



The Houghton STAR

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PAIN SEES EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS

EDITORIAL STAFF

Visitors to the Paine Science Center will find major changes to the building to accommodate Houghton's new engineering program and improve other areas.

The most extensive alterations have occurred in the second floor of the building, which formerly housed the Math, Data Science, and Computer Science departments. In addition to these, it is now home to the new Electrical Engineering department. That department is required by New York State to have at least five laboratories, according to Mim Case, Paine's Academic Departments Coordinator. To accomplish this, crews have been working over the summer to convert classrooms into laboratories, with prep rooms attached or adjacent to them. (These prep rooms allow professors to collect their supplies while another class is still working in the laboratory they will be using.) For now, the other departments are staying on the second floor, with some minor shuffling of offices to accommodate the new laboratories.



COURTESY OF JOHANNA FLOREZ

New amenities for the electrical engineering program include chalkboard-covered cabinets in which students can store resources for the ongoing design projects which they work on for the entirety of their time at Houghton.

Case notes that what would normally have been a twelve month project was completed in two and a half months. Donations for Houghton's science programs funded all the renovations to Paine. Though the administration had planned to use

these funds for the construction of a fifth floor, they had not been specifically designated for that project or for the engineer program. According to Case, there is money left over to continue renovations and upgrades next summer, with no additional

fundraising required.

As the electrical engineering program progresses, some classes will be taught by professors of other departments. Houghton has only accepted first-year students into the program (no transfer students). As

such, they only need to take two major-specific courses this year: Digital Electronics and Introduction to Engineering, according to Dr. Mark Yuly, physics professor and Associate Dean for Natural Sciences and Mathematics. They will also take calculus and physics courses during their first year. The influx of students is leading to one of the largest General Physics class Houghton has ever seen, with over forty students in one section.

The first two engineering classes will be taught by Dr. Mark Budnik, who is joining the Houghton faculty part time while still teaching at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Budnik will be commuting between the two schools each week until he fully transitions into his role as Houghton's electrical engineering program director. In an email to the STAR, Budnik states that his family was not ready to relocate, but that the opportunity to approach engineering as a vocation motivates him to teach at both school simultaneously for the foreseeable future.

Over the next few years, more professors will be hired

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CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY MOVES FORWARD ON COMPOSTING, DEDICATED SPACE

EDITORIAL STAFF

Houghton's Center for Sustainability is transitioning from its summer preparations into a semester full of creation care initiatives.

One of the center's major projects in the spring 2019 semester was planting the campus garden. Volunteers planted veggies and herbs in the greenhouse, which were eventually transferred to the garden near the College Flats at the edge of campus. Student workers tended the garden over the summer; the eventual goal is to provide the dining hall with produce to serve to students. Sustainability Coordinator Brian Webb reports challenges the garden faced: "Basically all of the river valley here is thick clay, which is not really the best for gardening." Despite efforts to mix in healthier topsoil, compost

mix, and nutrients, the soil was not able to support a thriving garden. "The stuff down there is growing, but it seems really stunted," says Webb. "This first year, we're not going to have much in the dining hall to serve, unfortunately."

Despite the obstacles to creating a productive garden, Webb is optimistic about the project going forward. "Next year I'm hoping that we'll succeed in terms of getting some good produce. This was a learning year," he says. "We did get a garden started. We do have all of the physical structure in place. We do know a bit of procedure now."

In addition to the campus garden, the Center for Sustainability has been working to improve waste streams in the campus center. Returning students will notice new waste disposal bins in the Big Al's area of the campus center basement, with sections for recycling, composting, and landfill. These bins formerly only included sections for landfill and recycling, and were not as clearly distinguished as other bins on campus. "We've tried to be consistent with blue for recycling to give people a visual cue that

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CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS LAUNCHED

JOHANNA FLOREZ

Houghton has consolidated its counseling services, career services, academic supports, and writing center into one Center for Student Success on the first floor of Chamberlain. Previously, the Counseling Center and VOCA (the Vocational Opportunities and Career Advising office) were located in opposite sides of the campus center, and CASA (the Center for Academic Success and Advising) was on the second floor of Chamberlain. The Writing Center was already on Chamberlain's first floor, among the offices of the English, Writing, and Communications departments. Those academic departments have been shuffled to different floors in the building.

Over the summer, the quad side of the first floor of Chamberlain was gutted and remodeled to place all four offices around a central waiting area with one administrative assistant. Two of them have also changed their names: VOCA is now the "Office of Vocation and



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

Calling," and CASA is "Academic Support and Accessibility Services." According to Dennis Stack, the associate director of the Office of Vocation and Calling, the offices are moving away from acronyms which fail to identify what supports they offer. However, despite the name changes, all of them will be providing essentially the same services and be staffed by the same people students are familiar with.

Hannah Bailey '17 (familiar

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Introducing the STAR Team



EDITORIAL STAFF

The co-editors-in-chief of the Houghton STAR, Johanna Florez and David Bowers, along with Caleb Fesmire, the Web and Photos editor and only returning member of staff, started work before the beginning of classes this semester to produce this special early issue of the paper. Along with a few campus updates, they use this opportunity to start introducing their vision for this year's STAR.

The staff positions have remained

essentially unchanged from last year: four section editors plan articles and choose the layout for News, Columns, Features, and Opinions. The web editor manages the STAR's online presence, and the photos editor takes pictures for articles and ensures appropriate formatting. The editor-in-chief sets goals for the paper, manages the staff, and has links to the Houghton administration to be uniquely aware of newsworthy events at the college. Some staffs have included a business manager; this is one of the duties split between the co-editors-in-chief this year.

While the "staff" positions are limited in number and clearly delineated, the team that makes the Houghton STAR possible is much broader. As a free student newspaper with a small budget, we depend on volunteer writers to report the stories that represent Houghton's voice and life. This year, we are experimenting with ways to broaden the recognized

"team" that creates the STAR. First, we are taking on a handful of official copy editors. Beyond proofreading articles and checking the final layout for overlooked problems, copy editors are also invited to be part of the paper-planning process, recommending stories that are worth covering. Second, we are setting up a rotation of regular contributors to cover most news and features stories. They will have the opportunity to commit in advance to weeks they can write, and to avoid weeks that are busy for them. By having contributors commit to writing before receiving their article assignments, there should rarely be a delay between the staff discovering a time-sensitive topic and finding a good writer who is available to report on it. In this way, high-quality news can reach students while it is relevant, without the staff having to call on writers who were not expecting an extracurricular assignment that week.

Both the copy editor and regular

contributor positions are currently volunteer roles. As such, the editorial staff is happy to work alongside any interested student to help train them in doing those duties well. Not everyone at Houghton is able to take a journalism class, so the main qualification for these jobs is interest in helping inform the Houghton community of events on and off campus. Students are also welcome to try out either of these roles before committing to a position they could list on a résumé.

Of course, a person does not have to have their name in the newspaper to be part of making the STAR possible. Newsmakers across campus include members of student government and club leaders who plan events, and every student who engages in discourse about topics that matter to them. We cannot list every individual by name, but we always hold in mind that this newspaper is yours.★

PAINÉ *from page 1*

between the physics and engineering departments to cover all the advanced classes required by the program. Yuly says that there is currently an opening in the physics department, but that if two engineering professors are hired, they could also cover the program requirements.

In addition to the engineering laboratories, the second floor of Paine was remodeled to include a new data science suite. Case compares it to the familiar math lounge, which positions a few offices around a space with tables and chalkboards for students to complete homework together. The data science suite contains some specialized amenities: a television (which can display images at a higher resolution than a standard classroom overhead projector), as well as a research lab with powerful computers and its own air conditioning unit to protect the equipment.

To make space for the engineering and data science departments, the Science Honors laboratory moved up from the second floor to the fourth. Brandon Hoffman, physics professor and Science Honors faculty, praises the new laboratory as "designed around Science Honors." While its old classroom was adequate, the new space has all new tables and chairs, as well as an improved stockroom for students to access equipment. It has several windows to

the hallway to allow passersby, and specifically prospective students, to view what the Science Honors cohort is working on.

Other improvements to Paine include an airlock at the second floor entrance facing the Luckey Memorial; a new vacuum-sealed glove box for safely handling hazardous chemicals; new fume hoods to protect students from dangerous vapors; and a streamlined laboratory for the chemistry department.★

COMPOST *from page 1*

that's what goes there," says Webb. "The previous bins were really not labeled well." Because of cross-contamination between the landfill and recycling streams, Metz sometimes had to send the contents of the recycling bin to the landfill as well. (The University of Michigan's Social Sciences for Sustainability project, an excess of non-recyclable waste such as plastic bags and food products can render entire batches of recyclable waste unable to be processed in typical facilities.) Individual efforts to sort waste, then, may have been futile.

With updated waste disposal bins, Webb says, cross-contamination issues "should be remedied now because it's much more clear. But we wanted to also add a compost stream, because we are now composting." He explains that the composting, which will be used to support the campus garden, is being phased in across three areas. The dining hall kitchen is already composting vegetable scraps left over from food preparation. Composting in Big Al's "will be started very soon,"

Webb says. It will include plant-based food waste and paper napkins (but not the compostable cups in which Java has been selling hot drinks, which must go through an industrial composting facility). Eventually, Webb plans to compost post-consumer dining hall waste. He explains that this is the most complicated piece of the plan due to the quantity and nature of the dining hall waste, but "in the near future" a plan will be in place for achieving this goal.

The Center for Sustainability is also moving into a new space this year on the third floor of Chamberlain. What is currently two adjacent offices will be converted into a single space with glass doors, plants, and couches, to create a highly visible creation care-focused lounge. "What we want is a place that is the central focus of sustainability work on campus and can make it more visible for students, particularly visiting students and families," says Webb. "But also just a symbol: 'Here's where our sustainability work comes from,' and a place where students can come in to hang out, to relax, to learn about sustainability and creation care, to get free light bulbs for their dorm rooms, things like that. We want it to be a resource for the students and for the community in terms of engaging with creation care and sustainability."

Webb is joined this year by two returning sustainability interns, Honus Wagner and Jesse Rucquoi, as well as two new interns, Mary Chichester and Emily Hornibrook. They will be continuing the development of projects begun last year and working on engaging and edu-

cating more students in sustainability and creation care.★

CSS *from page 1*

information from these other departments," says Stack. "The confidentiality blanket is still up." Thus, one office's referral to the resources of another will not result in anything a student says in one office being shared with the staff of another.

The CSS staff planned the space while "trying to be sensitive" to the concerns of students who are not comfortable revealing that they receive counseling services, according to Sharon Mulligan, associate director of Academic Support and Accessibility Services. Certain elements of the space protect their privacy to some extent: for example, there is only one entrance, on the campus center side of the building. The other door on the library side of Chamberlain, which is next to the counseling offices, is exit only and does not have a window. A bookshelf also forms a slight partition between students waiting for counseling and other people entering the CSS. "It's divided enough that people who are using the counseling services... they're still going to have some privacy," says Stack. "Those things are important."

While the common waiting room may be stressful for some students, the CSS staff are hopeful that sharing an entrance may actually break down stigma attached to going through the door to counseling services. "Sometimes the door to a place can be a

really big barrier," Mulligan says. "We're hoping that because there's so many services around the perimeter of this space, that for students who are concerned about people knowing their business... there's lots of reasons" for students to go through the CSS door. From the Chamberlain atrium, a stranger cannot know if an individual is going in to receive counseling or to work as a tutor. "I hope that this breaks down the stigma but still guards the privacy," says Stack.

The various departments now united in the CSS have long referred students to each other's services, whether the academic supports staff has directed students to the Writing Center or a counselor has recommended that a student stressed about their future go through career advising. Mulligan expects the centralized location to streamline that referral process, so any staff member will easily be able to walk a student to the office they're recommending. She is also hopeful that daily proximity to each other's work will help each office better understand how the others are equipped to help students: "I think that awareness will help us to connect people better." And being next door to each other, "We can each be a draw for each other," she says. Stack, too, is optimistic as all the offices adjust to being in a new space: "The fact that everybody's together is going to be a really good thing."★

Interested in keeping campus conversations informed?

Email editor@houghtonstar.com if you want to write!

Humans of Houghton

Introduction



ALLY STEVICK

If you haven't met me before, my name is Ally. I'm a junior this year at Houghton, majoring in both math and English, and I love it. However, despite being only a junior, I've been a part of the Houghton community for the last eleven years, and during that time I've had the chance to experience Houghton in a variety of different roles. I've been a child of a faculty member and of alumni, a member of the town, a summer employee, and finally a student. In each of these roles I've met many different people and seen different aspects of Houghton, which has led me to two conclusions. The first is that Houghton has some truly incredible people among the students, faculty, and staff. The second is that what we call Houghton—the college, the town, and its landscape—looks very different to each of us.

On the one hand this is obvious, we are all different and have had different experiences, so of course our perspectives are unique. But I have become especially aware of this because of the variety of different roles I have had at Houghton. Working at the Technology Helpdesk and helping other students troubleshoot technology problems gives me a different perspective than the times when I am a student with technology troubles (being a Helpdesk worker does not make me immune to this, alas). Working on homework for my math classes is very different from working on homework for my English classes. The former I tend to do with friends in the math

lounge, with snacks, lots of noise, much chalk dust, and some wild hypothesizing. The latter I tend to do alone, in a place that is comfortable, well-lit, and quiet, such as my bed or the library. And though I live in a lovely dorm named Gillette, I have a very real concept of a place called East Hall where my mother once lived. Though East Hall and Gillette occupy the same physical space, they are entirely distinct for me: the one full of my friends and adventures, the other full of my mother's.

If I, as one person, can have so many different perspectives in just my limited experience, how many more different perspectives will I discover if I ask other people? This is my goal for this column: to get to know the humans of Houghton as unique individuals and hear their differing perspectives on life and this place that, either for a few years or for most of our lives, we all call home. And so, I'm going to interview a number of Houghton people over the coming months, sit down with them for a conversation and then tell you a little bit of their story. My goal is to select a variety of different voices from students, faculty, and staff—people with different ideas and passions. Some of these people you may know well, others you may not know at all. Either way, I hope that you will learn something new from their perspectives.

We each have our unique way of interacting with and understanding the world we find around us. It can be humbling to realize the ways in which other people think and process very differently. Some of my favorite moments at Houghton, in any of my various roles, have been when I get to have a conversation with someone new and be taken into their world for a little while. I always come away with new insights, amazed by the rich complexity and diversity of human souls—our personalities, thoughts, dreams. Truly we have been intricately created in the image of an amazing God. I hope that through this column you get the chance to experience new worlds, and to be amazed by the incredible humans who live, think, and work around you at Houghton all the time.★

Have an idea for a regular column?

We'd love to hear about it!

Email the Columns Editor at josiah.wiedenheft22@houghton.edu to get represented.

International Voices

HANNAH FRASER

"Why did you choose Houghton?" is the question I'm often asked after explaining that I grew up in Hungary as a missionary kid. With so many options for college, since any of the ones in the USA would already be thousands of miles from what I consider home, why would I choose one that can seem so far away from the rest of the world?

I may have lived in Hungary for thirteen years of my life, but I also lived in Houghton for some time. Those years were formative for me, as they not only introduced me to friends I still have and to a place in America to view as a familiar haven, but I also grew emotionally and spiritually. Houghton may be a forty-five-minute drive from the nearest Walmart, but that doesn't mean it's closed off from the rest of the world. Many who gather here bring the world with them. In this place of learning, students who listen can hear perspectives from all around the globe.

I chose Houghton for many reasons, not the least of which is how inviting it was to international students and third-culture kids. Those perspectives and stories are unique and add a richness to the impact Houghton has on students. Everyone's voice should be heard, and it's the differences in experiences that allow people to learn and grow from one another.★

ELIZABETH STONE

I grew up in a city called Shenyang in mainland China. No one has ever heard of it even though its population is double that of Oklahoma. My dad works at a school that teaches after-school English classes, and I was homeschooled for all of grade school. I am Caucasian, and to meet me, you would never guess that I had never really lived in the USA until college. Coming to USA was a big change, but I chose Houghton knowing that. Houghton has some strong programs for helping internationals, like the Interconnect orientation and the host families program, which helped me significantly in my transition. Though in all honestly, even though I am a junior, the transition is still not over, and I think on some level it never really will be. There will always be a level on which I do not completely fit in with people born and raised in the USA. But through the past two years at Houghton, I have come to see that even though my life growing up

looked very different from that of most students here, experiences of pain, joy, laughter, loneliness, friendship, and growing up can be related across many different lifestyles and types of stories.★

LUKE HUIZENGA

My overseas experience started my tenth-grade year, when my family moved to Cameroon, a country in West Africa. I attended, and eventually graduated from, a school there that was originally built by missionaries: Rain Forest International School. My dad taught at the school and my mom was a nurse for our missionary branch, Wycliffe Associates. Some of my favorite experiences during my time there include playing soccer (both on the school team and just casually), climbing Mount Cameroon (the highest mountain peak in West Africa), and being on Rain Forest's chapel worship team.

I left Cameroon with a more mature and inspired faith that can only be shaped in a community of missionaries. There is something radically powerful about living and working with a large number of people who have sacrificed the comforts of home to live in a third-world country, often being required to learn a new language, spending long periods of time away from family and friends. Being exposed to such a new and different environment taught me that the world is so much larger than just my home country. When you are confronted with and surrounded by poverty on a daily basis, it teaches you not to take things for granted, and minor inconveniences suddenly become a lot less distressing.

Currently, Cameroon is in a state of near-civil war. Within the past three years, there has been increasing violence between English-speaking and French-speaking Cameroonians in a political storm that has been building for a long time. I ask you to pray for a country that is very dear to me and is in desperate need of peace.★

If you are an international student and would like to contribute to this column by writing, interviewing others or being interviewed, email the Columns Editor: josiah.wiedenheft22@houghton.edu.

We're looking for volunteers who are knowledgeable about tech and interested in writing reviews for an upcoming column!

If you think you're that person, contact the Columns Editor at josiah.wiedenheft22@houghton.edu

Meet the STAR Staff



Co-Editor-in-Chief Johanna Florez is a junior from Connecticut. She grew up homeschooled and is now pursuing a degree in Adolescence Education and English with a writing concentration. Her involvement with the STAR began last year when she wrote several news and features articles; she appreciated how it broadened her awareness of events and people on campus. She is eager to practice her teaching skills this year as a co-Editor-in-chief leading the newspaper staff and also as a Writing Center consultant. While the STAR is one of her favorite extracurriculars activities at Houghton, she has also enjoyed singing in the gospel choir and taking voice lessons, and hosting tea parties for friends. This year her free time will be spent reading, knitting, painting, drawing, pretending to think about her various old writing projects, and exploring the sights around Houghton with her friends now that most of them have cars. If you would like to discuss the structure of the newspaper or its team, or recommend topics to cover in the STAR, you can contact Johanna at editor@houghtonstar.com.

Co-Editor-in-Chief David Bowers is a junior, on the pre-med track and majoring in Intercultural Studies. A fourth-generation missionary kid from Bangladesh, his lifelong aim has been to be a missionary surgeon. He wants to see unreached people groups reached with the gospel of Christ and to be on the frontlines of the Holy Spirit's work of expanding the kingdom of God on earth. He's long loved persuasive writing and enjoyed having those skills sharpened during his life-changing semester in London with Honors at Houghton. After dipping his toes into the waters of the Houghton STAR during his sophomore year with a couple of opinions articles, he was thrilled to be asked to be co-Editor-in-Chief. He can't wait to see how God will use the STAR to facilitate informed, balanced discussions on campus that help students, faculty, staff, and community members engage the world more effectively. You can start a conversation with David by emailing editor@houghtonstar.com.



News Editor Nicole Soggs is a senior majoring in Writing, with minors in English and Communication. Born and raised in inner city Buffalo, New York, the chilly Houghton winters are no big deal for her. Nicole loves fantasy and is currently working on a book series, one that she is more than happy to tell people all about. When she's not dreaming of her next story idea, you can find Nicole rocking out to Skillet, squealing over hamster videos, and attending Mercy Seat for the millionth time. Nicole is also a Houghton Host, and is always looking forward to playing Overcooked with an unsuspecting prospective student on her Nintendo Switch. Aside from the skills she has gained through many writing classes, Nicole works as a consultant in the Writing Center as well, and is excited to use her experience as the STAR's latest news editor. You can contact her with questions or suggestions for the news section at nicole.soggs20@houghton.edu.

Columns Editor Josiah Wiedenheft grew up a homeschooled pastor's kid but doesn't want to let the stereotypes associated with those two traits be all that defines him! He's currently a Sophomore Philosophy and Communications major, with interest that can be hard to pin down, as he enjoys dabbling a little bit in a lot of things: art, writing, psychology, music theory, mythology, computer programming... As columns editor on the STAR, Josiah hopes to bring new and interesting topics and perspectives to the paper each week, to make it a place where readers can hopefully find something each week that they might not have come into contact with otherwise in their day-to-day lives. You can suggest series of articles to run or volunteer as a columnist by emailing him at josiah.wiedenheft22@houghton.edu.



2019-2020



Features Editor Geri Edwards is a 20-year-old junior Communications and Theology major here at Houghton. She is originally from Rome NY, which is about three hours east of Houghton. As the features editor of the STAR, she is looking forward to discovering more of Houghton through connecting with the people and events that are being written about and working with the other staff members. On campus she is also a member of the Gadfly Philosophy Club and is an Admissions Intern in Fancher. Her hobbies include reading and journaling, playing both the flute and piano, drawing, and being able to spend time with her friends. Though this is her third year, she is excited for all the experiences that this year will bring! If you know of people or places at Houghton that are worth a deeper exploration in the newspaper, let her know by email geri.edwards21@houghton.edu.

Opinions Editor Rachel Wheeler is a senior from Massachusetts, double majoring in English and writing with a minor in education. In her free time she enjoys reading, watching the Red Sox, and spending time with friends and family. Rachel has been involved in Take Back the Night, the Student Support Network, and works in the library as well. She also nannies part-time for a local family with five children, which is usually where you'll find her if she isn't on campus. Rachel has contributed to the opinions section of the STAR in the past and is so excited to be the editor this year. She's most excited to feature different viewpoints of both serious and lighthearted topics, using this section as one of the great ways that we can represent the Houghton community through the thoughts of its students. If you have a topic you are particularly passionate about, feel free to email her (rachel.wheeler20@houghton.edu) about sharing your ideas!



Web and Photos Editor Caleb Fesmire is a junior majoring in Writing, with a second major in Media Arts and Visual Communication. He has aspirations of one day writing novels, movies, comics, video games, or any medium that might accommodate his probable insanity. When he's not in class or the STAR office you can often find him lurking in odd corners of campus hunched over a book, notebook, or computer screen. Caleb is a strong proponent of interesting conversations, good stories, late-night walks, and finding new ways to combine peanut butter and chocolate. If you have any questions about the STAR website, or the photographs we feature, email him at caleb.fesmire21@houghton.edu.

This year's editorial staff is joined by copy editors **Sydney Jameson** and **Owen Hardiman**.

Email houghtonstar@gmail.com if you would like to join the team as a volunteer copy editor or to learn more about staff positions!

Houghton Welcomes New Coaches

MOLLY BRIZZELL
REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR

The Fall 2019 athletic season is officially upon Houghton, and the Highlanders are seeking nothing short of victory and glory for God as they face it. This season, however, is a first for several—and not just for the freshman and transfer Highlanders. Four new coaches are stepping forward to lead their athletes to “excellence for the glory of God,” as Houghton Athletics often cheers. Nikki Elsaesser, Josh Tompkins, and Bobby McColl intend to help our fall athletes to achieve this, while Lance Westberg will be working later this semester to prepare the men’s basketball team for its winter season. These coaches are entering their inaugural seasons here at Houghton to bring their Highlanders to the goals they earnestly seek. The spotlight currently shines on our three fall coaches, who’ve been preparing their athletes for excellence this season.

Nikki Elsaesser, Women’s Soccer

Nikki Elsaesser has stepped up this year to become the fifth coach in the history of Houghton’s women’s soccer program. She previously coached with Keystone FC Elite and functioned as an assistant coach to Messiah College (2018 season) and Christian Heritage High School in Connecticut. Before her coaching experience with Messiah, she was a decorated player herself. Elsaesser was the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III National Player of the Year in 2015 and was a three-time NCAA Division III All-American selection. She helped her team to the NCAA Tournament in all four of her seasons, including a National Championship win in 2012.

Elsaesser—after such success in her own soccer career—is now eager to lead her team here at Houghton to victory not only physically, but also spiritually. She has long advocated for promoting God’s glory through sports, working as a graduate assistant to Messiah’s AROMA sports ministry program and participating in mission trips to Uganda, Zambia, Guatemala and Thailand. “I believed that I could help carry out this mission on the soccer field as the women’s soccer coach,” Elsaesser shared with the STAR. “I am extremely excited for the way Houghton College is committed to cultivating a Christ-centered education.”

On her plan for leading the women’s soccer team this fall, Elsaesser is set and determined. “We are planning to come out to practices and games each day to train and play really hard with great purpose,” she said. “The daily

deliberate choice to do what we can each day to improve will propel us to get better throughout the entire season.” This growth could lead the women’s soccer team towards the Empire 8 athletic conference and—ultimately—the championship.

Elsaesser’s enthusiasm continues with her thoughts of Houghton Athletics as a whole. She “loves the coaches, administration, and players,” and believes there is a strong presence of kindness surrounding the entire department. “People here genuinely care for one another,” Elsaesser shared. She sees this up close with her own team, who continue to “amaze” her. “[There’s a] wide array of abilities and talents my players have beyond athletics,” she said. “They are willing to use their talents in music, writing, medicine and many other areas in order to

helping them to “improve both as a volleyball player but also as a person” as well as “[taking] strides in terms of game play from the beginning of the season to the postseason.” Tompkins hopes this will ultimately bring them to the [Empire 8] playoffs and championship. “It will require the team to really focus, work hard, and push themselves probably harder than they have in the past,” Tompkins shared with the STAR. “I really want to see these women reach their potential and in order to do so we all must be intentional in the time we have together on and off the court.”

Tompkins also shared his enthusiasm for Houghton Athletics and his experience with them thus far. “I absolutely love the atmosphere around Houghton Athletics right now,” he said. “There

“The daily deliberate choice to do what we can each day to improve will propel us to get better throughout the entire season.” - Nikki Elsaesser, women’s soccer coach

bless the people around them.”

While Elsaesser is seeking victory for her team on the field this season, she considers the spiritual health of the team the most important victory.

Josh Tompkins, Women’s Volleyball

Josh Tompkins, a 2005 Houghton graduate, became the eleventh head coach in Houghton volleyball history early this summer. He is eager to lead the women’s team into strengthened victory both on the court and in their spirits—hopefully, for Tompkins, all the way to the Empire 8 Championship.

Tompkins coached the boys’ volleyball team at Cuba-Rushford High School from 2005-2011, which included two undefeated regular seasons, before taking over the girls’ program in 2014 for five seasons. He earned them back-to-back Section V titles in 2017-2018 and was awarded with Section V Coach of the Year in 2016 and 2018. As a player, Tompkins spent two years with the Houghton men’s club volleyball team and helped the 2002 New York State College Club earn a championship title.

Tompkins is now returning to Houghton with lots of optimism for his team and his experience as a coach in Houghton Athletics. His goals for his team this season include

is an energy that I feel when I am in the facilities and around members of the community that I haven’t noticed in the past.” Tompkins and his team are intent upon earning the Empire 8 Volleyball Championship title this season.

Bobby McColl, Men’s Soccer

Bobby McColl, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, was named the fifth head coach in program history late last year. McColl is honored to be leading the men’s soccer team this season, and Dr. Matt Webb—Director of Athletics and previous head coach of men’s soccer—expresses optimism about the quality of training he’ll bring to the team.

McColl had an impressive soccer career of his own, including gigs playing with Scotland’s under-19 national team as well as Motherwell F.C. in the Scottish Premier League. He competed for three seasons at Union University in Tennessee before finishing at Trinity International, where he holds his degree. As a coach, McColl first served as an assistant coach to both the men’s and women’s soccer teams at Roberts Wesleyan before accepting his first opportunity to be a head coach at Greenville College. There, he led the team to a second-place finish in the Saint Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and earned himself the National Christian College Athletic

Association (NCCAA) North Central Region Coach of the Year. He then returned to Roberts Wesleyan to become the women’s soccer head coach, where he earned another title of NCCAA East Region Coach of the Year. His last stop before Houghton was at Daemen College, where he served three seasons as the men’s soccer head coach.

McColl is excited to be stepping into this role here at Houghton. “It is a huge honor to become the fifth men’s soccer coach at Houghton College,” he shared in his Houghton Athletics bio. McColl elaborated on his decision to accept the position to the STAR. “I have always admired the men’s soccer program having coached against them and knowing a lot of former players,” he said. “I also wanted to get back to coaching at a Christian College.” McColl knows the legacy that Houghton men’s soccer has left behind and is fully ready to continue building it. “The men’s soccer program has a strong tradition of excellence both on and off the field and I look forward to building on that success.”

To uphold this legacy, McColl already has set achievable goals for his team both on and off the field. “Our focus is very much on taking each day as it comes and not looking too far ahead,” he told the STAR. “Each practice is a chance to get better and our only focus is on the next game.” While a championship title is every team’s ultimate goal, McColl sees his players looking for short-term success first in order to bring them to long-term victory later. These goals also carry into McColl’s vision for his team off the field. “I hope to build strong relationships with the guys as we spend more time together and get to know one another better,” he shared. This will bring the team to a new level of trust as they achieve their goals leading up to the postseason.

He also speaks highly of his new department at Houghton Athletics as well as the entire college community. “I love the culture and atmosphere within the athletic department and I look forward to coming to work each day,” McColl said. “The people are great and the community on campus and within athletics is very strong.” McColl is excited to give Houghton his all, whether it’s on the soccer field or as a leader on campus. He’s been preparing to bring our men’s soccer team to victory, and intends to continue that as they take their season day-by-day and connect not only with each other, but also with the Houghton community.★

Molly Brizzell is a sophomore majoring in Writing.

Have a club or student organization you want to promote?

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Opinion of the Editor: Your Voice Matters



COURTESY OF CALEB FESMIRE

RACHEL WHEELER

Much of college is about learning about yourself, establishing what you believe and why you believe it. For most of us, this is the first time we are away from our parents and have to be responsible for ourselves completely. With that freedom comes a change of perspective. Some begin to question the things they once thought when they were younger, while others find ways to further validate those opinions. Regardless of what your current situation may be, this is an important process of growth and maturity.

Because of the differing opinions that emerge during college, I believe that the opinions section of our newspaper is a crucial way for us to understand each other better as a student body. In our

current society and political climate in particular, it can be difficult to voice our opinions without fear of criticism or retribution. One of the hardest parts about listening to an opposing opinion is just that – listening. It seems like human nature to jump in and defend your side of an argument while someone is voicing theirs. Listening, however, is something important that we all need to learn how to do better, despite how challenging it can be.

This is part of what I, as the opinions editor, desire this section to be, a safe place to speak your mind without fear of interruption. I want to use this as a vehicle to understand our community better, which in turn helps us to understand Christ better through the minds of His people. That being said, diversity is something that I plan to be a large part of this column. If we are to represent Houghton as a student body, the opinions column needs to extend past one demographic in particular. What I mean by that is I intend to have a variety of people from all different social circles, cultures, and walks of life represented.

We joke around about the “Houghton Bubble,” but I’ve noticed in my almost four years here that the cliché is truer than one might think. It’s

easy to get caught up in the events happening on our little rural campus, but there’s so much more in the world than what’s going on right in front of us. We have the privilege to include in our community international students that come from so many different countries that some of us have never been to. It’s important that we provide everyone with a vocal platform. What better way to experience Christ among us than providing all of His children with an equal voice?

Now this is where you come in. As stated in the title, your opinion matters. This could mean anything from a serious political matter that you feel passionately about or a more lighthearted topic to act as some comedic relief, especially as we enter an emotionally charged election season. This does not, however, mean that your opinion piece is just a free-for-all to say whatever you want with no structure. As I mentioned before, we want a variety of opinions but we want ones that are both respectful and sensitive to all groups of people.

Because we are a Christian institution, it is essential that we try our best to honor God in everything we do, our writing being no exception. For example, although I have

reiterated that every opinion matters, please remember that attacking a certain demographic is not an opinion, it’s a form of hate speech. That is something that I will take into consideration while reviewing each article, making sure that we are showcasing Christ’s love, a love that extends over all people of all lifestyles and cultures.

I don’t want these words to scare anyone away from submitting a piece, but rather push you in the right direction

to express yourself in a way that I believe matters. I would love for this column to be an extension of the Houghton community, expressing our diversity, differing opinions, and talents. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me (rachel.wheeler20@houghton.edu) if you would like to submit a piece that you are passionate about and believe should be shared.★

Rachel Wheeler is a senior majoring in English and writing.

About the website...

A word from the Web Editor

Currently, if you visit www.houghtonstar.com, you will be greeted by a blank white screen. I regret to inform you that for the time being, you will be unable to read STAR articles online as we work to restore and update our website.

The STAR apologizes that there is currently no convenient way for family and alumni to stay up to date with the articles we publish. We will let you know when the situation is resolved.

Caleb Fesmire
Web Editor

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



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SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor
should be 250 words or less

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The Houghton
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Building Hours

Reinhold Campus Center

6 AM - 3 AM

Welcome Desk

Monday - Thursday // 8 AM - 8 PM
 Friday - Saturday // 8 AM - 10 PM
 Sunday // 12 PM - 10 PM

Safety and Security

Monday - Friday // 8 AM - 12 AM
 24/7 by phone // (585) 567-9333

Helpdesk (Closed during chapel)

Monday, Wednesday - Friday // 8 AM - 12 PM, 1 PM - 4:30 PM
 Tuesday 9:30 AM - 12 PM, 1 PM - 4:30 PM

Post Office

Monday - Friday // 8 AM - 4 PM

Highlanders Shop

Monday - Thursday // 9 AM - 8 PM
 Friday // 9 AM - 6 PM
 Saturday // 11 AM - 2 PM

Dormatory Open Hours

Lambein, Gillette, Shenawana, Rothenbuhler Halls
 Sunday // 7 PM - 11 PM
 Monday // 7 PM - 11 PM (Shenawana & Rothenbuhler only)
 Tuesday // 7 PM - 11 PM
 Wednesday // 7 PM - 11 PM (Lambien & Gillete only)
 Thursday // No open hours
 Friday // 7 PM - 1 AM
 Saturday // 7 PM - 12 AM

Townhouses

Saturday - Thursday // 8 AM - 12 AM
 Friday // 8 AM - 1 AM

Student Health Center

Monday - Friday // 8:30 AM - 5 PM

Food

Dining Hall

Hot Breakfast
 Monday - Friday // 7 AM - 9:30 AM
 Saturday // 8 AM - 9:30 AM
Continental Breakfast
 Monday - Saturday // 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 Sunday // 8 AM - 11:30 AM
Lunch
 Monday - Sunday // 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Lite Lunch
 Monday - Sunday // 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Dinner
 Monday - Friday // 5 - 8 PM
 Saturday - Sunday // 5 PM - 7:15 PM

Chamberlain Center

Monday - Saturday // 7 AM - 12 AM
 Sunday // 5 PM - 12 AM

Center for Student Success

Monday - Friday // 8 AM - 5 PM

Mac Lab

Monday - Thursday // 7 PM - 10 PM

Willard J Houghton Library

Monday - Thursday // 8 AM - 11 PM
 Friday // 8 AM - 5 PM
 Saturday // 10 AM - 5 PM

Paine Science Center

Monday - Saturday // 7 AM - 12 AM
 Sunday // 5 PM - 12 AM

Center for the Arts

Monday - Friday // 7 AM - 12 AM
 Sunday // 5 PM - 12 AM

Nielsen

Monday - Saturday // 8 AM - 10 PM
 Sunday // 1 - 5 PM, 9 - 10 PM

Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex

Monday - Friday // 6 AM - 10 PM
 Saturday // 8:30 AM - 10 PM
 Sunday // 1 - 5 PM, 9 - 11 PM

Lucky

Payroll

Monday - Friday // 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM, 1 PM - 5 PM

Java

M-F 8am-11pm; Sat 11am-11pm; Sun 1-11pm

Big Al's/Poblano's

Weekday Lunch
 Monday - Friday // 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Dinner
 Sunday - Thursday // 8 PM - 11 PM
 Friday - Saturday // 8 PM - 12 AM