is that someday my generation’s retirement years, on the other hand, will not prove to be a tragic duesy.★

Joe is a junior business and accounting 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

Recent public debate in the Star (and the world) regarding LGBTQ issues is provocative because of one reason: the Bible. St. Paul’s words are inflammatory to many. He declares that homosexual actions and passions are dishonorable, shameful and unnatural. (Rom 1:26,27)

Paul asserts that it is possible to change one’s sexual behavior from natural to unnatural. *Thayer’s* and *BDAG* Greek lexicons define “natu-

ral” (*phusikos*) as “inborn” and “instinctive.” Paul argues that these people were born with the instinct that would naturally predispose them to heterosexual behavior. However, these people “abandoned” (v.27) their innate God ordained instinct. They “exchanged” the natural function for a behavior against nature. From ordained to inordinate.

In v. 27 the epistle calls their homosexual acts “indecent” - (*ascheosune*) The lexicons

define *ascheosune* as “lewd,” “brazen exposure of privates,” “shameless,” “disgraceful nakedness.”

Paul also addresses their feelings. Their attractions. (v.26) *Thayer’s* and *BDAG* Greek lexicons define “passions” (*pathos*) as “desires” and “affections.” The apostle calls their desires - “degrading,” “shameful,” “dishonorable.” (v.26) Their desire is perverted from honorable attraction to indecent and disgraceful craving.

The inspired writer reveals that God “gave these people

over” (v.26) to perversion. The Greek word for “gave them over” (v.26) is *paradidomi*. The lexicons define it as - “to yield up” “to hand over” “to allow.” Paul reveals that God ceased his attempts to restrain their unnatural actions. God surrendered. He yielded. He allowed them to pursue their desires. He no longer fought to hold them in check.

The Bible forewarns. There is a “penalty for their error.” (V.27) Verse 28 accuses them of doing things which are “not proper.” (forbidden, shameful).

The growing juggernaut of

public LGBTQ opinion is hostile to Paul’s words. As the most prolific writer of our New Testament, should we abandon Paul? The Bible is the source of the controversy. Disregard the Book - eliminate the hostility. Embrace the Book - provoke a storm of disputations.

Sincerely,
Dan Moore

Houghton College Audio Visual Coordinator (from 1981 - June 2015)

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