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## Dean Jordan Runs In NYC Marathon

LUKE LAUER

Michael Jordan, dean of the chapel, ran in the record breaking New York City Marathon this past Sunday. He finished in 3541st place out of over fifty thousand runners, with a time of three hours, 26 minutes, and 45 seconds. According to a Runner's World article, published Monday, this was the largest marathon in history with a total count of 50,564 finishers.

Jordan stayed on Staten Island, the starting location, about a quarter mile away from the starting line. He said most participants stay in Manhattan and have to take the subway and ferry over, which takes hours. Instead he said he, "rolled out of bed, walked down the street to get a bagel and a cup of coffee and then walked over and ran the race."

According to Jordan, for him some of the most rewarding aspects of running the marathon was being in a big city, the feeling

See **MARATHON** page 2

## Students Present at Penn York Conference



ANTHONY BURDO

Students from gather in the Chamberlain Center to present their projects to students and faculty from Houghton College, Hilbert College, St. Bonaventure University, Alfred University, the University of Pitt-Bradford, and the University of Pitt-Titusville.

RENITA BUSS

Last weekend, roughly 80 students from multiple colleges presented on various fields of study at the Penn York Undergraduate Research Conference, hosted by Houghton College. Michael Klausner,

director of social sciences program and associate professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh, said "The tone, presentations, attendance, and keynote speaker were all first rate."

According to Laurie Dashnau, Houghton professor of

writing and conference director, on Saturday approximately eighty students participated altogether from Houghton College, Hilbert College, St. Bonaventure University, Alfred University, the University of Pitt-Bradford, and the University of Pitt-Titusville.

Students had the opportunity to present their original pieces of work through oral and poster presentations in the subjects of physics, psychology, biology, chemistry,

See **PENN** page 3

## Republicans Dominate Midterm Elections



LUKE LAUER

Electoral candidate signs line Route 19 in Houghton, New York in preparation for local elections on Tuesday, November 4.

WYNN HORTON

On Tuesday Nov. 4, millions of Americans turned out to vote in the Federal midterm as well as local and state elections. Dominating the mindset of a majority of the voter-base was disappointment in the last two years under the Democratic Party's majority in the Senate and dismally low approval ratings for President Obama.

As a result of these ongoing themes, The Republican Party saw a sweeping set of victories in both houses of the United States Congress, as well as in the state governor setting. Already having a majority, the Republicans gained 14 seats in the House of Representatives –

most significantly, ousting three incumbent officials in New York State as well as in Texas, Florida, Iowa, West Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina (among others). John Boehner, of Ohio's 8th Congressional District, continues his tenure as Speaker of the House and third in line to the Presidency. The current house demographics stand at 243 (R) to 178 (D) with 14 districts undecided (as of Wednesday) due to close calls, run-off elections, or inconclusive results.

The Republicans also managed to pull off a 7-seat gain in the Senate – putting them in the majority for at least the next two years. The incoming Republi-

See **ELECTIONS** page 3

# NATIONAL // Death With Dignity Advocate Dies



ANTHONY BURDO

CORY BRAUTIGAM

This past Saturday, November 1, Brittany Maynard ended her own life with lethal medications prescribed

to her for this purpose. The 29-year-old California resident was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer earlier this year, and soon after left California. She moved to Oregon to be covered under the Oregon Death With Dignity Act.

From the time of diagnosis until her death, Maynard was an active advocate of Death With Dignity. According to CNN, this movement “advocates that terminally ill patients be allowed to receive medication that will let them die on their own terms.” In order to be eligible to receive prescriptions for fatal medications like the one Maynard used to end her life, one must be diagnosed with a terminal illness and have a life-expectancy of less than

6 months. Maynard chose to end her life with a mixture of water, sedatives, and respiratory-system depressants.

Before her death, Maynard used multiple social media platforms to argue in favor of terminally ill people and their right to make informed choices on how they choose to die. One video she posted on YouTube explaining her decision received over eleven million views. Maynard also partnered with Compassion & Choices, a non-profit organization devoted to educating, advocating, and working “to protect and expand options at the end of life,” to develop thebrittanyfund.org, a website about her own journey and a platform to advocate for end-of-life options. In Maynard’s

obituary, posted to her website, it stated “she wished that her home State of California had also been able to provide terminally ill patients with the same choice.”

Statements such as these have sparked nationwide conversation about whether Death With Dignity is a right that should be affordable to all. Voices from both sides of the argument have been heard about aid-in-dying practices. Responses have ranged from calling Maynard’s decision “unethical” to calling it “brave.” According to NBC News, lawmakers from New Jersey and Connecticut have spoken out in support of Death With Dignity bills.

There are currently five states that have laws providing aid-in-dying practices.

Oregon acted as the trendsetter, initiating its law in 1997. According to the Death With Dignity National Center, Oregon has provided “years of data show[ing] the law is safe and utilized the way it’s intended with no evidence of a slippery slope for vulnerable Oregonians.” This has led to the legislation of Death With Dignity laws in Washington (2008), Montana (2009), Vermont (2013), and New Mexico (2014). Maynard’s death has sparked new life in those fighting for the right to Die With Dignity. ★

*Cory is a senior business and philosophy major.*

**MARATHON** *from page 1* of accomplishment, and being happy with his time. Distinguished by his poncho, given to him at the finish, he said it seemed the whole city seemed to be asking him excitedly, “Did you run the marathon?!”

He was even offered warmer clothes by person on the street, to which he declined. New York City, which he added for having a reputation for being grouchy, he said was really nice and called it “the friendliest city in the world” that day.

There were many interna-

tional runners in the marathon according to Jordan. He said there were people waving flags from around the world along the course. Wilson Kipsang, and Mary Keitany, both Kenyans, won this year’s mens and womens marathon.

Jordan decided to enter the

lottery system for running in the marathon four years ago. His then colleague, Ginny Routh, former sustainability coordinator at Houghton College, entered at the same time. She also ran in the marathon Sunday.

This was the ninth mara-

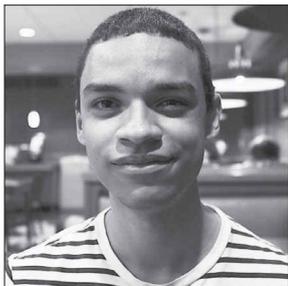
thon Jordan ran. The eight other marathons in Buffalo, Letchworth State Park, Niagara Falls, Rehoboth Beach, and the New Jersey Shore. He said though he is a much more introverted runner, given the chance he would run the NYC marathon again.★

## WORD ON THE STREET



“I really like the changes that Sodexo is making, and I’m glad that they listened to the students.”

-Bradly Oliver, Senior



“I haven’t really noticed many changes. I probably don’t eat enough or whatever, but I just don’t notice much of a difference. I just stick to the food I like and don’t really try to venture outside of that.”

-Joe Miner, First Year



“What changes?”

-Paul Ryckman, Junior



“It’s alright. The food is still a little suspect but they have bacon out next to the salad and I like that they have bacon out next to the salad accessible to everyone. The food still tastes the same, they just moved some stuff around. I don’t know how it is up here when it’s busy, maybe that’s why they moved some stuff around, but other than that it doesn’t make a difference to me.”

-Jebrel Bownens, Junior

### What do you think of the new changes made this week in the cafeteria?

“I really like the changes in the cafeteria. Being gluten, dairy free the options are not a lot, but the new salad bar really opens it up. I wish there was more, but it’s beneficial because now I’m not eating the same boring salad every day.”

-Courtney Walters, First Year



“I’m excited about the stir fry, it’s been a while and it needs to come back, so that’s great, and I’m appreciating the specialty salads.”

-Grace Mangum, Senior



“I have to say, I think I really like them. The new salad bar was really cool, the stir fry has been really good every day. Overall I’d say they were really good, I enjoy them a lot.”

-Mason Wilkes, Junior



“I love them. I love the stir fry because that’s really good and I liked it last year, so I’m glad they brought it back. Also the salads are more interesting with the chicken and bacon so I really like it.”

-Leah Glendenning, Sophomore



**PENN** from page 1

computer science, writing, linguistics, and history. Dashnau said the conference “affirms the high-quality of research students are doing” all while giving the students confidence and practice while sharing their information with professors and classmates.

Laura Johnson, a sophomore, gave a presentation titled “Caring for Caregivers: A Different Side of Alzheimer’s” in writing. “Conferences like this are important for scholastic growth,” Johnson said. “It allowed me to gain experience from presenting in front of an academic group of people that I don’t necessarily know, people who believe different things from me, and people who are trained to think thoughtfully.”

A group of students also participated with a presentation from the Science department. Sylvia Morrow, senior, gave a poster presentation titled, “A Study of Weak Magnetic Focusing” in physics. “Many of the presentations I have done in the past have been for people who are in physics,” Morrow said. “So it was interesting to have the opportunity to talk about my research with people who are not a part of that community.”

Kayla Miller and Olivia Morse, sophomores, gave a poster presentation on the “Relationship between Greenhouse Gases and Changes in Altitude.” Morse said, “The most valuable part of this experience was learning how to create a scientific poster that was visually appealing, concise, and informative.” While Miller

said, “It took a while to put it in poster format. It was certainly busy trying to do it on top of homework for regular classes.”

A considerable amount of time was spent by each student preparing for this conference, not only in practicing to present their material, but also the amount of research for each paper and poster. Rebekah Kimble, senior, gave a presentation on “Martin Luther: Supporters and Detractors among the German Princes” in history. She spent a considerable amount of time writing and researching to prepare for the conference. Kimble said, “I gave a fifteen-minute oral presentation. I read it over a few times both to practice for the presentation and to reacquaint myself with the material.”

Jacob Hertzler, sophomore, gave a presentation in computer science titled, “Overlapping Community Detection in Dynamic Networks.” Hertzler said the overall work came from this summer “which totaled about six weeks worth along with about 8 months of prep on the topic over the school year last year.”

Morse said it was a great experience to present alongside other Houghton College students and other students from different colleges. Some of the presenting students also had some stories to tell about other presentations they attended. Johnson attended a presentation where a young man spoke about entomology, which is the consumption of insects for a main food source. She said, “He brought in cookies made with chocolate dipped crickets, along with cricket and mealworm quinoa for everyone to try. And it wasn’t half bad.”★

**ELECTIONS** from page 1

cans successfully defeated long time Democrat strongholds in Colorado, Arkansas, and North Carolina defeating ex-Senators Mark Udall, Mark Pryor, and Kay Hagan respectively. In addition, the Republicans picked up Montana, Iowa, South Dakota, and West Virginia – and by the end of the week it is predicted Alaska will also be picked up by Republicans.

Senator Harry Reid, a Democrat from Nevada ends a seven year stint as Majority Leader and will pass off his position of control to the Republican’s Mitch McConnell from Kentucky. The current results from Tuesday’s turnout place the Democrats with 45 and the Republicans with 52. Though the races in

Alaska, Virginia, and Louisiana have not been decisively announced (as of Wednesday), no possible outcome would change the final count.

Andrew Cuomo was re-elected to as the Governor of New York State, defeating Republican adversary Rob Astorino. However, the Democrat-laden New York State legislature did see some change with the Senate being overtaken by a Republican majority. New York City’s Mayor Bill de Blasio teamed up with long-standing U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer and Governor Cuomo in an attempt to rally Democratic voters to a victory in the Senate. Despite their efforts, key districts in Long Island and upstate New York swung sharply to the left, increasing the Republicans margin of control.

For Houghton, the reelec-

tion of longtime representatives Assemblyman Joseph Giglio, Senator Catherine Young, and U.S. Representative, Thomas Reed, comes as no surprise. A highly Republican region, all three were incumbents and faced little real challenge in getting re-elected (Giglio and Young ran unopposed). Reed faced Martha Roberts from Ithaca, but defeated her.

Though most may consider midterm elections unimportant in comparison with Presidential elections, this weeks results and incoming politicians will determine many of the issues that will be hot topics during the 2016 presidential election. Time will tell if Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Warren or another Democratic presidential candidate has been handily equipped with a Congress they will need to get elected.★

**Anchorage played in the Java coffeehouse Tuesday night.**

Members of the band Hannah Henry, Garren Barna, Josiah Bonifas (pictured), Anthony Burdo and Jon Eckendorf (not pictured) covered a variety of songs by numerous artists.



LUKE LAUER

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# Kings and Kingdoms

A local metalcore band fuels hardships and personal struggles into their music to express themselves and connect with their listeners.

LAURA JOHNSON

Kings and Kingdoms, a local, post-hardcore/metalcore band, will perform at The Waiting Room in Buffalo next month on December 2nd. The band is relatively new, having been formed in 2012 with Bobby Burke on hard vocals, Joey Galligan on melodic vocals and rhythm guitar, and Mike Adkins playing lead guitar. Nate Floyd, a Houghton junior studying Music Industry, became the drummer of Kings and Kingdoms in the fall of 2013. Since then, bass player, Dave Thomas, has also

joined the band making the final member count five. Kings and Kingdoms has been compared to bands such as Secrets and Crown The Empire.

Floyd said of being a part of the Buffalo music scene, "Many new bands come up then go away, they don't understand that it's a long haul." He continued, "We're dedicated. This is what we want to do so we've committed to it." About three times a week Floyd makes the one and a half hour drive to Buffalo for band practice. For about a year now the band has been practicing and performing: writing music and playing at various venues around the city. Their hard

work has proved fruitful. About a month ago they played at a music festival in Reading, Pennsylvania, making the five hour drive in order to fulfill a special invitation to perform. Kings and Kingdoms has gained a small following and is currently in the midst of signing a record deal.

The band only performs original music. Floyd explained, "In our genre it is really challenging to cover songs because in metal each band has a very specific sound that is difficult to capture." The band places a large emphasis on songwriting. About half of their practices are dedicated to brainstorming new material and writing songs. Compositions are generally driven by Galligan and Floyd whose strengths are developing the skeleton of a piece, but each member is involved in the songwriting process. All five of them write their own instrument parts and give input on the subject and direction of the song.

Kings and Kingdoms write music about life. Hardships, the band's single, is about exactly what it says: the hardships and sufferings of life. It grapples with the struggles that each individual of the band was going through at the time it was written. For them, writing is an outlet as well as a means to building bridges to help them get over the situations they write about. Kings and Kingdoms' music centers on expression and connection. And through music they have certainly achieved both of those goals.



COURTESY OF LAURA JOHNSON

Band Members in order from left to right: Joey Galligan, clean vocals and guitar; Nate Floyd, drums; Bobby Burke, vocals; Dave Thomas, bass; and Mike Adkins, lead guitar.



COURTESY OF LAURA JOHNSON

The logo design of Kings and Kingdoms.

In 2013, a close friend of the band members took his own life. This heartbreaking event affected the Buffalo music scene deeply. The band's response has been to write a song titled Shadows, to express remembrance and grief. The song deeply resonates with those who were touched by the tragedy. One man even had the lyrics of the chorus tattooed across his chest. Floyd commented, "That song is about a man fighting demons that no one took the time to look at or see."

The direction of the band was also influenced by that terrible event. Floyd said, "Some bands just hate people, but that's not what we're about--if someone comes up to us and wants to talk we sincerely want to talk to them and show them that we care. We try our best to listen and interact with our fans because you don't know how much your

words mean to somebody until something like that happens. We just want people to feel genuinely understood and overall that's why we write. We want to connect with people."

The band's description page reads, "We hope to achieve something greater than any single member could alone and to pass on inspiration with music. To help others find a way in this world with our music".

Head on over to The Waiting Room on December 2nd to see Kings and Kingdoms perform live. The show starts at 6 pm, costs \$18 at the door, and is welcome to ages 16+ (with I.D.).

A lyric video and music video for Hardships can be found on their YouTube channel, Kings&Kingdoms and a free download of Hardships can be found on their Facebook page, Facebook.com/KaKband. ★

## ACROSS

1. Infomercials, e.g.
4. Highland lord
9. Top-of-the-hour delivery
13. Tome
15. Serf
16. Audio effect
17. Lady's small handbag
18. "Sacro" extension
19. What cleats increase
20. Being honest, in a way
23. Crazed with passion
24. One's successor
25. Extras
28. James who wrote "The Morning Watch"
30. Sleep stage
33. Loading site
34. Beat the goalie
35. Australian critter
36. Help a cheater, in a way
40. Kind of trip
41. Cake part
42. Color for a cartoon panther
43. Royal's wish
44. Suffix with "social"
45. Holy Week Thursday
47. "Zip-A-Dee-Doo- \_"

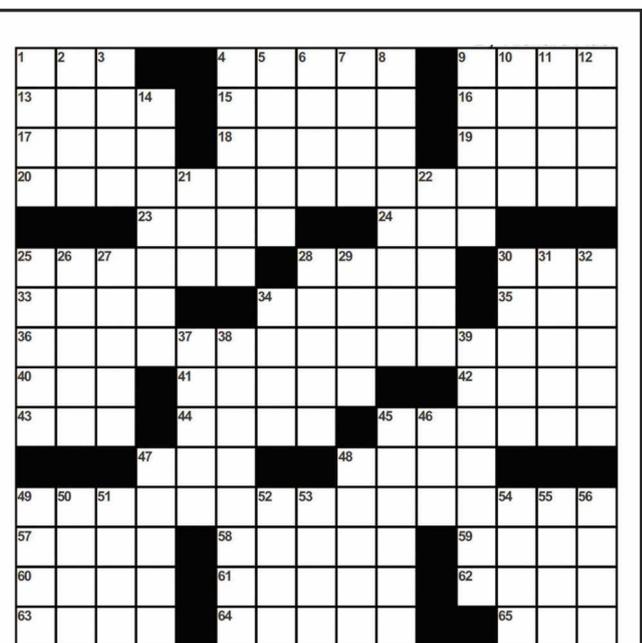
48. Chap
49. In a perilous situation
57. Three in a deck
58. "Phantom of the Opera" character
59. \_ 500 (auto race)
60. Give a hoot
61. Slur over a syllable
62. "Citizen \_"
63. Mass number
64. Flight annoyance
65. Is no longer

## DOWN

1. Opposite of hinder
2. \_ on (love to excess)
3. Music genre
4. Items
5. Hagar the Horrible's wife
6. Come down to Earth
7. Biblical shipbuilder
8. "You get the idea..."
9. Black, in Spain
10. Almond shade
11. Small amount
12. Frosh, in a year
14. Texas city or college
21. Author Fleming

22. Eleven-year-old, e.g.
25. \_-ski (lodge socializing)
26. Rivera
27. Cattle breed or English county
28. Some flu symptoms
29. Attendee
30. Take back
31. Correct, as text
32. Hard to see through
34. Affliction near the eye
37. Assumed name
38. Got foamy
39. First man-made space satellite
45. Collage of songs
46. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase, sometimes
47. Group's senior member
48. Red-coated cheese
49. Carve in stone
50. Dentist's scan
51. Salon offering, for short
52. Over hill and \_
53. Hard work
54. Exhibit beaver behavior
55. "Giant" author Ferber
56. Some loaves

## November 7, 2014 Crossword



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# Diverse Roles With a Common Purpose

From differing roles on campus, Sarah and Joshua Derck share a common goal of helping students.

HOPE MCKEEVER

Former Indiana Wesleyan graduates and college sweethearts, Joshua and Sarah Derck exemplify the success that the dichotomy of classroom and hands on experience provides for the modern college graduate.

In 2012, the Dercks became one of the rare Houghton families that includes both a staff and a faculty member. Josh Derck works on the maintenance front while Sarah Derck works in the classroom. The couple described how their individual vantage points present a holistic perspective of the school.

Josh and Sarah Derck met at school in Indiana where they both pursued bachelor's degrees in Biblical Studies. While in school, Josh found Biblical Studies a comfortable realm for study because he was a "pastor's kid." He pursued this interest and received a master's degree in New Testament from Nazarene Theological Seminary. In college, he worked as a student worker in maintenance where he discovered skills in maintenance and leadership. His skill set in this field allowed him to find jobs around the world as he and his family traveled to England. He worked in facility management while Sarah finished her Ph.D. program in Old Testament at the University of Manchester.

Josh now works for Sodexo and manages five employees as the Building Trades Leader

and safety coordinator for his unit. Contrary to his former work in maintenance, his position in management results in more paperwork and overseeing projects such as painting, carpentry, set-ups, and tear-downs of events. An important part of his job is finding "creative ways to do things, manage people, and make sure they're enjoying their job," he said.

Finance resources are a challenge for Josh and his team, but he said, "You just have to do your best with limited resources." Along with his management role, Josh enjoys hands on projects the best. Recently, he and his team helped set up the Willie Cole Exhibit in the Ortlip Gallery. He said it was a great experience to work with a world-renowned artist and to help mount the pieces.

Sarah originally pursued a career in secondary education at Indiana Wesleyan with the influence of her mother as a teacher. Her original goal of becoming a secondary English teacher changed after taking classes in Bible as her interest in Theological Studies grew. She knew she wanted to be a teacher, but the college classroom was new for her.

Currently, Sarah works as a full-time Professor of Old Testament teaching Biblical Literature as well as all of the upper level Old Testament courses. She mentioned that her greatest satisfaction in her work is when she is, "able to have a conversation that helps a student see God in new ways."



ANTHONY BURDO

Joshua Derck works for Houghton College maintenance as the building trades leader and safety coordinator for his unit and Sarah Derck is as an assistant professor of Old Testament.

Junior, Jessica Vaughn mentioned, "So many people trust her to listen well and speak honestly into their lives. She is very generous with her time."

Sarah discussed how one challenge in building these relationships is her busy schedule, yet according to Vaughn, Sarah always seems to be meeting with students outside of class and investing in their lives. Despite limited time in her day, she commits her teaching to helping students understand that "their experience with God doesn't encompass all of humanity." Vaughn testified to this statement saying, "Dr. Derck helped me to see that the church is much bigger than one tradition, and that it is in the conversations we have across differences that we find the richness and depth of our faith."

Sarah desires to connect with her students with a teach-

ing style that is "invitational rather than confrontational." Sarah is also an ordained Wesleyan pastor, giving her a dynamic approach to her teaching.

Josh found his technical experience more practical in his career, and Sarah found that her education in Theology propelled her forward into a career as a professor. Both used their undergraduate experience to explore career possibilities. For Josh, he did not enter into a career involving what he studied. He joked that his fellow staff members direct theological questions to him because of his masters in New Testament.

Josh and Sarah Derck share the common goal of helping students. Josh said, in reference to helping students with direct problems such as room maintenance or projects, "That's why I do my job. So they can have a good experi-

ence." Although the Dercks work different positions on campus, their common goals of service strengthen Houghton's goal expressed in the Community Covenant to live in a way that "honors Christ, follows biblical principles, builds loving relationships, and develops whole Christians who will be active in serving Christ."

When the Dercks are not busily working around campus, they enjoy walking in the woods or reading with their two children. They enjoy catching up on British Television comedies and mysteries or antiquing around local towns. They also exercise their creativity in projects including knitting, nature photography, and carpentry. This multi-dimensional Houghton family balances work and living in a Christian community through their careers, relationships, and creative outlets. ★

## Open the Door to the Camp Closet

SYLVIA MORROW

In the back corner of the Neilsen Center, past mop buckets and parked industrial floor cleaners, a chicken-wire fence encloses the camp closet. Around two dozen grey, blue, and green hiking backpacks obscure the wall directly across from the closet door and, on the ground, lifejackets spill over the top of a variety of plastic bins. The walls to the left and right are equally hidden by sleeping bags rolled into fading red sacks; stacks of pots, pans, and bowls; and hard plastic coolers for drinks and food all organized into neat wooden shelves, some sagging beneath the weight. Students can rent the majority of the equipment stored in the closet for minimal daily fees.

While Houghton has had a

camp closet since 1979 when Houghton began adventure programming, more recent policy changes have made the camp closet more student focused. This semester, Robert Smalley, assistant professor of recreation, took on responsibility for overseeing the camp closet, which was previously run by the Wilderness Adventure Program. According to Smalley, "A lot of this equipment was used by young kids all summer long," when Houghton ran a youth program. These trips typically resulted in equipment damages making some gear unusable, so the end of this program should mean that "the quality of our equipment stays good for longer, and we don't have to replace it as much."

Regarding the current equipment, Smalley said he needs to "see what's usable

and what isn't usable," but some of it is relatively new. A few years ago a group of students were granted student government money to buy new equipment that "doesn't go to outside groups at all — it's just for Houghton students to use." Additionally, when Houghton sold the Star Lake campus, equipment from their camp closet came here.

Smalley intends to improve renting coordination because some of Houghton's outdoor recreation classes utilize the equipment. In the past, conflicts have arisen from schedule mismanagement; for example, "sometimes the [canoe] class would start and there'd be no canoes or not enough canoes for a class."

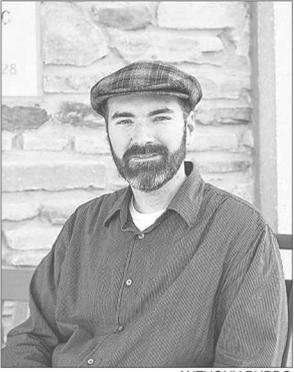
Equipment is lent to Houghton programs "free of charge as long as they sign things out and then agree to re-

turn them in good condition." Individual Houghton students and non-Houghton groups can also rent for low fees; for a 2-man tent and sleeping bag it costs two dollars per day and \$0.50 per day for a sleeping pad. For now, Smalley has chosen not to offer canoes for individual rental and for liability reasons he never rents out climbing ropes, but usually he will lend canoes and trailers to Houghton programs. Junior Matthew Munkittrick said he borrowed "a backpack, tent, and stove for a weekend, and a pair of climbing shoes for a night."

Smalley said he has been "a bit of a stickler" when it comes to safety but only because he wants to protect the students who use the camp closet gear; college groups need to have someone experienced with the equipment leading. "If the

conditions aren't going to be good, I will tell the people I think you ought to reconsider. Or I might even say I'm not going to give the stuff to you because I don't want to be part of a dangerous thing...I just would feel terrible."

Students can contact Smalley to make rental requests, but need to plan ahead as request forms are due at least three days before the desired pickup date. As the brisk autumn nights start to give way to wintry frosts and the fall camping season comes to an end, Smalley said he has had only a trickle of requests. Senior Sean Daigler who had never heard of the camp closet before said, "this is actually a really cool thing" supporting Smalley's suspicion that "there's a lot of potential here that hasn't been tapped in regards to student use." ★



ANTHONY BURDO

BRIAN WEBB

I hear it all the time, and I couldn't agree more; "Don't listen to the alarmists!" The world is full of people on both the right and the left spouting endless claims about global warming—claims loaded with assertions but too often devoid of facts.

Fortunately, the scientific community offers a clear and consistent picture that helps us cut through the rhetoric and get straight to the data. Last year the non-partisan, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a 1,500-page report assessing our knowledge of the global climate system based on more than 30,000 peer-reviewed publications. More than 600 of the world's top climate experts representing 39 countries contributed to the report. Their conclusions were explicit, referring to global warming as "unequivocal" and stating that the "human influence on the climate system is clear."

Indeed, no fewer than 97% of climate scientists agree with this assessment—along with every major national and international scientific association. The simple truth is that the overwhelming weight of the scientific evidence points toward one inescapable conclusion—burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, which warm the planet. In other words, the world is warming; humans are causing it; and it's leading to serious consequences. Perhaps it's time to move past the so-called "debate" about global warming's existence and instead ask ourselves, "Why does it matter?"

During the past 100 years, the world has warmed by about 1° Celsius. While this may not seem like much, we can already measure the impacts from this seemingly small change in the form of rising seas, more heat waves, changes in precipitation patterns, species migration, ocean acidification, and more intense storms. If current levels of fossil fuel consumption continue scientists warn that we can expect to see a further 3° - 5° C rise this century, and that problems will get much worse.

Importantly, such changes don't occur in isolation, but have direct humanitarian and economic costs on the global human population. Decreased global food production, increased conflict, spreading disease vectors, water insecurity, more natural disasters, and mass human displacement will each become increasingly common as the world attempts to cope with unprecedented climatic changes. Sea level rise alone will permanently displace 20 million Bangladeshis and inundate entire island countries.

Unfortunately, the brunt of this impact will fall on the poor in developing countries—those least able to

# TWO ALIEN? VIEWS

## ON CLIMATE ACTIVISM

cope with such changes. This is where climate change becomes a social justice issue. Those hurt the most by a changing climate are the ones who have done the least to cause it. Meanwhile, those of us responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions (industrialized countries) are fortunate to be located where climate impacts won't be felt quite as acutely.

We have unwittingly become party to the most widespread social injustice in human history—one that literally impacts every human on the planet. The question is, "what will we do about it?"

Many claim that climate mitigation is just too expensive, though nothing could be further from the truth. Not only do climate mitigation policies generate jobs through new industries and infrastructure, but they also reduce costs in the areas of health care, disaster cleanup, energy demand, pollution abatement, refugee resettlement, etc. The reality is that the cost of inaction will far exceed the cost of acting quickly to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

Some well-meaning, but deeply misinformed, individuals claim that climate action will actually hurt the poor. The truth is that no one has more to gain from climate action than the poor, who already suffer on the front lines of climate change and are literally begging industrialized nations to slow down their carbon emissions. One Bangladeshi man was recently quoted as saying, "Forget about making poverty history. Climate change will make poverty permanent." As a Christian eager to fulfill Jesus' second greatest commandment this statement from a development expert in one of the world's poorest countries concerns me.

Should a Christian get involved in climate action? You'll have to answer that for yourself, but first I suggest you ask the Malawian farmers who no longer know when to plant their crops because the rainy seasons have changed. Or residents of the Maldives who are developing a national evacuation plan to escape the rising seas. Or the families that lost their homes in Superstorm Sandy. Or the California farmers who can't grow crops because of the epic drought. Or the Native Americans of Shishmaref, Alaska, whose homeland is rapidly eroding into the rising ocean.

As for me, I choose to believe the word of those who have devoted their careers to studying the global climate system over those who talk about it on their blogs. And I choose to stand with those who are suffering. What will you do? ★

*Brian is the sustainability coordinator and the intercultural student programs coordinator.*

WOODY ZIMMERMAN

In the mid-14th century, Italian officials and scientists became convinced that the paint in frescoes covering the inside walls of many churches was causing the Black Plague, then ravaging Europe. Desperate to "do something," leaders ordered the frescoes whitewashed.

The Plague was unaffected, of course, but frescoes painted by great medieval artists, including Lorenzetti and Giotto di Bondone, were destroyed. Ironically, some masterpieces survived only because parishes couldn't afford whitewash.

I thought of that futility when I read that Houghton students attended a New York City climate-rally. Environmentalists claim that human-produced CO<sub>2</sub> is overheating Earth and altering the climate. Al Gore – who has made gazillions preaching Apocalypse – says the climate-science is "settled." Some scientists agree; many others do not. News coverage makes people think hurricanes, tornadoes and floods are worsening, but the data do not support this.

I lack credentials to judge climate science, but I know something about computational models. A career in simulation and modeling taught me that models are only as good as the mathematical representations and empirical data informing them. "Garbage in, garbage out" was our watchword. Experts admit that current models can't correctly predict contemporary weather-patterns. Yet draconian government-policies, costing billions, are based on those models.

Renowned climate scientist James Lovelock recanted his earlier warnings, admitting his models were "primitive." Judith Curry, president of the Climate Forecast Applications Network, wrote in the Wall Street Journal (Oct. 9, 2014) that the climate warming "hiatus," since 1998, "...raises serious questions as to whether the climate-model projections of 21st century temperatures are fit for making public policy decisions."

Climate-activism has been called a "new morality." The NYC marchers believe they occupy that morality's high ground, but do they realize they could be just as wrong as those long-ago whitewashers? And do they understand what their advocacy might cost the poorest of the world's poor, as well as themselves?

This new climate-morality has a "dark side" – unknown to most Americans and seldom mentioned by mainstream media. President Obama disclosed it in his recent UN speech, when he asked poor countries to remain undeveloped to combat climate-change.

African delegates must have thought Mr. Obama mad. No sane politician wants his country to stay primitive and dirt-poor. Yet Western governments have agreed to block Third World development on alarmists' tenuous predictions. This grotesque conspiracy should arouse every Christian's indignation.

One African official said, "The West cannot imagine how hard life is without electricity." He bitterly denounced "romanticizing" primitive African existence that no Westerners would tolerate. It's racism at its ugliest, most degenerate level – truly, a cause to march for. But is it even



COURTESY OF WOODY ZIMMERMAN

mentioned on college campuses?

Africa's vast energy resources could enrich the continent and improve its people's lives: oil reserves of 975 billion barrels (a 100-year world-supply); 484 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; incalculable coal reserves. Western engineers and technicians could develop Africa's resources and industry, making it an emerging powerhouse. Its potential is virtually unlimited.

Environmentalists and western politicians want Africa limited to solar panels and windmills, although electricity so generated is unreliable and three times as expensive as from coal-fired plants. Rich countries can afford to experiment, observed the above-mentioned official, while poor countries must use the most expensive, inefficient forms of power-generation.

European leaders want Africa kept primitive because they fear the economic threat that Africa's huge resources and 800 million nutrition-and-work-starved people represent to Europe's declining populations and stagnant economies. Economic Imperialism is the Climate movement's really dirty secret.

Fundamentally, the Green movement is anti-human. Its strategists consider people "the problem." Their vision is a green, non-industrial Earth – sparsely populated by hunters, gatherers, and hand-tillers of the soil. One doubts that stock-brokers, car salesmen, bankers, doctors, lawyers, or politicians will be among them.

Ordinary citizens consider the movement benign – like pollution-cleanup. Green is hip. Businesses cheerfully offer to "save the planet" by eliminating paper bags and charging extra for plastic. The danger is great because the movement's true aims are concealed.

Climate politics seem invincible. Opposition is stomped or ignored. Both political parties ride the Climate Bandwagon. The US Environmental Protection Agency regulations will destroy the coal industry, send fuel and electricity rates soaring, cripple the American economy and impoverish our most vulnerable citizens. It's a politician's dream-issue because its effectiveness (or not) won't be discernible for 100 years.

Mr. Obama promises more "aid" for desperate Third World countries. But we should be spending any available bucks to help those nations develop – not waste it on foolish attempts to affect the climate that will do nothing except burn up precious funds.

If primitive Africa is ever going to escape squalor, disease and hunger, it must use every available resource. Windmills, solar panels, dirt-floor huts, rats running around, and smoky fires burning buffalo crap won't do it. I'm ashamed that we're involved in crippling Third World development. I urge Houghton students to view all aspects of the climate issue with a very critical eye. ★

*Woody is a '64 Houghton alumnus.*

# Speaking: a Spiritually Formative Practice



ANTHONY BURDO

HOPE SCHWARTZ

There are many voices calling out to us everyday, be it the Church, our parents, our teachers, or our friends. Each voice that we allow to impact us, has the potential to be formative, to create us into whom he or she, they or it wants us to be. If one of the voices is of greater significance than the rest, the potential of

being formative is increased. With greater significance comes greater power. With greater power comes great danger. The potential of abusing the power to be formative in the lives of those around us is increased provided the avenue into the person's life remains open.

There have been many different people, experiences, and institutions that have been formative in my life. The morals and values I was raised up with in my family, my faith tradition, and my network of friends have played a role in creating me into who I am today. There have been those who have not abused the power to form who I am, but then there are also those who have abused their power to contribute to my formation. Sexual abuse and destructive relationships have also contributed to my formation. In those relationships, I was not given the freedom to speak.

Recent chapel speaker Sheridan Voysey spoke about his

journey through the wilderness. He said that the wilderness is a place of revelation, a place of discovery, and a place of transition. I felt a deep peace as he offered a different view on time spent in the wilderness. I have been in the wilderness for some time now, and I always felt the guilt of ending up here. I felt an urge to leave as quickly as possible, for the shame that typically follows when others find out. But now my perspective has changed. I am not ashamed of the wilderness. This time in the wilderness has been revealed as a time of formation. I am discovering new formative practices. These practices are meant to make me into a new person. One of the new formative practices I discovered is speaking. God has given me the freedom to speak.

So what does speaking as a formative practice look like? Speaking is a practice that can take many forms. One can speak through spoken words, writing,

body language, sign language, art, poetry, journaling, and prayer among others.

The Bible can be our guide in learning how one should use the formative behavior of speaking. The Bible commands us to be slow to speak, quick to listen, and slow to get angry. Speaking and listening are practices that are linked together. This passage suggests that if a person doesn't listen, he or she may get angry, and choose to speak too harshly, or say something that he or she will regret. It is within our control to think before we speak.

Additionally, the Bible encourages us to speak truthfully and speak words of edification to others. I wonder what it would look like if I chose to have nothing negative to say about the people in my life, but only chose to say words of edification. Edification isn't simply the absence of negative word; it is choosing to use words that will encourage growth.

Speaking is a gift. Speaking grants us the ability to worship and praise God through spoken, unspoken, and written words. With my voice, I can call out injustice, and speak truth into the lives of those around me. Learning how to speak is my attempt at nurturing and using this gift wisely.

I want to encourage all of you to discover what has been formative in your life. Are there specific people that have influenced you more than others? Is there one specific Bible verse that has been formative in your life? Are there negative experiences in your life that have formed you? I want to encourage you to spend some time in reflection and maybe try some new formative practices. You don't have to be in the wilderness in order to be in a place of revelation, discovery, and transition! ★

*Hope is a senior religion 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.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor of the Star,

Holly Chaisson's editorial in the October 24 issue of the Star, "Homosexuals and the Church" provides a problematic and inaccurate characterization of the Catholic Church's recent deliberations regarding homosexuality.

Ms. Chaisson introduces her piece with a number of remarks--taken mostly from the BBC and bearing little resemblance to the documents of the synod or the words of Pope Francis--on the recently concluded Synod of Bishops on the Family. In speaking of the Relatio, the "midway report" of the synod, which mentioned the "gifts" homosexuals had to offer the Church, she writes, "The fact that this was the early language approved by Pope Francis speaks volumes." This is misleading. The document's

purpose was to give a report on the synod's discussions: we have no way of knowing whether the Pope approved of those discussions. Furthermore, the section on homosexuality was written by Archbishop Bruno Forte, known for his progressive theology. Some cardinals suggested that the Relatio did not accurately reflect the discussions that had taken place, and several expressed surprise that it had been published at all.

Ms. Chaisson later states, "Disappointed by the decision of the synod, Pope Francis insisted upon full transparency of all document drafts and voting tally. In the same BBC press statement, Francis is quoted as cautioning against 'hostile inflexibility, that is, wanting to close oneself within the written word, and not allowing oneself to be surprised by God.'" A request for transparency need not imply disappoint-

ment. If Pope Francis was disappointed, it may well have been because of attempts to change the Church's position. He did indeed caution against "hostile inflexibility," but he actually offered more condemnations of progressives than conservatives. For example, he warned against the "temptation to a destructive tendency to goodness, that . . . binds the wounds without first curing them and treating them. . . . It is the temptation . . . of the so-called 'progressives and liberals.'" To conclude from the Pope's statements that he was "disappointed" is unreasonable.

-Jonathan Meilaender

Dear Editor,

I have observed two areas which are rapidly undermining our culture. First, people do

not believe the authority of the Bible. Second, God's intention for marriage has been lost.

Heb. 4:12 refers to the Bible as living and active. God's Word never changes. Scripture teaches that God has authority over the physical and spiritual. Scripture is given by God to show us how to live for Him (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21). Unfortunately, our culture views the Bible as irrelevant.

Recent editorials in the Star supported homosexuality without any mention Scripture. Some church leaders were quoted who support homosexuality, but the Bible gives examples of spiritual leaders who knowingly denied the truth of Scripture, contrary to God's Word.

The author said there are "misunderstood Bible passages on homosexuality" but gave no references to support this

view. She reasons that, "two men or two women simply falling in love does not compute as sin for me." Any sex outside of marriage is sin as is homosexuality (Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Thes. 4:1-8).

God's intention for marriage is being destroyed. Marriage is an institution created by God (Gen. 2:24) which Jesus confirms in Matt. 19:4-6. God's idea of marriage is for a male and a female to be united in one flesh, never to be separated. This relationship is to be sexually and spiritually pure.

Pluralism forces us to accept anyone's beliefs. This leads to chaos. As Judges 21:25 states, "every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

May God help us follow Him through His Word.

Sincerely in Christ,

-Dr. James Szymanski

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# Artist of the Week

# Morgan Loghry

//junior BFA Applied Design and Visual Communication major is a photographer and graphic designer. She wants to use her education in photo and design to make a step towards creating awareness about the ethical and moral downfalls of advertising and media in our society.



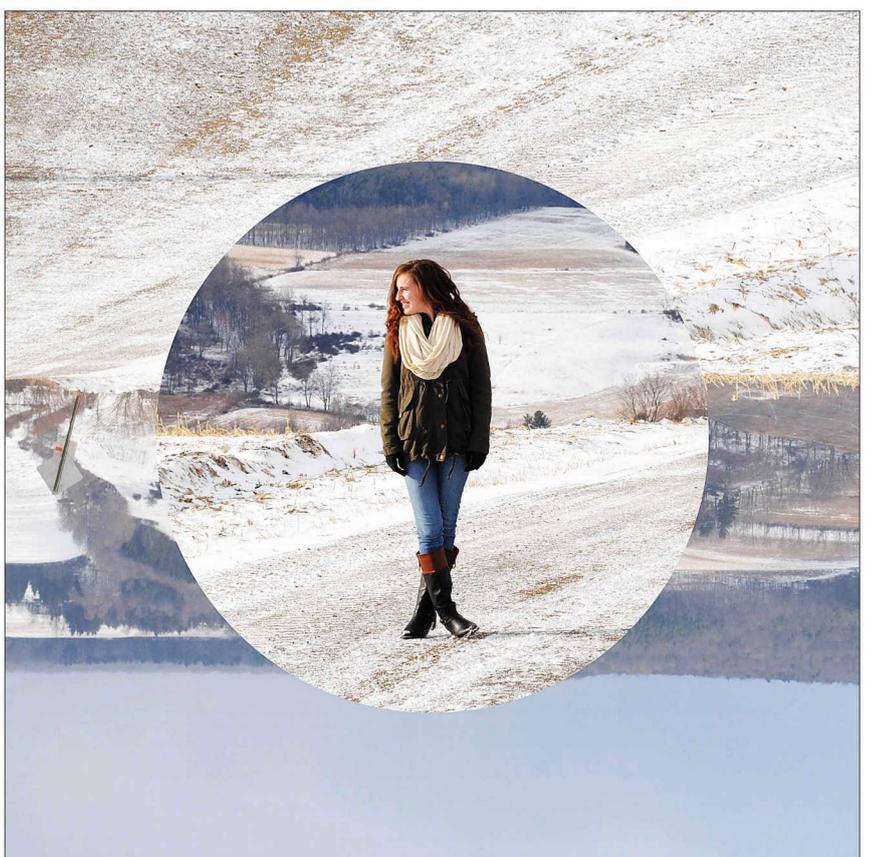
“Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one.” -Stella Adler



Design is far more than making things look pretty to make money.



Photography is far more than hitting a button in front of a subject.



## Titles & Media

Clockwise from top right

St. Paul, digital photograph

Line Study, digital photograph

Frostbite, digital photograph

Questions of Identity, digital photograph

Simply Summer, graphic design