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Houghton Welcomes Increase in First-Year Enrollment



The incoming class of 2020 has extended Houghton's upward trend in first-year enrollment, and also features greater gender parity than in years past.

RACHEL ZIMMERMAN

Enrollment for the 2016-2017 year has shown significant changes in the make-up of the incoming class. Most notably, the ratio of incoming males to female is the most evenly

balanced it has been in several years. Houghton's director of admission Ryan Spear disclosed a 43% male to 57% female ratio, with 133 incoming males and 174 incoming females.

The physical impact of the shift is immediately seen in regards to housing,

as Marc Smithers, Assistant Dean of students for residence life, observed. "Roth and Shen are essentially at capacity this year," he noted. Spear, observed the increase in male enrollment, while acknowledging the "disappointing" corresponding shift. "Female enrollment is

down or flat," he explained, comparing this year's number of 174 to a previous three-year average of 185. Spear nonetheless positively noted "three years of growth among first year enrollments" overall, with numbers creeping up from 223, 238, 244, to this year's 247.

Although Spear cannot immediately identify the reason(s) for the shift in this year's enrollment, he explained three areas he is exploring. Spear noted the possibility of simply a "larger male application pool," possibly related to Houghton's first year using the common application, as well its own online application. He also mentions the draw of athletics, which he says are "trending toward greater parity," with the male-female ratio at "about fifty-fifty" for this year's enrollment.

Spear also intends to explore the draw of various academic programs, and noted

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Longtime History Professor to Retire in the Spring

EMMA CARPENTER

Professor of history, William Doezema, who came to Houghton College in forty years ago, will be retiring in the spring of 2017.

Eliza Burdick-Risser '18, took Recent American History, 1920 to Present, with Doezema. Burdick-Risser recalled a semester of history made vivid through Doezema's rich teaching. "You walk into Professor Doezema's class at eight o'clock on a Tuesday morning," she said. "You sit down, and he starts

See **DOEZEMA** page 3

Student Employees See Fewer Work Study Hours

MICAH CRONIN

Due to New York's graduated minimum wage increase, student jobs funded by the Federal work-study program are limited to a maximum of eight hours per week on average. The state minimum wage will increase to \$9.40 per hour on December 31, 2016, a forty cent increase since the most recent wage hike in December 2015.

The Federal work-study program funds eligible students a yearly limit on earned wages. Students may earn less than their limit, but

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Houghton Highlanders Welcome Three New Coaches to Athletic Department

ALICIA NEEDHAM

This school year, Houghton will welcome three new coaches to campus. Two of the three coaches are Houghton college alumni. Corky McMullen '07, took over as the new head coach for the men's basketball and Andrew Lundeen '09 was appointed as the new head men's lacrosse coach. The women's softball coach, Katie Sinclair, is an alumni of St. Bonaventure. "All three coaches are enthusiastic, passionate, committed to Christ, understand the 'student-athlete' concept, and understand what we are doing in terms of sports ministry" said Head Athletic Director Skip Lord.

McMullen, who graduated with a degree in physical education, played basketball under Coach Brad Zargese, who is now the athletic director at Quincy College in Massachusetts. McMullen



ANTHONY BURDOO

The Highlanders will see three new coaches in the Athletics Department this year, including Andrew Lundeen, who will coach men's lacrosse.

said, "Houghton is a special place to me because of the impact it had on my life." He was recruited out of high school to play basketball for Houghton,

but didn't give it a chance. After a successful athletic and academic year at Lockhaven University in Pennsylvania, he felt something was missing in

his life and visited Houghton, which he said changed his life. McMullen said, "The people

See **COACHES** page 2

National // Louisiana Begins Bebuilding



ANTHONY BURDO

DANI EATON

In August, parts of Louisiana were hit with heavy rain that caused severe flooding, the death of thirteen people, and millions of dollars in damage. The

storm brought more than two and a half feet of rain to part of the Livingston Parish, and left members of the Coast Guard and the National Guard to help more than 20,000 residents and 1,000 pets to safety.

In a New York Times article, John Nielsen-Gammon, the state climatologist in Texas, attributed the large amount of rain to climate change. "There's definitely an increase in heavy rainfall due to climate change. The actual increase from place to place is going to be variable because of the randomness of the weather. Some places will see a dramatic change," he said.

According to CNN, the storm caused at least \$8.7 million in damages, leaving 134,000 homes registering for aid from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA). However, FEMA has reported so far, only 115,000 homes have had inspections completed.

Despite efforts to set up temporary shelters and mobile homes, a CNN article reported as many as 2,600 citizens are still living in homes that have not been treated for mold and are still unfit to live in. FEMA committed \$300 million for emergency home repair and rental housing and assigned 400 volunteers, but has been slow with assistance.

With the lack of immediate federal response, citizens and nonprofit organizations have attempted to step in and aid in the clean up. Broderick Bagert, lead organizer of Together Baton Rouge, a community group, built an online intake system and database for the homeowner's requests for assistance in gutting

homes. The group also had volunteers knock on doors of homes that didn't appear to have been gutted already. Lastly, after the volunteers then sent out additional volunteers to gut homes themselves, taking out muddy and moldy floors and walls.

As more homes are inspected and gutted, the cost of cleanup soars. The Guardian reported the cost of cleanup could potentially reach \$15 billion by the end of the project. With only 20% of homes affected having held flood insurance Louisiana Governor, John Bel Edwards, requested a \$2 billion bailout package on Friday, September 9, in addition to the money the government has already pledged. Edwards, who requested the money while on a trip to Washington, stressed Louisiana would not be able to move forward without the

cash. "Simply put, we cannot recover without it," he said.

While no decision on the bailout has been made, President Obama, in a letter to Edwards, wrote due to the expensive nature of the flood that the government would cover 90% of the costs, leaving the state to only pay back 10% of the funds. This is atypical, as states typically pay back 20% of costs.★

Dani is a senior with majors in communication and writing

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the increasing cultural emphasis by incoming students on specific academic programs. "People more than ever want proof that they're getting a valuable experience," he said. "The first thing they want to know- is my program strong?"

He noted various male-female ratios among departments for this year's enrollment, such as female dominated adolescent education and biology, male dominated accounting and political science, and parity within physics. Yet Spear is unwilling to draw any immediate conclusions. He emphasized, "I don't like simple

explanations," and noted the complexity of changes, such as this year's enrollment.

Next year's enrollment numbers and ratios cannot be predicted, but Spear and Smithers noted the questions that this year's enrollment raises. "Is this a trend? Do we have the capacity?" are among these questions,

Spear said. He noted various manifestations of the "bump" in male enrollment, such as Shen's show room being "eliminated" to be used for actual housing. "We're trying to figure out what to do next year if we have a similar kind of enrollment," Smithers said, and noted "housing is the biggest thing because we have

limited bed numbers to make available." "It's a good problem," he emphasized. "I can speak for the RDs that it's very exciting to have full residence halls," Smithers said. He reflected on positive interactions with the incoming class, and stated, "In terms of residence halls, this can only be a huge benefit to us."★

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not more. "Due to an increase in per hour pay, a student will have to work less hours to earn the same amount," stated Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management, Marianne Loper. Even though the wage increase will not go into effect until the last day of the calendar year, work study wage limits cover both the fall and spring semesters. Thus, if hours were not cut in the fall semester, they would face a more dramatic cut in

the spring semester.

The eight hour limit is not to be regarded as a strict limit on hours worked each week- rather, the limit is an eight hour per week average. Loper said, "if some weeks [a student] needs to work 16 hours and then later [that student] works no hours that is fine."

While the cut in hours will not affect a student's potential to reach her work-study quota, many students who are employed by the custodial department, the dining hall, the library, and like jobs are scheduled for less than eight

hours per week. Some of these students solve this problem by covering available shifts as they come. "I'm scheduled for about six and a half hours per week between the dining hall and the library," Sarah Vande Brake '19 said. "I can usually make up the remaining hours by covering shifts, but if I don't, then I don't."

Another difficulty faces students who participate in the Phone-a-thon, a yearly fundraiser which garners donations and pledges from Houghton College alumni. According to Dana Kelly '18,

she and other students who agreed to work at the Phone-a-thon for a six-week period had to choose between that and other jobs they committed to. Kelly decided to continue working her shifts at the Campus Center Welcome Desk, yet she says she would have rather done both jobs.

The new regulations have proven stressful for supervisors as well. Previously, more jobs could be assigned to fewer workers. Now, the shifts must be spread more evenly. Custodian Hillary Scharles, who manages the Campus

Center and part of Gillette Hall, expressed worry that she would not be able to find enough student workers to cover all of the available jobs in her buildings.

There is a silver lining, however. Because even the most industrious of student workers can now only work an average of eight hours per week, this leaves more employment opportunities open to students. Students who would not have planned to max out their potential hours may be interested in picking up these stray shifts.★

DOEZEMA from page 1

with discussion questions on the reading from the night before." However, the resemblance to a predictable lecture stops there.

"He was really good at providing examples of what happened, because he experienced a lot of this stuff. He was able to tell us about the Cold War, and what it was truly and honestly like to grow up during that time period," she said. Burdick-Risser stated Doezema's teaching gave the students

in the class a greater tie to history, as well as a broader perspective on major events. "At twenty years old you haven't experienced a Cold War," she said. "And most stuff that has happened, we haven't even had a say or a vote in it."

Doezema joined Houghton College's history department in 1979, and has been teaching at Houghton for almost forty years. In addition to teaching, he enjoys historical research, as well as presenting and publishing scholarly work on a variety of subjects ranging from the Salem witch trials to China's Taiping Rebellion.

The history department's small size allows for close working relationships between faculty. "Teaching in an area of academia I love

and learning much from colleagues inside and outside my department have been incalculable privileges," Doezema said. He added, "I've been struck over the years by how much we complement one another."

Those colleagues seem to agree. Meic Pearse, a fellow professor of history, described the small, tight-knit department as a blessing. "[W]e all get along so well together; departmental meetings are mostly punctuated by funny stories and laughter."

Professor of history, David Howard, was one of the faculty members who interviewed Doezema for his teaching position years ago and said Doezema is "a wonderful colleague; absolutely a person you can count on."

According to Howard, Doezema's presence, in conjunction with Houghton's other history professors, has helped to balance and strengthen the department.

In addition to maintaining a warm dynamic with fellow professors, Doezema said, "The most satisfying side of teaching ... has been helping struggling students develop confidence in strengths they scarcely realized they possessed."

Burdick-Risser said she appreciates the way Doezema drew connections between the past and the present, and navigated those topics in a way that allowed students to reach their own conclusions about politically-charged issues. "He never made it a thing of 'Democrat versus Republican' ... I found that really nice.

It was just history for what it was" stated Burdick-Risser.

Pearse affirmed this sentiment and stated the world needs "non-mythologized, non-romanticized, non-ideological history." Otherwise, "All we do is delude ourselves and confirm our own prejudices, and fail to understand our own place in the world, or why others act as they do—and so fail to anticipate what is likely to happen next." "[A]s one historian has put it," says Doezema, "history is 'an act of self-consciousness.' History can make us all more discerning Christians."

Howard said, if Doezema decided to leave Houghton after retiring in the spring he will be missed. He said, "There are very few people I'll miss as much as Bill." ★

WORD ON THE STREET



"I usually only work 2-3 hours per week so I'm not really affected, but I can understand other students' frustration."

-Melissa Bell, Senior

"I haven't gotten my first paycheck yet, so I don't know how much I've been affected"

-Joe Miner, Junior



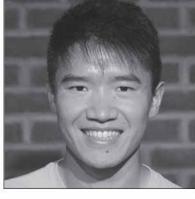
"I work so that I can go to school and those hours enable me to buy food for the week. I'm going to have to choose between my two jobs."

-Tori Walker, Senior

"How Has the Reduction of Work Study Hours Affected You?"

"I haven't really been affected."

-Jonathan Niles Junior



"I have not been affected. I have actually had to turn down jobs offered to me."

-Ruthanna Wantz, Senior

"I committed to do Phonathon as well as my welcome desk job, but now I can't because the hours got cut."

-Dana Kelly, Junior



COACHES from page 1

were so warm and welcoming, unlike any other college visit I had ever been on."

Upon graduating, he spent a number of years as a member of the coaching staff at various institutions, such as Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Hofstra University, and Rutgers University. He worked in various roles such as player development and scouting. McMullen, whose father coached high school for 35 years and currently coaches at the college level, said his father impacted his passion for coaching. "I always knew I wanted to coach.

I saw the impact that he had on the players' lives and saw a lot of his players come back 10, 15, 20 years down the road and thank him, which was really meaningful for me" said McMullen. His coaching philosophy, which is centered on people and relationships, is part of the reason Johnathon Stowe '17 thinks McMullen will do well in Houghton. "I believe he is a great fit for Houghton, his strong spiritual leadership is needed here, and I like the way he cares for his players," Stowe said.

Women's softball coach, Sinclair, graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a bachelor's degree in business management and a minor

in sports management. While there, she played softball and started working with players through clinics and camps to refine their skills. "I fell in love with helping people get better and reach their goals athletically," said Sinclair. Her first year, with the help of two of her teammates, she started Bonnies Athletes for Christ. Similar to Fellowship for Christian Athletes (FCA), it started with five student athletes having weekly bible studies. It eventually grew into about 25-30 athletes, and in her senior year became a chapter of FCA. Last summer, she coached on a travel team out of Binghamton, New York, where she the focus was on-field coaching and running

through game situations. Taylor Sile '19, believes these skills will be an asset to the team. "I believe that Coach Katie will push each and every member of the team to new levels of play and I am very excited to see our growth" said Sile.

Lastly, the men's head lacrosse coach, Lundeen has been living in southern Maryland teaching middle school social studies teacher for seven years, while service as the assistant men's lacrosse coach and offensive coordinator at the College of Southern Maryland (CSMD). Although he never played lacrosse at the collegiate level, he has coached at all levels. Lundeen also has experience with lacrosse as a new

program, as he worked closely with head coach for the CSMD started the lacrosse program for the school. While Lundeen is currently at CSMD, he will become a full time coach on campus for the first week of October. Lundeen is excited to join Houghton and stated, "As the coach, I am excited about leading the members of the men's lacrosse team as they grow physically, mentally and spiritually during their four years at Houghton." Paul Chapman '17, is also excited for Lundeen to start coaching. "I truly believe he will be successful as the new head coach. We are all beyond excited to get this new era of Houghton lacrosse underway." ★

Learning to Love Our Neighbors

Annual Faith and Justice Symposium Addresses Immigration and Refugee Issues

SOPHIA ROSS

Every year, the Faith and Justice Symposium challenges Houghton College students and the wider Houghton community to consider a social justice issue through the lens of the Christian faith they share. From Wednesday, September 21 to Friday, September 23, this year's Symposium, entitled "Loving our Neighbors," will explore immigration and refugee issues with two keynote speakers, a coffeehouse, four workshops, and the screening of a documentary.

The selection of a topic for the Faith and Justice Symposium is based both on student feedback from the past year and on what subjects are timely in wider society. This year's topic was chosen by the Symposium Advisory Team, which includes Brian Webb, Sustainability Coordinator, and Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, Professor of Religion. According to LaCelle-Peterson, they agreed that the issue of immigrants and refugees was relevant due to the cur-

rent political climate and refugee crisis.

"According to the UN there are over 65 million displaced people in the world, over 21 million of whom are refugees," said La-Celle Peterson. "Christians around the world are reflecting on what they can do and what churches can do to help displaced people rebuild their lives. We want to be part of that effort." She continued, "Even aside from a discussion of refugees, the issue of immigration is on people's minds, especially because of the election cycle we're in. We wanted the Symposium to be a place where we can move beyond the soundbites which are often misleading or simply playing on fears, and reframe the discussion on Jesus' call to love our neighbor."

Webb and LaCelle-Peterson also invited the two keynote for this year's Symposium: Jenny Yang, the Vice President of Advocacy and Policy at World Relief, and Danny Carroll, the Blanchard Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College.

"We always try to get a diversity of keynote speakers," said Webb. "We wanted people who could approach it from

different angles. Jenny Yang is a well-known advocate on immigration justice issues. She's highly regarded in Christian justice related circles on this issue. Danny Carroll comes more from an academic perspective, and has more of a theological background. He is a highly regarded scholar on biblical approaches to immigration."

Yang will speak in chapel on Wednesday, while Carroll will both speak in chapel on Friday morning and will lead one of four workshops on Friday afternoon. The other three workshops will be led by speakers with a variety of perspectives on immigration and refugee issues. A representative from the Wesleyan Church will discuss the denomination's approach, while an individual from the Christian Reform Church's "Blessing Not Burden" campaign will discuss their organization's attempt to reframe the immigration debate in terms of immigrants as a blessing to society. Another speaker who works in economic development in Buffalo will talk about how immigrants contribute to positive economic benefits of the country to which they immigrate.

"The workshops bring the opportunity to interact more closely with the speakers," said Emily Barry '17, who is part of this year's Symposium Student Planning Committee. "It's you in a classroom, so it's more personal. They open it up for questions, and you can pick their brains how you want."

On Thursday, the Symposium will present an "Engaging the Arts" coffeehouse organized by the student planning committee. It will feature live music and stories from Felix Madji, a second-year student at the Houghton in Buffalo campus and a refugee from the Central African Republic, as well as an art auction, participatory art project and free coffee. The Houghton College Gospel Choir will also make an appearance. This event is intended to help convey the human aspect of immigration and refugee issues, which is an overwhelming goal for this year's Symposium.

"My hope is that students would see that these are real people with real stories," said Webb. "Their stories matter, and we as Christians can value their stories and experiences in a way that uplifts the individual.

Instead of arguing the ideology of an issue, I'd rather that people experience the real-life stories of ordinary people, and then frame their perspectives on the issue around what they learn."

The wish to showcase the stories of real people is also why the Symposium will screen the film "Documented" on Friday. The documentary features Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist who came out as an undocumented immigrant in a New York Times Magazine cover story in 2011. Webb believes Vargas's story is an especially powerful one.

"His story is actually what changed me 180 degrees on the immigration issue," said Webb. "Just hearing his experiences as an undocumented individual helped me see this a really different light than I had grown up with."

The Symposium, "Immigration and Refugees: Loving our Neighbors," will begin on Wednesday in chapel with Jenny Yang, and continue through Friday. The full schedule is available on the Houghton College website.★



Photo
of the
Week

BEST OF THE
SUMMER

Abigail Fulmer '19

New RDs Take On Traditions and Values of Residence Halls

KATHRYN MOORE

This fall, Houghton College welcomed two new Residence Directors (RDs); A.C. Taylor joined Shenawana Hall and Beth Phifer became a part of Lambein Hall. As RDs, Taylor and Phifer will oversee their respective residence halls and are each responsible for the maintenance and residents of that building. They will report to Marc Smithers, the Assistant Dean of Students for Residence Life and Programs. With their past experiences in Residence Life and shared enthusiasm for the job, both Phifer and Taylor are well prepared for their new positions.

Phifer has known of Houghton College for many years, with one of her favorite college professors having graduated from Houghton. Her undergraduate work focused on counseling, but Phifer said that she felt led by God to do work in Residence Life. That work is not unfamiliar to Phifer as she was a Resident Assistant during her



NATHAN MOORE

Beth Phifer, left, and A.C. Taylor, right, are the new Residence Directors of Lambein and Shenawana.



NATHAN MOORE

undergraduate studies at Grove City College in Pennsylvania, and most recently she acted as an RD at Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia. Last year, she applied to Christian campuses with openings for an RD closer to her hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She wanted to work at a Christian establishment because she also received her education at a Christian liberal arts institution.

"In a Christian setting there is

more freedom to help shape and develop students as followers in Christ," Phifer said. She added that she is excited to talk about Jesus with her residents. Phifer plans to continue the work started by Krista Maroni, the previous RD of Lambein, in establishing a stronger sense of identity within the women's dorm.

"There are three core values that Lambein embodies," Phifer explained. "Those are compas-

sion, courage, and wisdom." She hopes to emphasize these three qualities throughout the year.

Taylor, who graduated from Houghton in 2014, is also thrilled to be an RD at Houghton. Like Phifer, Taylor worked in Residence Life as an RA when he was in college. His wife was looking to work in the admissions office at Houghton, so when a job opportunity as the RD of Shenawana Hall came up, Taylor applied.

"It is so great to be able to come back to Houghton and the amazing community that is," he said. "As much of a buzzword as [community] is, it really is valid and unique. The kind of relationships among people that occur here really don't happen everywhere."

While a student and RA, Taylor lived in Rothenbuhler Hall. Even so, he is excited to work in Shenawana and experience the rich tradition of the building. He respects the culture and the identity that is Shenawana, and this year hopes to better understand the history and traditions that the dorm has to offer those who live there.

Both RDs expressed a desire to get to know their residents on a personal level.

"I am really excited to get to know each of my residents, although it is challenging to get to know every person," said Phifer. "If my apartment is open please stop by, I really mean that. I want to highlight and bold that statement. I love opportunities to get to know people. I want to be there for them and be a person that they feel they can go to for support." ★

SHAPING THE FUTURE: HOUGHTON STUDENT SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

SARAH VANDE BRAKE

Passing up an internship for a paid summer job may be common among college students, but it often means missing out on valuable experiences. This summer, Houghton students Chandler Jones '17 and Melissa MacLean '17 took internships in their fields, and agree that their experiences have shaped how they see their future career path.

Jones, an international development and communications major, interned at International Justice Mission (IJM), a Christian human rights organization headquartered in D.C. She worked as the Community Mobilization Intern.

"In any country where the legal system is corrupt, IJM goes in to help restore justice," Jones said. According to the organization's website, IJM is an anti-slavery organization that combats violence against the poor and vulnerable. Jones participated in lobbying congressmen and senators about the Ending Modern Slavery Act while interning for IJM. This role fit well for

Jones, who hopes to one day work as an international human rights lawyer.

Jones added her experience at IJM made her feel sure that she was called to fight for justice through the legal field. She had known of the organization since her mission trip to Cambodia after graduating high school, where she helped care for victims of human trafficking. When she discovered that IJM rescued the girls from brothels, Jones began to pay attention to IJM's efforts and dreamed of working there. Gary Hagen, the author of her favorite book, *The Good News About Injustice*, is the CEO of IJM. According to Jones, her internship built her communication skills and confidence, while also enriching her spiritually.

"Being with people my age who are so motivated and want to change the world is so inspiring," she said.

Meanwhile, MacLean, also an international development and communications major, worked as an intern at two organizations throughout the summer, Heritage Christian Services and Motion Intelligence. MacLean worked under the director of communications at Heritage, which is an organization that provides services for people with autism spectrum disorder in Rochester.



NATHAN MOORE



NATHAN MOORE

Houghton students Chandler Jones '17 (left) and Melissa MacLean '17 (right) were able to explore their chosen fields through internships in D.C. and Rochester, NY over the summer.

She also interned at Motion Intelligence, a company that does groundbreaking research with the State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical Center in the field of diagnostics. Motion Intelligence focuses on concussion testing, autism, and athletic performance. MacLean acted as a freelance videographer for the organization.

"It's been an incredible opportunity to explore my interests

and get a genuine feeling for whether this would be a good fit for me," MacLean said of both internship experiences. She said she realized she enjoys working for a specific cause like autism spectrum. "It's molded my spiritual life, molded my work ethic, molded my compassion, honed my professional skills, and given me opportunities to network," she said.

Both Jones and MacLean

said their internships helped them to see what kind of work they felt passionate about and strengthened the skills they will need for the future.

"Even if you get an internship in something that has nothing to do with what you do in the future, that networking is so incredible," MacLean said. "There's nothing bad I can say that came out of the experience." ★

The “Good” and “Bad” Boxes Are Broken



NATE MOORE

MICAH CRONIN

I'll be honest: I generally hold people I don't like in quite low regard. By quite low I mean bottom-of-the-well low, so low that there's nothing worth hearing from them. Those I hold in high regard, on the other hand, can do and say no wrong, or if they do I, in my grace, grant them the benefit of the doubt.

I prefer people to be either angels or demons, sinners or saints, good or bad. I think that makes me normal.

We all think like that, don't we? It's so convenient to sort people into the good box or the bad box, and then place the boxes very far away from each other because there shall be no fraternizing between the two boxes. No one who is voting for the candidate I despise could be a basically decent, honorable human being, so into the bad box she goes. And certainly some guy who thinks differently about Queer issues or race or feminism has nothing of any value to say to me, which is fine because my bad box has room for scum like him anyway. My good box, on the other hand, is full of people who I've deemed okay, safe, convenient, and right, because they agree with me. Really, my good box is full of people who do nothing for me but validate my existence because

“The problem with this system (besides the fact that its sole purpose is to fuel the ego) is that it strips the humanity away from the people in our lives, good and bad.”

“Are we humans capable of great evil or marvelous good? Our box system would have us choose...”

I'm insecure and don't want to admit it. But that's normal. (Right?)

The problem with this system (besides the fact that its sole purpose is to fuel the ego) is that it strips the humanity away from the people in our lives, good and bad.

On the one hand, people are broken and contemptible. So much so, in fact, that most make a pretty good case for keeping the bad box in business. I mean, Brock Turner raped an unconscious woman behind a dumpster and a whole flock of equally icky people rushed to minimize his

atrocities- including the judge who sentenced him to a measly six months in prison and the journalists who called him a “swimmer” instead of a rapist and reported his Olympic level swim times, as if that information was pertinent to the telling of a heinous crime.

But on the other hand, people are so, so good. Consider the collective national effort among the people of Denmark to protect their Jewish citizens during the Nazi occupation. And what of those firefighters and police officers who rushed into the burning Twin Towers on September 11th, 2001?

Are we humans capable of great evil or marvelous good? Our box system would have us choose, but the rational among us know that our system isn't adequate, only easy. We don't let ourselves consider whether those heroic 9/11 first responders had any wife-beating alcoholics in their ranks, nor do we find it feasible to imagine that Brock Turner's

judge probably has children or nieces and nephews who think the world of him. Do these probabilities negate the value of these individuals' actions? No. But they do negate the boxes.

So what are we left with?

Perhaps we're left with a bucket. No other sorting option, just a bucket. And that bucket holds all of us humans, at once complex and simple, broken and good, sinner and saint. The best- and worst, if you ask me - thing about the bucket system is that it calls us to compassion, discernment and relationship with those around us, those who we are forced to fraternize with because they're in our bucket. Be it glorious or a chore (or a glorious chore), this is what it means to be a human; acknowledging each other for all of our complexities, good, bad, and complicated.★

Micah is a senior theology major.

The Crumbling of the Church Family



ANTHONY BURDO

ALANNA PARIS

The Church has always been big on family. Many churches preach about how today's society has lost the value of family. The divorce rate is thrown around and pastors have people raise their hands to see who actually eats dinner together. While this is a lovely sermon that I can't disagree with, I am finding it increasingly hypocritical. Not because

I find that Christians do not have whole, healthy families, but because the Church itself has ceased to be a family.

This issue never bothered me until a third grader at my home church came up to me and informed me he was angry he could not go to 'his church'. When I told him that he was at his church, he explained that his church was the children's church and that I had a separate church in 'the big room'. This completely horrified me. He essentially viewed the children's church as separate, and did not realize that he was in the same church family as his parents.

What does that teach children? What does that teach anyone? It can create, in the most toxic of environments, an intense self-centeredness and narrow-minded attitude. How are we supposed to grow and stretch if we are only interacting with our own age group

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“The one place where ages should mingle and find solidarity in Christ, where Christians engage with and learn from different demographics... is gone.”

or demographic? I don't have an issue with a Bible study geared towards a demographic for that relation and encouragement to happen. I don't have an issue with specialized groups. The main issue is that worship should include the entire congregation.

Church worship is meant to be done as a family. I find it discomfoting that it is increasingly prevalent for churches to be split by age. It usually tends to look like this: infants go to the nursery, preschool/elementary aged children spend the ENTIRE church service in a classroom

having “children's church,” some churches put teens in a “youth service” and, even worse, there are churches having a separate church service for college aged students.

The one place where ages should mingle and find solidarity in Christ, where Christians engage with and learn from different demographics, where we learn to worship together whether or not we personally enjoy drum-kits or liturgy or gospel music, is gone. Families outside of church include the mixture of ages, the compromise of living with those of a different generation, so why shouldn't the church have that too? Shouldn't the church be a mirror of what God intended a family to be? We use the word family because it's all-inclusive and signifies a personable and close relation, so why make church age exclusive?

To give a solution of how

I feel congregational worship should look, let me start with an example I have witnessed while at Houghton. One of the ministries that I have encountered the last few years is Sojourner's Mennonite. While their style of worship is unusual and not meant for every worshipper, there is one thing that every church can take away from them: their focus on family. Children help pick out songs for worship, the older members might bring food to share or play an instrument, college aged congregants may lead worship. It's communal. Church should be a place where all ages feel welcome and included. I think a church should have congregational worship that does not focus on an age group, but worship that clearly recognizes the diversity of ages represented and respects them. Worship that makes one look at what they can give instead of what they can take and, in many cases, that simply starts with blending age groups together.★

Alanna is a junior double major in Spanish and intercultural studies

From the Editor's Desk: Stirring the Pot



NATE MOORE

DANI EATON

We scroll through our Facebook feed, sighing at our racist uncle that's sharing an opinion written by one of his friends, riddled with inaccurate facts and stereotypes. On the flip side, we shake our head at an article we read, although accurate and factual, because it clashes with our view of the world, irritating us. We make one crucial mistake when we continue to scroll though, we

encourage a lack of dialogue and discussion that has the potential to help us grow and educate ourselves.

I could go into a rant about how we need to listen to one another with love and compassion, but we've all heard that before, and more than once. Once we've made the decision to listen, we need to take the next step and make the decision to respond. Response is a crucial part of educating ourselves and playing our part in bettering society, both as people and as Christians.

We should take every opportunity for discourse presented to us as a chance to grow and challenge our views. Challenging your views solidifies that you not only, are firmly grounded in your

“...use the paper to remind yourself to develop your opinions and strengthen your beliefs.”

beliefs, but also that you have a rounded, educated opinion. If we are privileged enough to have opportunities and sources to grow our knowledge, then we shouldn't waste them.

This, fellow students, is my challenge to you from myself as editor-in-chief of The Star. I would ask that you use The Star as a platform to educate yourself and others through educated discourse. If an opinion published in The

Star challenges your personal convictions, ask to write an opinion, comment on the article online, or, better yet, write a letter to the editor.

While The Star may not have an opinion written by your racist uncle, it is just as easy to ignore. Stars practically litter the campus, you don't give it a second thought as you toss the version you got after chapel in the garbage or leave it on your table at lunch. It's easy to vent to your friends, or complain via Yik Yak about how ridiculous someone's opinion is. Instead of forgetting about it, leaving it behind, or letting your voice be lost in the anonymity of an app, use the paper to remind yourself to develop your opinions and strengthen your beliefs.

Don't be afraid to be challenged and grow. The

Star serves as a place for voices of students, staff, and community members to be heard. My hope is that The Star to be a vehicle for a variety of opinions and perspectives, whether they be similar or contrasting. Don't be afraid to stir the pot, ruffle some feathers, and most importantly, promote discussion. So go ahead; comment on that racist uncle's Facebook post, just make sure it is educated, thoughtful, and compassionate.★

Dani is a senior double major in writing and communication.

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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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Artist of the Week

Michael Sievers

//junior communications, media arts and design major



NATHAN MOORE



“My work reflects a common curiosity for the passage of time, and our relationship in and to time.”

Titles & Media

clockwise descending

Landscape 1, *digital photography*

Landscape 2, *digital photography*

Cityscape, *digital photography*

Untitled, *color restoration -*

photo composite

