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Notable Director Hired for Spring Production

WILLIAM TETTA

The English and Communication departments hired notable four-time national touring director Kevin Leary to teach a Theatre Workshop course and direct Henrik Ibsen's play *A Doll's House* in the spring.

The director, Kevin Leary, said the course will cover a wide variety of theatre skills. According to Leary, students will be involved in acting, design, directing, arts management, stage management, theatre history, "and whatever else we need to cover to produce" *A Doll's House*. Leary says the Theatre Workshop will be, "an

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Enrollment Continues Upward Trend



FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONCOLLEGE

This fall, the college welcomed 300 new students, 244 of those being first year students. This year's enrollment is the highest the college has seen since 2011.

CRYSTAL ZUVER

Ryan Spear, Director of Admissions, has seen a growth in first year student enrollment, with this year's enrollment at the highest it has been since 2011. The college welcomed 300 new stu-

dents this fall, 244 of which are first year students. Currently Houghton's total enrollment stands at 1,028.

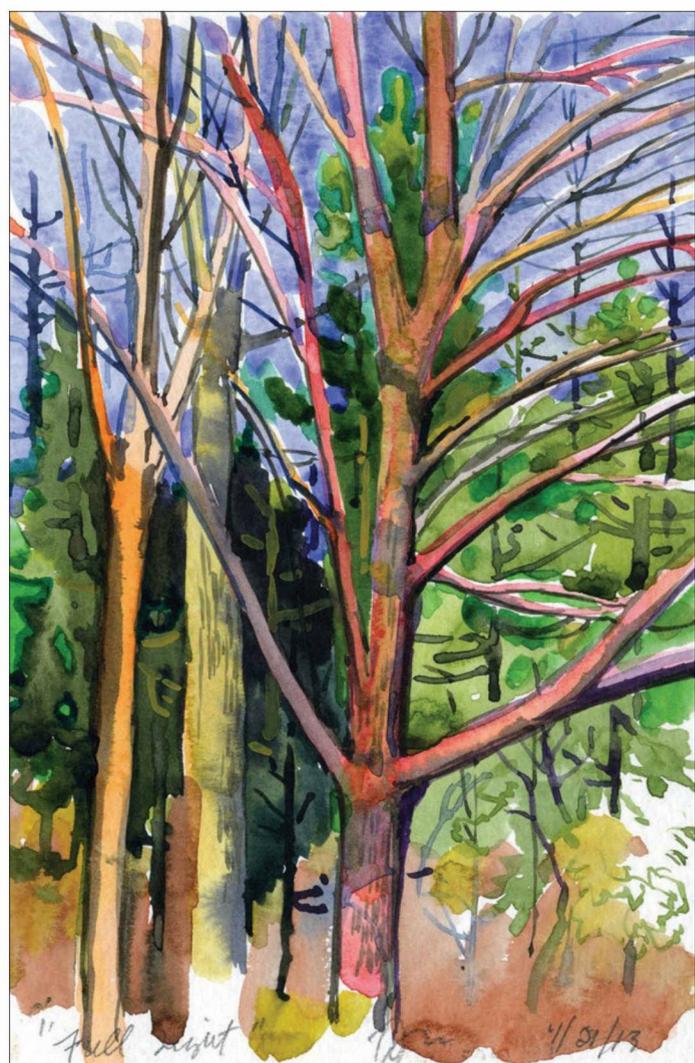
Senior Clara Robertson believes this is based on the new addition to the school, "I transferred to Houghton in 2013. There were about fifty fewer students enrolled than

this year's incoming class," she said. "I'm sure a lot of it must have to do with K-PAC (Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex). As Houghton's athletic programs and facilities continue to improve, I think the school will attract a wider range of students."

"Compared to recent

years, the international student population is the highest it has been," said Spear. "Not including Canadian students, there are eighteen new international students living on campus, compared to nine two

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"FULL LIGHT" BY TED MURPHY

Solution Proposed for Forest Concerns

ANNA WRIGHT

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." This verse from Psalm 1 is what opened the report on Forestry Management. This quote encapsulates what the committee is trying to do in regards to maintaining Christian stewardship of the land surrounding Houghton under their responsibility. The committee, an ad-hoc group made up of sustainability coordinator, Brian Webb; professor of biology, James Wolfe; director of technology services, Don Haingray; and vice president for finance and planning, David Smith, who have put their expertise together in order to protect the environment surrounding the college. The forest is

well-used by students and faculty for bonfires, nature walks, and exercise on the many trails. From an outside perspective, one might never know there were any problems with the way the forest is growing.

Essentially, the forest has become overcrowded. The trees are now so tightly packed not enough sunlight is reaching the forest floor, meaning there is very little undergrowth or new trees growing. This is unhealthy for the forest because in ten or twenty years when the older trees die, there will be no young trees growing to take their place.

According to Webb, it has not always been this way. "If you look at pictures of Houghton's early history you see blank, empty land," he said. "Because all the trees were

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Greatbatch Welcomes New Dean of School of Music

COURTNEY WALTERS

This summer, The Greatbatch School of Music experienced the resignation of the Dean of the School of Music, Stephen Plate, and his replacement by Armenio Suzano Jr., an interim professor of Music History.

Concerns for choosing the right person to fill Plate's position were felt on all sides. According to Linda Mills Woolsey, Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic Affairs, they were searching for someone who could continue to be a leader and serve

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International // Russia Airstrikes in Syria



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

Wednesday morning marked the first Russian airstrike on ISIS in Syria. The attacks, according to the New York Times, came mere hours after Russian president, Vladimir Putin pushed the issue through the upper house of the Russian Parliament early that morn-

ing. The airstrikes, however, have caused concerns within the United States regarding Russia's motives due to the location of their target.

According to CNN, earlier that morning a Russian official in Baghdad went to the U.S. Embassy and informed personnel Russia would be having their airstrike that morning and the U.S. should avoid Syrian skies. Russia did not, however, give the U.S. any information regarding the geographic location of where they were planning airstrikes.

Despite the U.S. denying their leave, Russia's airstrikes bombed several cities within Syria located in the provinces of Homs and Hama. The cities affected were Zafaraneh, Rastan, Talbiseh. None of these cities, according to BBC news, have been or are currently under ISIS control or home to any ISIS operations. These cities are instead said to have been

home to anti-Assad movements.

Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, has faced criticism and many demands to leave office from the U.S. and its allies. Russia, however, has continually backed Assad remaining in power. Assad has held the position of Syrian president over the four-year-long war that, according to the New York Times, has cost over 200,000 Syrians their lives. According to the Washington Post, Assad, along with his security forces, is being blamed for the attacks and crackdowns that have displaced around 4 million people. The U.S., along with several of their allies, remain adamant peace cannot be achieved until Assad resigns from office. Putin, however, defended Assad today by saying he hoped Assad would make "compromises in the name of his country and his people."

A New York Times article

attempted to justify the attacks by stating, "Russian officials and analysts portrayed the move as an attempt both to fight Islamic State militants and to try to ensure the survival of President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, Russia's main ally in the Middle East." The airstrikes caused the deaths of 36 people, and according to BBC, a number of the deceased were children.

BBC also stated the U.S. was welcome to Russian military action within Syria, but if it was directed towards ISIS and groups linked to al-Qaeda. Putin, however, defended the attacks in a televised address by saying "The attacks were targeting Islamic militants, including Russian citizens, who have taken over large parts of Iraq and Syria." Putin also confirmed that Russia will not be sending troops into Syria and stated Russia's role in Syria would be limited.

However, it is said that Putin has both international and domestic reasons for involving the country in the Syrian conflict. The New York Times said, Putin not only wants Russia to be seen as a global power and maintain control of Russia's naval station at Tartus in Syria, but also wants to draw attention away from the conflict with Ukraine and the country's current troubled economy.

Secretary of State, John Kerry, said the U.S. would increase efforts in the coalition to stop ISIS and the U.S. was prepared to hold talks with Russia about avoiding future accidental conflicts between the two air raid campaigns "as soon as possible."★

Dani is a junior writing and communication major.

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immersive course in producing and making theatre."

Douglas Gaerte, professor of Communication, said Leary will be directing Ibsen's *A Doll's House* as a way to give students a "broader theatre experience". According to Leary, "*A Doll's*

House reflects the story of a woman who confronts the social structure of her day, and upon not liking what she sees, sets out to change it." Leary said that with recent women's rights issues, the play will give us a "flash point to talk about these issues", but will do so free of political bias.

Leary wrote, "I am anxious to dig into the story and provide the description of humanity, to raise the mirror in front of our

collected audience, and begin anew the discussion of how we treat people in our society."

Susan Bruxvoort Lipscomb, professor of English, said the schedule for the course is planned tentatively. Interviews for those applying to the class are planned for October 16th. The planned audition date for the play is November 30, with performances planned between February 5 and 7.

According to Gaerte, Leary

is a professional director at the University of Buffalo. Leary said that he has been involved in theatre for 25 years and participated in local and regional productions, as well as acting in a national tour in high school.

James Wardwell, professor of English, said the workshop had been taught a number of years ago by former professor Bruce Brenneman. After Brenneman retired, Wardwell said the course was taught by

part-time help, but was eventually suspended. Gaerte said the attempt to bring the theatre course back began last year, and that the Van Gordon endowment provided the funds needed to hire Leary.

"I just think theatre is great for an academic institution," said Wardwell. "It's an opportunity for us, as a community, to explore significant issues and relationships in a serious manner."★

WORD ON THE STREET



"What got me to campus for a visit day was the honors program, but what made me want to keep coming back and eventually end up going to Houghton was the interactions I had with current students and professors."

-**Jackson Wheeler**, Junior

"It was in the middle of nowhere and there were no crowds, it was a very small college, also Christian."

-**Brendan Lowen**, Senior



"So I came for a late recruiting visit to visit Houghton and I really like the atmosphere, all the people, and the volleyball team a lot. So I decided to come"

-**Sydney Pow**, Junior

"I was recruited to play basketball."

-**Brandon Camacho**, Senior



"It would be the fact that my sister was here, it was really close to home, and it's very similar to where I live because I live in the country."

-**Anetta Snell**, Sophomore

What brought you to Houghton?

"My major, it's not found a lot of other schools, and when I visited with my sister I really felt like everybody was really accepting and wanted me to be here. It's just a really great place to study."

-**Nathan Helmuth**, First Year



"I loved the atmosphere, it was very welcoming; the students were really open, the faculty, just how things were laid out, it had a presence about it. It's just a very special atmosphere."

-**Erin Salati**, Senior

"Houghton's art therapy program is really good and they're one of the few that has it around here, and I live around here. So Houghton was a really great school. I wanted a Christian atmosphere, and the London Honors program really sold me for being here."

-**Abigail Taylor**, First Year



MUSIC from page 1

the students to the best of their abilities, specifically in the areas of program renewal and student recruitment.

After Plate formally announced his resignation in May, Mills Woolsey informed President Mullen, and they began to discuss the best way to take the next step forward. "At that point we had just gone through NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) self-study for accreditation," Mills Woolsey said. "So we

needed to turn over the leadership in a way that would allow us to complete that process well."

According to Mills Woolsey, it was decided that Suzano would be promoted to the position due to his capable communication skills and his attention to detail.

Priscilla Wortman, a second year graduate student studying vocal performance, said she knew Plate before she attended Houghton as the Dean of her undergraduate school. When asked about how she felt about the position

change from Plate to Suzano, she said "To see this actually happen was nice. He's a really good fit for the school."

Suzano talked about his plans moving forward as Dean and Director of the Greatbatch School of Music. While keeping the traditional feel the School of Music has always been important, they are also looking to trending contemporary markets. Such markets include the Music Industry major, a bigger role for Gospel Choir to play, and even a Worship Arts and Technology major.

The Music Industry track is currently available strictly as a minor, but Suzano is working on the third and final step and the projection is that mid-December, Music Industry will be an approved major.

Within the next year, Suzano sees the Greatbatch School of Music starting the process to include a minor in Worship Arts and Technology. The date for this to be a major is unknown at the moment, but the work is anticipated to go into making this a major as well.

This year the Gospel Choir, which is led by graduate stu-

dent Malcolm Bell, has become one of the ensembles of the School of Music, according to Suzano. Although Gospel Choir is outside the realm of traditional conservatory-style music, being ethnic-driven, Suzano believes God is using this choir on campus, as a ministry. Suzano said when he attended chapel this semester and worshiped with the Gospel Choir, he was met with a "solid block of sound, of anointing, of joy, of the presence of the Holy Spirit, and that is the product of the ministry of Gospel Choir at Houghton College."★

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years ago." Seemingly because of the currency exchange rate, the college has seen a decline in Canadian students. "The dollar continues to go and the Canadians are being punished," stated Eric Currie, Vice President for Enrollment Management. Currie also said the college is looking to to recognize the financial situation, and work out some opportunities for next year's enrollment.

Spear went on to say, "If someone is saying they want to be at Houghton, we are going to do everything in our power to make that happen." Currie said Houghton falls within the national average range of offering a 52% discount rate to students and said, "With students, it's all about the final price. What am I going to have to take in loans and pay out of pocket?"

According to Spear, Houghton is constantly working on new strategies to bring in prospective students. For example, this year they are us-

ing technology to connect with students and make them aware of opportunities. A recent visit email sent to 14,000 people noted that 84% of those people opened the email on a mobile device.

In addition to technology, the Common Application is another way prospective students to learn about Houghton. "One way for international recruiters and schools to learn about Houghton is through the Common Application. This app gives Houghton credibility to these people who generally don't know that Houghton

exists," said Spear.

On the print side of things, the college is focusing on making a good first impression to potential students. They are making sure that the eye-catching materials they provide really provide a full picture of what Houghton is and what the college values.

Spear went on to say, "We have a beautiful campus and we're one of the safest colleges in the nation. Nearly everything that goes out of Houghton has the message of value. Everybody gets a personalized acceptance letter. It's a labor

of love, not just a gimmick."

When it comes to visit days, the "Highlander Preview Day" is among the most popular for prospective students. According to Betsy Rutledge, Assistant Director of Admission Events, the average Highlander Preview Day normally averages 30-40 students and their families, but this year they are currently anticipating 200 students and their families. Rutledge said, "This needs to be a campus-wide to ensure the best visit experience possible for this large group."★

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cut, and when a forest is that extensively cut, the way things regrow tends to be very artificial. We have an even age forest because they were all planted at the same time. It's a product of the way humans cut the Houghton forest 100, 150 years ago." The natural ecology of the forest has been disrupted, and the Forestry Committee is attempting taking the steps to help reduce the damage.

The committee's focus is primarily on the overall health of the forest. Many of these necessary improvements can be made through a sustainable harvest plan. They developed a plan to thin out some of the trees in order to provide room for new trees to grow, in addition to providing the already existing trees with more space to grow healthily. Selective cutting, when done properly, will benefit the forest significantly, it will allow more light to reach the forest floor and help the smaller, younger trees to be healthy. The college will also benefit by selling the timber they cut down, with the revenue they receive going back into improving the forest environment.

In order to carry out this plan of safe timber removal, the committee has hired a New York State Forester. Already, he has done a detailed assessment of the forest, creating a specific breakdown of the different types of trees growing, which ones are growing well, and which are not, as well as gathering information on invasive species. The forester will mark the trees to be harvested, manage the timber

company throughout the process, and ensure the entire logging process creates as minimal a disruption to the environment as possible.

The forester also identified ways to minimize the negative effects of tree removal, including minimizing the erosion caused by loggers, improving wildlife habitats, and dealing with invasive species. They will also avoid disturbing the everyday use of Houghton College property.

Though no date has yet been set for the timber removal to begin, it will take place either in winter or in summer. During winter, the ground will be frozen hard, which minimizes the damage vehicles can do to the forest floor. During summer, however, there will be few students still on campus, and will minimize the disturbance the logging process will make.

"This is a long term plan to care for this part of God's creation. There is no 'quick fix'," said Smith.

Smith also said once the suitable harvest plan is set in motion, it will still take many years for the forest to return to its original healthy ecology. It won't happen all at once. The plan recommended by the forester will take place over the next fifteen years, the first five years spent as they mark, harvest, and observe the changes to various parts of the forest. They will then spend ten years letting nature take its natural course and carefully observing what further changes may need to be made. It will likely take many generations of careful forest management before the forest is able to "take over on its own, and produce as it should," as Brian Webb noted.★

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



JOIN US FOR DINNER!

GUEST PROFESSIONAL DINNER SERIES



Brian Osterhus '89
Federal Reserve Bank, NYC

Explore with us the vocational journey of Brian Osterhus, Houghton alum and 26 year veteran of the Federal Reserve Bank in NYC.

OCT 8, 2015: SOUTH END DINING HALL
Dinner @ 5:00p / Presentation @ 5:30p

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 5th : GRAD SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Bruce Campbell, Director of Graduate Admissions at St. Bonaventure presents important information on how to get into grad school and fields your questions.

7:30pm-8:30pm / Location: Chamberlain 223

OCTOBER 19th : GRAD SCHOOL FAIR

50+ Graduate Schools attending with representatives ready to answer your questions about programs their schools can offer you. Join us and learn more about what opportunity could be right for you!

5:00pm-7:00pm / Location: Campus Center

Houghton Hosts A Conversation with Joyce Carol Oates

LAURA JOHNSON

Today in the Recital Hall, award-winning novelist and Buffalo-native, Joyce Carol Oates, will be hosting a question and answer forum at 2 p.m. The well-known, seventy-seven year old novelist has published over 100 books in just about every genre including novels, memoirs, plays, poetry, and short stories and in styles such as horror, gothic, mystery, and family saga. Dean Linda Mills Woolsey said, "Her work is vast and various."

The event was made possible by a partnership with the David A. Library of Wellsville. Houghton alumni, Nic Gunning, currently works at the library. He reached out to Oates, explaining that someone of her stature coming in and talking to the library's patrons and community would be a rare and warmly welcomed experience. When Oates' lecture in Wellsville was confirmed (which commences tonight at 7 p.m.) Gunning approached Mills Woolsey about the possibility of having Oates speak at Houghton as well, resulting in today's forum.

Mills Woolsey, a longtime reader and lover of Oates' work, hopes students will



PHOTO COURTESY OF TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Houghton's partnership with the David A. Library of Wellsville will bring award-winning novelist Joyce Carol Oates to speak with students.

catch a glimpse of Oates' passion for the craft of writing and come to understand her work in ways that enables them to be good readers of contemporary writers. She went on, saying, "I also hope this will deepen students' appreciation for creative work that takes on challenging subjects."

It is one of the aims of the Houghton English and Writing programs to balance the refining of the craft with opportunities to interact with those currently succeeding in the field.

For many years the English and Writing department has invited writers to come to the college for students to learn from and speak with.

Senior English major, Hope McKeever, feels the department is excelling in this objective. In the past year especially, she and many others in the program have been inspired and encouraged by the guidance and readings of visiting authors.

Speaking to an artist about their work offers students a

fullness of experience that one does not encounter through a work alone. The authors typically studied by students often tend to be deceased, it all feels rather secondhand. Professor of English, Stephen Woolsey compares it to the difference of being told about music and actually hearing a musician play. Luckily, there are still many great writers who are alive and willing to come visit Houghton.

McKeever notes out of all the short stories she read in

high school the one that sticks out the most is "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" by Oates, a retelling of the pied piper which examines ideals of beauty and innocence. "She can draw you into a story unlike anyone I've ever read," said McKeever, "That is something I would love to emulate in my own work."

Along with excellence, Oates exemplifies hard work and determination. The sheer volume of Oates' literary contributions is overwhelming. She has published two or three books every year for the past forty years. She was once seen in an airport sitting on top of a bag-stacked luggage cart writing as her husband pushed the cart along. Her tenacity and productivity is an inspiration to Houghton students.

Mills Woolsey, who finds Oates' novels disturbing and deeply moving, spoke to the unifying factor of her body of work., "The thread that runs through...is a willingness to look at dark, violent and painful experience with an honest eye, while at the same time often managing to convey a sort of tough-minded hope through the strength of her characters."

Oates' stories are cerebral and copious. Her characters, honest and compelling. Her work, captivating, creepy, charming, and hauntingly beautiful all at the same time. ★

Milestone is More Than a Win for Webb

ALICIA NEEDHAM

On September 20, head coach of men's soccer, Matthew Webb, reached a milestone of 100 wins in the victory against the Nazareth College Golden Flyers. Since the win, Webb said, "It's been fun to reminisce and think about some of the guys who have come through the program all of these years." Athletic Director Skip Lord said, "Anytime you have the milestone wins, in part it says something about longevity... but it's longevity with excellence, longevity with success."

Webb has been coaching for twenty-two years. He started his career at Houghton working in the Student Life Office in Student Programs and served as an assistant coach for women's soccer for four years alongside current head coach, David Lewis. Then, under Coach

Hornibrook, he was an assistant coach for the men's soccer team for seven years. Now, he is in his eleventh season as the head coach of men's soccer who are currently 4-3-2 overall and 1-0-1 in the Empire 8 conference. In addition to coaching, Webb is the Associate Athletic Director for the college and the men's soccer chair for the NCCAA division. Over the years, Webb has provided leadership for the intramural sports program, served as a former Empire 8 conference chair, taught classes at Houghton, taught as an adjunct at other institutions such as Global Leadership for St. Bonaventure's master's program, and has been a member of board of elders at the Houghton Wesleyan Church.

Webb always sets high goals and standards for his team every season. Specifically, they want to win the Empire 8 conference, qualify for and win the NCCAA national tournament, and have a team GPA of over 3.2 with no individual GPAs below a 3.0. "I think if goals are not

set at a high enough standard, they aren't worth striving towards but they need to be attainable...something [we] can build towards," said Webb. Additionally, as a team they want to support other sports teams on campus by attending at least one of their games. Webb thinks it's important for his team to be disciplined academically, athletically, and spiritually. Because he desires to see spiritual development among his players, the team has mandatory devotions early on Friday mornings

With regards to coaching, Webb said, "The most rewarding thing is building those relationships with the players, seeing guys graduate from our program. Becoming husbands, becoming dads." The success Webb has had is largely a result of the time he takes to relate to his players. Senior Matt Munkittrick said, "[He] makes a good effort outside of the soccer field to get to know the players and that helps in practice and in the games as well." During preseason, the entire men's soccer team is invited



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW WEBB

Coach Matthew Webb has been coaching men's soccer for twenty-two years and makes every effort to get to know his players both on and off the field.

over to the Webb's house for a picnic which lets his players know they are always welcome at his home because they are his "extended family." Webb is often described as a "player's coach" because he cares about the kind of men his players become and stays in contact with them after they graduate to see how they're doing. Lord said, "One of the

ways you can tell the impact of a coach has on their student athletes is how many weddings they're invited to." Usually, his summers are booked with plenty of former players' weddings for his family to attend, so it's safe to say Webb has made a large impact on many of the players he's coached throughout the years. ★

Aerialist and Juggler Extraordinaire Senior Jens Omdal

AVA BERGEN

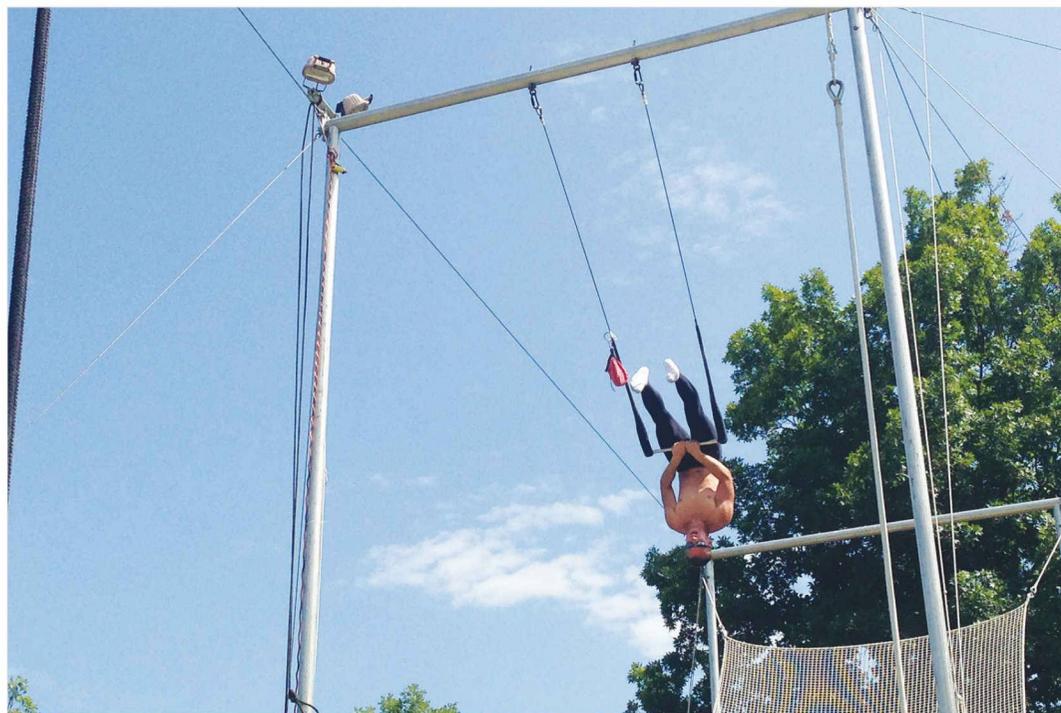
During the school year, senior Jens Omdal is a political science major. During the summer, however, he is a professional circus performer working for the Aerial Trapeze Academy. Based in South Florida and Palm Beach, the Aerial Trapeze Academy are experts in the performing arts, presenting circus shows as well as teaching workshops in trapeze to the public. Omdal works as an aerialist and a juggler, specializing in tricks on the flying trapeze and fire juggling. "It's something I enjoy," says Omdal. "It's definitely a challenge but it's rewarding."

Omdal began his training in the art of circus performance when he was 11 years old, when lessons were offered at a kid's camp he attended. As he became

more skilled, Omdal went on to work professionally with the circus as his summer job. When asked what initially attracted him to the trapeze, he responded, "I think it's that I was scared of heights. It was a way of overcoming an obstacle."

Omdal's typical workday begins at eight in the morning, teaching students the mechanics of flying trapeze. Some days are devoted to these classes, with each lesson lasting about an hour. If it's a performance day, the afternoon is spent setting up for their evening show. Omdal remarks that the Academy's schedule fluctuates fairly often. "Show times vary; in the summer there's a lot of carnivals and festivals that want us to perform, so it's possible we would perform every night for a week. Other times you go three weeks without a show. It depends on where the attractions are."

When asked specifically



COURTESY OF JENS OMDAL

During the summer, Omdal teaches students the mechanics of the flying trapeze, as well as performing regularly at carnivals and festivals.



COURTESY OF JENS OMDAL

Senior Jens Omdal is professional circus performer who works as an aerialist, specializing in tricks on the flying trapeze.

about his job description, Omdal described himself not only as a performer, but also as a staff member. "The circus term for it is a Roustabout—someone who sets up the show. Everyone begins as a Roustabout; so you know how to set up the rig, change sets. If you can't do that, then you're not helpful to the show, and if you're not helpful to the show then you are destructive. If all you are capable of is your own particular act, then you're only good for five minutes." As well as contributing to set up, Omdal performs a juggling act, starting with a few balls and then slowly increasing the difficulty level up to juggling fire. He also does an Adagio act, meaning an act showcasing an acrobatic partnership typically

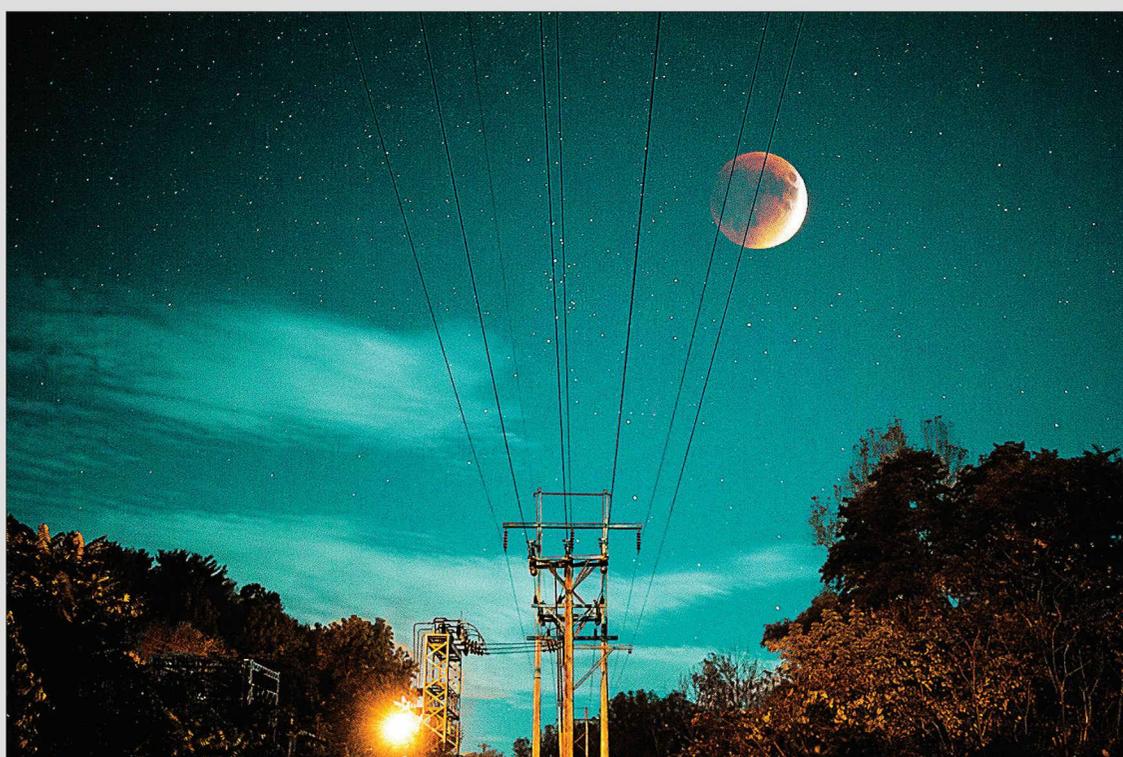
with a man as a stabilizing base while a woman performs flips and twists. Finally Omdal performs tricks with four other artists on the flying trapeze. These tricks include layouts, or forward moving backflips, and a plouge, which involves placing the trapeze bar behind your hamstrings and arching your body upside down. Acts on the flying trapeze require careful precision and planning. Omdal commented, "We have our tricks planned beforehand because we want our tricks to work together aesthetically as well as sequentially."

Omdal could feasibly make his living working professionally as a performer and aerialist. When asked why he attends Houghton, he replied,

"I desire an education, and Houghton is my outlet for that. A lot of people who perform in the circus make it their career and livelihood. But it's a short-lived career because of the toll it takes on your body, after 15 or 20 years in the industry your body is well advanced." Despite the risks involved, Omdal remains passionate about his role as performer, as well as its impact on his life. "Circus is a way of making art with our bodies. We are creative in our own right. One thing the circus had taught me is that you have to commit. If you're performing a trick on the trapeze and you don't commit, you're going to fall." ★

Photo of the Week

WINNER //
Christian Bigham '17



Spiritualizing Living Pains: The Fall of Emotionalism



ANTHONY BURDO

JIWANA DHALIWAL

Every week Gillette puts up a new devotional in the shower for their residents to read. I look forward to these devotionals and am encouraged to hear a new tone in the writings. Last year I was beginning to see common trends in the devotionals that I found somewhat disheartening. The basic framework to the majority of these devotionals consisted of negative self-talk and God as remedy to this negativity. The devotions, more often than not, understood God as a source of alleviation from

day-to-day struggles and pains and saw Him as a reminder to live, think and act more positively. These thoughts or concepts are not wrong, in fact they can be very good, but the commonality of understanding God this way points to a deeper issue.

This cycle, although not as evident on campus (so far) is a common way people tend to express their relationship to God. I find this troubling, because it means that people most commonly relate to God not in the spirit of love, but insecurity. This is bound to happen to some degree. We are finite beings and God is infinite, it is only natural and good to go to Him for refuge. That being said, spiritualizing these insecurities and remaining hyper-sensitive to the pains of existence can deeply shape how one interacts with God. One may deeply love God, but reflection on His truths will be tainted by a desire to feel relieved of frustrating grievances.

I am deeply sceptical that

“The modern tendency to construe God as a being inside a subjective reality, as a feel-good experience, is not a role that the Christian God wants to fill.”

“As followers of Christ we do not relate to God on the basis of our insecurity or personal dilemma, but on the knowledge that He is God.”

this kind of reflection brings lasting peace. God undoubtedly involves human beings in His affairs. The Bible is filled with narratives in which God works through men and women to accomplish His purposes. Emotion is also a part of worship and relationship. The Bible contains writings where individuals, such as David, Jeremiah and Habakkuk, communicate to God using their emotional faculties. The problem does not rest purely in emotion, but the tendency to resort to emotionalism. The problem arises when one's definition of God is inextricably linked to their emotional experiences. When this definition is used as a starting point the God of the

universe is reduced to a being whose prime purpose is to supplement His creation's emotional health. God becomes a coping mechanism and the art of theology and the pursuit to understand God as an independent and perfect identity is polluted.

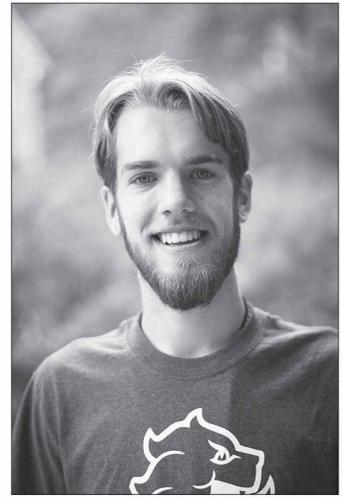
It is incredibly easy to spiritualize emotionalism and yet the Christian faith encourages us to look outside ourselves. The Christian faith understands God as a personal and loving parent-figure. The bible has no problem acknowledging that God is our helper in the times of need-- and yet God is much more. The modern tendency to construe God as a being inside a subjective reality, as

a feel-good experience, is not a role that the Christian God wants to fill. Rather, Christ wants objective authority and He invites His followers to worship His divinity with this sense of reverence.

As followers of Christ we do not relate to God on the basis of our insecurity or personal dilemma, but on the knowledge that He is God. This act of knowing God is what opens us to the faculties of personal and perfect love and it is the knowledge of perfect love that erodes the fear and anxieties that so deeply entrench our personal conflicts and lives. I am incredibly encouraged by Luke Rosamilia's opinion piece last week and the Gillette shower devotions thus far, because I see it as evidence of Houghton students who recognize the temptation to interpret God purely through their emotions and are choosing to have a holistic concept of who God is to us and who God is in His being-- and I'm confident that this type of reflection will bring peace. ★

Jiwan is a junior philosophy and theology double major with a minor in world religions.

Let's Talk About Pornography



ANTHONY BURDO

MICHAEL CARPENTER

Let's get uncomfortable for a minute. Pornography. Wikipedia defines it as “the portrayal of sexual subject matter for the purpose of sexual arousal”, and (though it's Wikipedia) that's clear enough for me. With the widespread reach of the internet, pornography has become incredibly pervasive. If you've never seen it, you're in the American minority. 9/10 boys and 6/10 girls have seen porn before they turn 18. With the knowledge that so many Americans have seen (and regularly watch) porn, it is insane that I never hear anyone talking about it! Pornography

is hugely widespread and problematic in many ways, and we need to speak up.

Arguably the most important problem that needs to be addressed is this: porn is a multi-billion dollar industry that profits by exploiting men and women worldwide and it is largely an industry made up of human trafficking. In the United States, the primary cause of human trafficking is for sex, including pornography acting. In many cases, porn actors have no escape from their sexual career, largely because of the economic and social difficulties of moving on. Even in cases where actors and actresses intentionally choose to join the industry, they are often horribly mistreated by those they work for and act with. People are treated like objects that can be assigned worth and sold as visual pieces to a viewer's sexual fulfillment puzzle. Among actors and actresses in the industry, there is an incredibly high rate of substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

“Porn distorts sexuality, damages relationships, and confuses one's understanding of healthy gender interactions.”

“Our hope in Christ is a hope of righteousness and purity, and we cannot neglect sexual purity along the way.”

The way people are treated in the pornography industry is unacceptable, and needs to stop.

Another huge issue related to porn is addiction. Regular exposure to sexually explicit imagery changes the brain in ways similar to hard core drugs, not to mention the many ways it confuses viewers and causes them to forget or misunderstand normal sexual interaction and healthy intimacy. Porn distorts sexuality, damages relationships, and confuses one's understanding of healthy gender interactions, all the while setting up chemical pathways in the brain that draw viewers back for more. It is amazing that we stay so quiet

about this, especially given the probability that there are many among us addicted to porn. Among Christians who are willing to answer questions about their histories with porn, 64% of men reported that they view porn at least once a month, along with 15% of women. If we as a church want to help those around us to be free from this harmful addiction, we need to model that freedom first.

In case nobody has told you yet: porn use is a form of sexual immorality. Galatians 5 tells us, “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality... I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Our hope in Christ is a hope of righteousness and purity, and we cannot neglect sexual purity along the way.

It is clear that pornography is an issue of mental health, human rights, economic justice, and moral purity. And yet, porn addiction is hidden and kept secret. Occasionally, when

it is talked about, it is often normalized. But pornography is not normal or okay, no matter how many people use it.

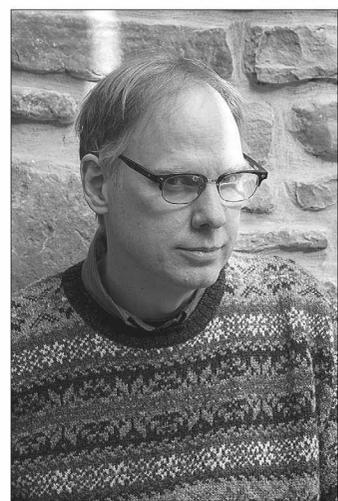
Church, please talk about it. Houghton, please talk about it. Christians, rise up about it! This problem will not go away with silence. Let's start with ourselves. James 5 says, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” Let's begin with healing each other, and then let the world know the freedom they can have in Christ.

There is freedom for sexual slaves, who are separated from anyone who loves them, and who are treated like dirt. There is freedom for addicts, whose minds, bodies, and relationships are broken. There is freedom to be a part of the Kingdom of God, but only if we address this, and do it in Jesus' name. ★

(All statistics and research are from Covenant Eyes. If you're addicted to porn, check out Fight the New Drug's “Fortify Program”, an online pornography addiction recovery program.)

Michael Carpenter is a junior applied design and visual communication double major.

“There is Money in Them Thar Trees”



LUKE LAUFER

TED MURPHY

of *Stewardship* of our natural resources. The opening slide used a Bible verse to set the proper tone of just how caregiving this task force was inspired to be as they thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the best way to manage this important natural resource of the school. “Proper care of the forest today will help a future forest to better prosper”.

I stated publicly that although I understood the explanation, I doubted that this alone was our reason for wanting to turn trees into lumber...I suspect that the real reason is money... “*there is money in them thar trees and we are foolish to let them die before we get the profit.*” It was explained by the professional forester we hired that we have before us a situation of future devastation. The trees in our forest have too much common age. The canopy is too dense and the younger trees trying to grow to displace the older growth are being destroyed by more aggressive “undesirable growth”. The deer are too manifold and eating the tender good trees.

But the money side of the evening continues to bother me. At the meeting, I kept thinking *why this issue?* There are so many resources at the college that need attention. It cost money to hire a consultant. The college has very tight resources. There is just no way we are going to address this issue if there is not some immediate payoff for the

“The damage that is going to be done to our most beautiful natural resource will come at a cost to us in the present.”

investment. All the arguments for the future might have some truth to them, but I still feel the real reason we are looking to our forest is for its value as lumber money, not as an inherently valuable natural resource.

I am not hypocritical enough to try and pass myself off as a purist on these issues. I buy lumber for art projects. I live in home partly carved out the very forest I treasure. Line up the observations and you will find me two-faced on them all. But I do want to make the case that the damage that is going to be done to our most beautiful natural resource will come at a cost to us in the present. When I pointed out the recent logging done by the Western District of the Wesleyan church of the part of the forest that runs along the edge of the college property, the forester emphasized that this was done not by a forester, but by a logger. “Don’t confuse forestry with logging”. Ok...but that sounds a little like a barber saying “It’s not me that cuts the hair, it’s

the scissors”. Loggers cut trees marked by foresters. Yes, there are terrible loggers and there are environmentally responsible loggers. My hunch is that there is also a cost differential here that I doubt will be persuasive enough when cut comes to chopping that we will choose wisely.

It looks to me like there is not any way to change the mind of the college about this proposal. Thus, I am asking the students, faculty, and staff who care about the college forest to do the following:

Weigh in on this proposal. Insist that the people making these decisions do so with the least disruptive and most responsible means possible. Perhaps this will mean hiring the Amish to use horses rather than huge ground-destroying equipment to get the lumber.

Insist that we also hire an outside agency that is not trained only to look upon forest as lumber farms, but to see them in other environmentally focused terms. With an aesthetic eye and not one that describes lumber-lacking growth as junk trees but sees other ways in which the woods might be fine if left to go its own evolutionary direction... whatever that might be.

That a promise is made to carefully guard against harvesting trees on the borders of property

other than the college and that those parts of the woods used now for recreation be the least harvested-meaning the ropes course, the paths and trails, and those parts most visible as we walk, run and recreate in this great natural resource.

That the harvesting happens in winter so that the noise and disruption will be least impactful on the forest use- leave ski trails open and safe.

That we also take into account the damage that might occur to other sensitive environmental habitats. That tree values be weighed against the value of salamanders, woodpeckers, and biodiversity.

Have the college only hire people that will promise this in writing and make it legally binding to not walk away from the woods once the trees are gone and to not leave it like a forest looks after artillery shells have devastated an enemy embankment.

I will feel better if more people have a chance to consider what was proposed at the town hall meeting. I am, by my own public admission, a tree hugger. I also believe that the arguments about taking care of the forest today for a future tomorrow are valid.

If we decide to still do this (I wish we would not) ...how we do it is critical. The mature trees that are surely going to die out need middle growth and younger trees to be healthy and have a future. ★

Ted Murphy is the Mable Barnum Davidson Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts.

“The real reason we are looking to our forest is for its value as lumber money.”



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.

SPEAK OUT!

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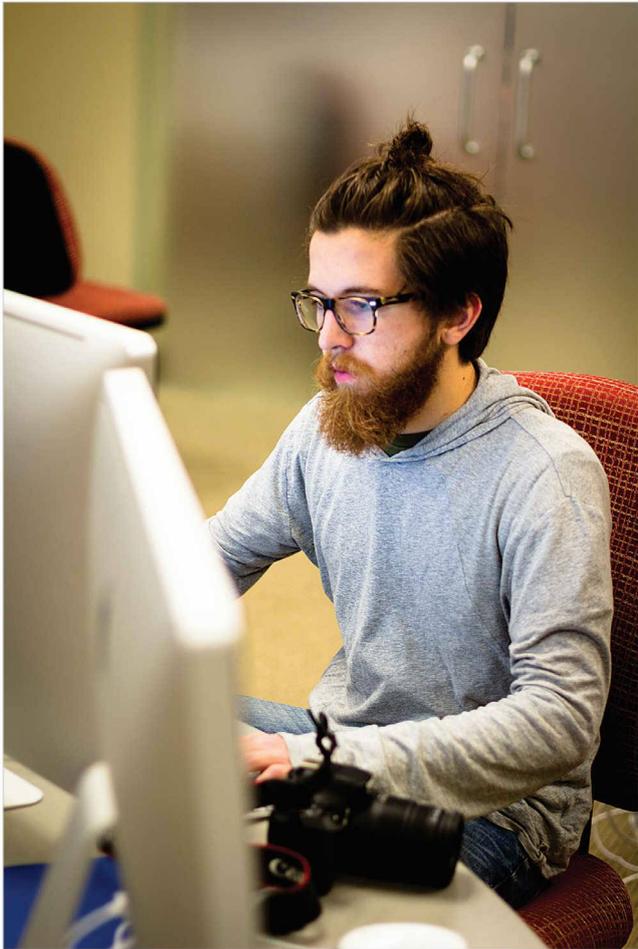
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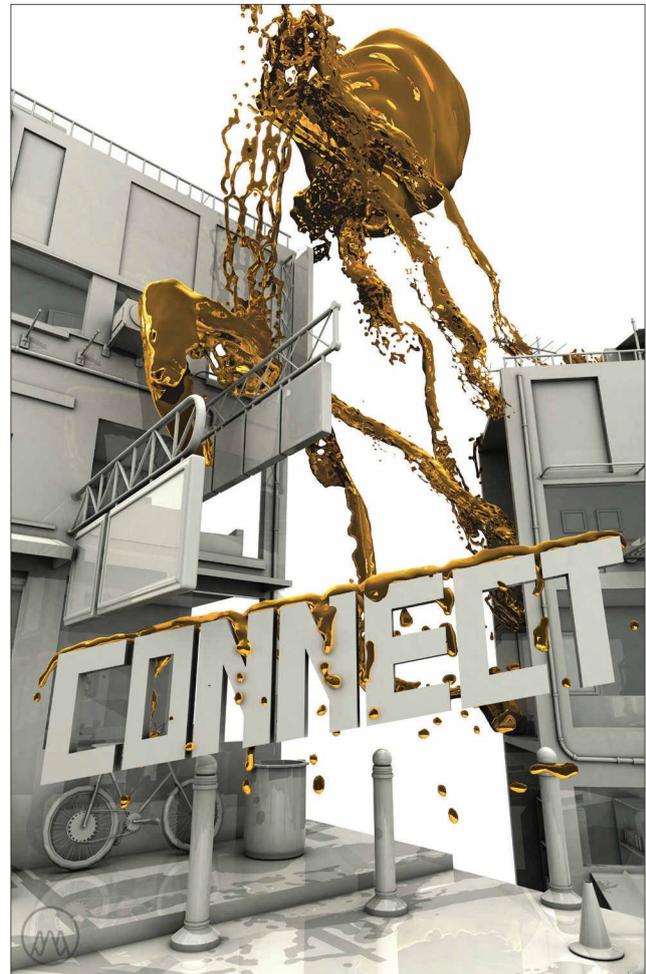
Artist of the Week

Mason Wilkes

//senior communication major with focuses on digital media and marketing



ANTHONY BURDO



“ We’re all creatives here, we’re all born artists. Some people are artists of business, some people are artists of composition.

”

-Kanye West



Titles & Media

left to right descending

Goodwill, digital photography

Club Logo, pen and ink

Interractional Determinism, digital print

Untitled, digital photography

Untitled 2, digital photography