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DR. WAYNE D LEWIS JR. ANNOUNCED AS 6TH PRESIDENT OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE

JOSIAH WIEDENHEFT ('22)

On Wednesday, April 28, Dr. Wayne D. Lewis Jr. was announced as the 6th president of Houghton College. Following President Shirley Mullen's announcement on October 20th of her resignation after 15 years in the position, the school has spent over half a year eagerly waiting to find out who would be the next individual to take up the role of school president.

So who is Dr. Lewis? Hailing from New Orleans, Lewis graduated from Loyola University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. However, his formation as a leader began even before college. In his first message to the student body, during Wednesday's chapel, Dr. Lewis cited his time as a high school drum major as a key influence on him, saying this was his "most formative leadership experience, even at this point in my life... there's nothing I believe that prepared me more." Going on to receive a master's degree in Urban Studies from the University of Akron in Ohio, Lewis then received a PhD in Educational Research



Dr. Wayne D. Lewis will take over from President Mullen this fall as the 6th president of Houghton College

COURTESY OF AMY TETTA

and Policy Analysis from North Carolina State University, with a minor in Public Administration.

Dr. Lewis is certainly no stranger to the field of education, and though his experience in this area includes time dedicated to higher education, it is by no means limited to it. "I selected education as a career a long time ago now," he said an

introductory video released on the Houghton College YouTube channel, "because of my deep love for students... I knew that I wanted to spend the rest of my life and my career working to create opportunities for students." This started, says Dr. Lewis, with his time working in K-12 education in Louisiana and North Carolina public schools, particularly focusing

on special education.

After Dr. Lewis finished his doctorate, he served at the University of Kentucky as a professor of Educational Leadership. He then moved on to serve in a public office, as the Executive Director of Education Policy and later the Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Before coming to Houghton, Dr.

Lewis' most recent position was at Belmont University, as the inaugural Dean of the School of Education. Furthermore, he has authored one book, "The Politics of Parent Choice in Public Education: The Choice Movement in North Carolina and the United States," and has published numerous other pieces on topics in education, included in both edited volumes and peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Lewis' positions and writing outline the figure of an individual who is dedicated to improving education for all in practical ways, both through what he says and what he does.

In the introductory video, Dr. Lewis also emphasized the necessity of Christian liberal arts institutions in our current time and climate. "I have no doubt God uses places like Houghton College," he says, "to prepare leaders for today and tomorrow, to deal with some of the most difficult, the most intractable problems our world has ever seen... to have a small role in what God is doing here at Houghton, is more than I could ever imagine." ★

River Dog Fly Shop Now Open in Houghton

ERIN MAGGIO ('21)

Those in the Houghton community have probably noticed that the building which was once Subway and then vacated for a bit now houses a new business: the River Dog Fly Shop.

Walking into the store, one is almost inundated with how different the interior is, to what the chain sandwich shop once looked like, seeing walls covered with fishing lines, hammocks hanging in display, a big desk area taking up the center of the main space, and the side area turned into a quasi-art gallery.

Owner Indrèk Kongats emphasized that the store was based around



A glimpse at artwork in the River Dog Gallery.

COURTESY OF ERIN MAGGIO

the outdoors very broadly, though the name is focused on fly fishing. Nearly anything that is centered around outdoor activity is found here. There are hammocks, backpacks, knives, and more. They are aiming to also exploit more water and boating activities, with canoes and kayaks.

An especially unique aspect of the shop is the

art gallery, dubbed the "River Dog Gallery," located in a small room off the main shop area. The work contained there includes etchings, oil and watercolor paintings, wood sculptures, and mixed media pieces. Notably, all pieces are originals and signed by the artists. There are also nature and sports art books and magazines

which feature art from sporting artists—both displayed and not.

Some of the most notable artists with work on display and for sale are Gordon Allen, C.D. Clarke, Rod Crossman, Felix Eljas, Walter Look, and Morten Fadum.

Clarke and Crossman both have local ties. Clarke, born in nearby Rochester, NY, is one of

the nation's most talented watercolor and oil artists who primarily paints fishing, hunting, and outdoor scenes, according to Sporting Artisans. Crossman, who was raised mostly in upstate New York, is another sporting artist, and he loves to fly fish. His work can be found in a number of sporting publications regularly.

"Our fine collection of sporting artists is only equaled by top galleries in New York city... we've brought a little bit of Manhattan to Houghton!" their website (riverdogflyfishing.com) exclaims.

Pieces are available for purchase and custom framings are available for any prints which are not yet framed.

Kongats says he has high hopes for the expansion of the art gallery. He has spoken with Houghton College ceramics professor Aaron Harrison about

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the opportunity of having more local artists involved in the gallery. He eventually hopes to make the gallery more of a destination that people will want to travel to see, which he hopes to accomplish by getting the word out about it.

While the art may draw in a certain crowd, there are other compelling aspects. Along with the already mentioned outdoor items, the shop also has sporting DVDs and reads; gifts, including mugs and cups; sporting dogs; and t-shirts. The t-shirts include

River Dog Fly Shop specific shirts as well as more generic "Houghton, NY" shirts, which Kongats said were a particular fan favorite among the groups of college students who have visited the store.

As time goes on, it seems Houghton students will come to know the River Dog Fly Fishing Shop as a place to stop for any of their outdoor needs, artists will find it to be a wonderful place to display and sell their work, and art fans will put it on their lists of galleries to see. ★

SEC and STAR Offices Undergo Remodeling

ANNA CATHERMAN ('24)

A few of Houghton's most prominent student organizations will be playing musical chairs this spring. Soon after students move off-campus, remodeling efforts will begin on the current Student Government Association (SGA) and Campus Activity Board (CAB) offices. These spaces, located in the campus center's basement, will now be home to the newly-formed Student Experience Council (SEC), CAB, the Houghton Star and the Boulder.

Talk of the renovations began in the fall, when the new Committee of Student Organizations (COSO) realized that there would be funds left over from the Student Activity Fees due to decreased in-person programming as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

Mary Vandenbosch ('23)

of the SEC explained that COSO asked, "Ok, what can we envision that's going to be a place that is welcoming for the student body and that can also act as a professional space for their meeting, and also just be a great place for students to plan ideas and come up with new ways to promote events and organizations?"

COSO's vision for the project is apparent even in the initial drawings, which promise a bright, user-friendly space. AC Taylor shared an artist's rendering with The Star which shows a bright future for the office. Gone will be the SGA office's red walls, replaced by glass doors which will allow passersby a peek in at the office's occupants. The doors will be open during office hours and allow students to wander in and talk with their representatives. The built-in countertops are being removed, and some of the desks are being moved to other areas. The space will be equipped with a brand-new conference table which will seat 10-12 students, and allow for larger meetings to take place in the space.

The new space will be able to be rented by any student group or organization looking to host

an event - just like the Van Dyk lounge. Vandenbosch hopes it becomes an important resource for the clubs in the future.

The former CAB office is being transformed into a student publication suite. There, writers and staff for the Houghton Star and the Boulder will have a space to meet and plan newspaper issues and yearbook publications, as well as design the printed copies of The Star.

"[The Star]'s been stuck in a very small, barely 15 foot across, office." Josiah Wiedenheft, co-editor of The Star, explained. "Especially difficult during the time of COVID. We can only have like two people in there at the time."

The new publication suite will allow for higher occupancy and promote collaboration between colleagues of each of the organizations.

Most of the work is set to be done in May, with a few finishing touches possibly occurring later in the summer. Students staying for Mayterm will doubtless get a glimpse of the construction being done. Those returning home for the summer will be able to check out the new space upon their return this fall. ★

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8	9	7	1	3	5	6	4	2

Sudoku Solution from the 4/23 issue!

FROM SUDOKUOFTHEDAY.COM

HELP US MAKE A BETTER PAPER!

We here at the STAR are interested in hearing what other student want from the paper, so that we can better do our job as a publication by students, for students! Fill out this short survey to help us know how we can do that best!

(Please note a Houghton College Google account will be needed to open the form, but no addresses will be collected)
<https://forms.gle/7dhiKz7DYRTs8WfNA>



JOIN THE STAR TEAM!

Applications for the STAR's 2021-2022 editorial staff are now open!

Working for the STAR can be a great way to get experience in writing or publishing, or to engage with the public discourse here at Houghton. Positions for **photo/media editor** and section editors for **news, columns, opinions** and **features** are all now open, and anyone interested is invited to apply!

bit.ly/starapplication21



Pertaining to Climate

CLAYTON HARDIMAN ('22)

One of the most divisive and bitterly fought over issues that Americans face today is the issue of climate change. As we look back through the last decade of political leadership alone, we can see just how partisan this issue has become: President Obama committing the United States to the Paris Climate Agreement in 2016 only to have President Trump withdraw from the very same agreement in 2017 (making the U.S. one of only three member states of the United Nations not to be involved in the treaty, along with Syria and Nicaragua at the time). The Trump Administration's rollbacks of established environmental regulations ranged from strict Obama era carbon dioxide emissions standards for coal burning power plants (December 2018), to clearing U.S. Federally controlled waters in the Arctic for offshore oil drilling (October 2018), and even a dose of frequent verbal attacks on water saving standards in new appliances (especially toilets). The Biden administration, on day one, re-committed the US to the Paris Agreement, and effectively halted construction on the Keystone XL pipeline that the Trump administration pushed to complete (January 2021). More is report-

edly "coming down the pipe." In the future, you can expect much the same type of back-and-forth legislation and/or executive action from leadership of either political party in office at the time. Unless something changes.

This past winter, mid-western and some southern states have been pounded by severe winter weather with all the trimmings: freezing rain, snow, and once-in-a-century temperatures. Pipes were bursting, houses were flooding, thousands of people were under boil water recommendations, power outages were widespread,

"...global climate change is no longer a distant threat that only strikes poor countries. We can no longer use nativism and protectionism to defend our inaction (some would argue we never could)."

once-in-a-century storm has two messages for everyone: "no, it's called climate change" and "expect the unexpected." I'll unpack both of these messages.

"Anyone who has taken basic chemistry or physics knows that the more energy you put into a system, the stronger and more dangerous the system becomes."

and (once again) grocery stores were nearly devoid of the essentials. While those of us in the northeastern states are very used to severe winter weather and the associated conditions, places like Texas are not used to dealing with the same conditions for one simple reason: it doesn't get that cold down there. Or more accurately, it didn't get that cold down there. This

"No, it's called climate change" is a response to "global warming? We're freezing over here!" This is a common refrain when bizarre weather patterns result in severe winter storms, especially in places that are not used to dealing with winter weather events. While rising global average temperature is perhaps the flagship example of climate change, it rears its head in

many different forms: hurricanes, floods, droughts, winter storms, any number of increasingly unpredictable and severe weather patterns and events, along with other, less visible problems like loss of biodiversity and habitat loss. Anyone who has taken basic chemistry or physics knows that the more energy you put into a system, the stronger and more dangerous the system becomes. This is no different when talking about global weather patterns. With the rise in average temperature and the increasing emissions of virtually every greenhouse gas imaginable (CO₂, CH₄, gaseous H₂O), we are both raising the global average temperature and adding to the unpredictability of current severe weather. Which brings me to my second point.

"Expect the unexpected." These weather patterns are not normal. Texas, by all accounts, should not have been freezing, colder than Juneau, Alaska. But that's the point. A week or so ahead of this deep freeze, there were predictions of colder than usual temperatures as a result of a "polar vortex," pushing cold polar air beyond the arctic circle, where polar cells of air currents usually contain the cold air to the northernmost latitudes. Hurricane seasons are starting earlier and producing record numbers of named storms, with many

making devastating landfall. Again, this is unusual. Growing seasons all around the globe (particularly in equatorial, majority world countries, where they are relied on for survival) have become increasingly unpredictable, with seemingly random droughts and heavy rainfall devastating crops.

The Biden administration recognizes this threat and, as stated in the introductory paragraph, has taken action to reduce the United States emissions, and the next GOP president to take office will likely move to reverse or circumvent these actions. This is well within their executive power. However, global climate change is no longer a distant threat that only strikes poor countries. We can no longer use nativism and protectionism to defend our inaction (some would argue we never could). Texans were freezing. Texans were also flooding. Texans didn't have access to clean drinking water. Climate change is no longer an intangible threat that doesn't affect people in the United States. Massive hurricanes, unseasonable temperatures on both ends of the thermometer, storms and flooding in states like Iowa that rarely see severe summer weather, massive wildfires that spread out of control, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes. We've seen it. We've lived it. It's time that political leaders on both sides of the aisle recognize it. It's not just about protecting our ecosystems, our biodiversity, our clean air and water; it's about saving lives, both across the globe and right here in the US.

Clayton is a junior double majoring in environmental biology and communication.

Have an opinion you want to share?

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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO
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The mission of the Houghton STAR is to preserve and promote the values of dialogue, transparency and integrity that have been the ideals of Houghton College since its inception. This is done by serving as a medium for the expression of student thought and as a quality publication of significant campus news, Houghton area news, and events.

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The Houghton
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Christian Political Engagement

Healthcare: A Case Study

David Bowers

For the final installment in this column, I'm going to use the issue of the American healthcare system to illustrate how some of the principles of Christian political engagement I've talked about this semester actually work.

Healthcare is possibly one of the most divisive policy areas in America right now. Progressives shout endlessly about how conservatives don't care about people who don't have easy access to healthcare. Conservatives shout endlessly about the "liberal wishlist" they call healthcare for all, claiming that progressives don't actually want to fix the problem but just want to buy off the electorate with free stuff.

I think there's a better way. Remembering that scripture teaches principles, not policies might take some of the wind out of all of our sails. Remembering that the people with whom we are disagreeing are fellow image-bearers and often fellow Christians immediately invalidates the name-calling and motive-attribution. Instead, we are forced to get inside the head of the person on the other side. Remembering that our chief goal as Christians is to glorify God by making him look beautiful to those who don't know him helps to recenter our priorities.

Here's my guiding belief when I approach the healthcare debate (or most political debates): virtually all progressives and virtually all conservatives want what's best for America. We all want to see ourselves and our neighbors and our fellow citizens prosper. We just have different beliefs about how to get there. This belief arises out of my understanding of the common identity as an image-bearer which I share with those on both sides of the debate. If I was on the other side, I know I would want the person who disagreed with me to believe that I had America's best interests in mind. So, I will do that for them.

Once the hostility, anger, and fear are cleared away, we are freed to have a more cogent debate about the issues themselves. And what we find is a good deal of complexity. I don't know anyone who thinks the American healthcare system as it stands today is a particularly good system. No one disagrees that our per capita healthcare spending is the highest in the world: we spend about \$11,000 on healthcare per person per year. The next closest competitor among the countries of the OECD for that dubious award is Switzerland, at about \$7,700. No one disagrees that, among developed countries, the US has, in general, some of the worst healthcare outcomes. Our life expectancy at birth ranks, now, below 30th place globally. We visit our doctors drastically less than other developed countries, and have fewer physicians per capita than many other developed countries. And, of course, we are the fattest nation on earth: about 40% of us are obese, which drives up healthcare costs related to preventable diseases, like type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

So how do we fix these issues? Ask a progressive, and they'll say that since the underlying cause of our poor outcomes is lack of access, the government should guarantee some level of access. As a conservative, and they'll tell you that since the underlying cause of our poor outcomes is lack of competition, we need to make the healthcare system look more like a free market. There are true things to be said for both sides.

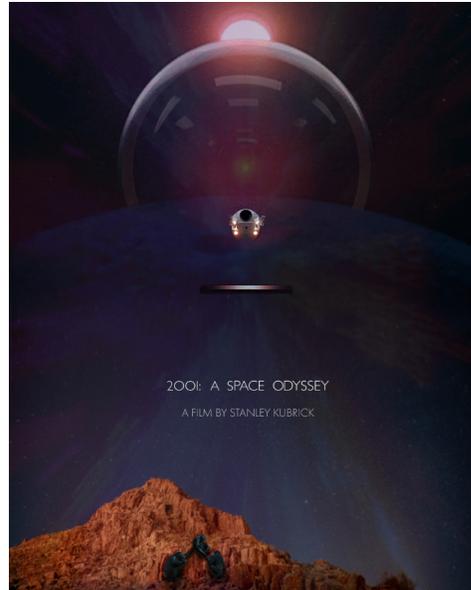
It may be the case that healthcare is inherently not a market, because consumers will never be able to make fully informed and free decisions about the products and services they're being sold. They will never have the education physicians have to be able to understand the complexities of their own bodies, and their decisions will never be truly free because, in many cases, their lives depend on it. Patients often can't refuse a given service if they want to keep living. If this is the case, then it may be wise to accept that this one area of our economy can't be run like a market, and to seek ways to optimize its efficiency without the aid of the free market mechanisms that work in other industries. This is what nearly all other developed countries have done in one way or another, and it has produced excellent healthcare outcomes (despite regular attempts by American conservatives to latch onto particular horror stories about government-funded healthcare, the data suggest that the average healthcare outcomes are indeed superior to ours).

On the other hand, the American healthcare system does not currently operate like a market for reasons that aren't inherent to healthcare per se. Because of the pricing contracts between insurance companies and healthcare providers, consumers--patients--rarely know what the goods or services they're being sold will cost. This means that healthcare providers face no incentives to lower costs, because patients won't know whether they've gotten a good deal or not until after they've already received the good or service. It may be that if healthcare providers are required to make the prices for their goods and services public, healthcare costs for consumers will be driven down with the increased competition.

Whole books have been written on how to fix the system. This article is not intended to advocate for or even comprehensively outline a particular policy position. If you care about these issues, I strongly recommend that you do a lot of reading. The issue is complex, and I've barely scratched the surface here. There is very likely no silver bullet to solve our healthcare problems. My aim has been solely to show how proposals on both sides of the aisle have some merit, and that proponents of conservative and progressive solutions alike are interested in improving outcomes for Americans. In doing so, I hope I've equipped you to dialogue peacefully with people who have different ideas than you do, and to make your case based on hard evidence rather than ideological dogmas and straw men.

Artist of the Week

Dan Cook



About the Artist



Dan is a Junior Applied Design and Visual Communication major from Corning, NY. He is interested in film, television, photography, graphic design, animation, and sketch/improv comedy. For more of his work, you can visit his website at daniel-cook.com