

**PRESIDENT**  
News, p. #1

**SPORTS**  
News, p. #1

**BRIDGING THE GAP**  
News, p. #2

**RADICAL LOVE**  
Houghton Voices, p. #3

**LANTHORN LITE**  
Columns, p. #4

## To Choose a President

BURTON BREWSTER

The search for a new president has been underway since mid-November, but we are still some ways away from knowing who the successor to President Mullen will be. So instead of speculating on the future, let's look back at how previous presidents were selected.

Houghton was founded in 1883 by Willard J. Houghton.

However, Willard Houghton was not the first president. In fact, Houghton lacked a president for its first 25 years. During this time, Houghton Seminary (not a college yet) was run by principals. According to "The History of Church-Controlled Colleges in the Wesleyan Methodist Church," Houghton had six principals. The longest serving principal staying in office for twelve years, and the shortest serving one staying only a few days. Professor James S. Luckey was one of these principals.

It is well known that Professor Luckey was the first president of Houghton College, but he was not the



PHOTO FROM THE STAR'S ARCHIVES

After 15 years in the role, President Mullen announced on October 20th, 2020 that she would be stepping down, kicking off the search for a replacement.

first choice. Professor H. W. McDowell was originally elected to be principal in 1908, however, "his natural modesty and distrust of his own ability" caused him to seek a replacement. So, he reached out to Professor Luckey to take his place.

Luckey had served as principal in the past before leaving to pursue further education. Regardless, Luckey accepted McDow-

ell's offer, but with a heavy heart since he was in the middle of learning at Harvard. As he explained, "One of the hardest things I ever had to do in my life was to give up that second year in Harvard."

Luckey's sacrifice was not in vain. He transformed Houghton Seminary into Houghton College, constructed many buildings for students, and went into history as our first president.

Luckey served for the next 29 years, up until the day he died.

In 1937, with the passing of Luckey, the college ran into a dilemma with choosing a successor. As explained in "Deo Volente: A Biography of Stephen W. Paine," two candidates stood out as ideal presidents: Prof. Claude Ries, the Greek and Bible Professor, and Prof. Stephen Paine, the Academic Dean.

Paine was only 28 at the time and was receiving job offers from other colleges. So, it seemed like Prof. Ries was the clear candidate. However, in a shocking turn of events, Ries stepped down because he wanted to continue teaching and preaching. At first, the committee in charge was skeptical of Paine. But, with the support of the students and faculty, they convinced the committee to accept Paine as president. As a result, Paine became the youngest college president in United States history at the time (the current record is held by President Leon Botstein of Bard College, NY who became president at 23).

Paine served for longer than any other president in the college's history, 35 years in total. Then, in 1972, he was forced into retirement due to Parkinson's disease. As such, a committee was formed to find a replacement. Within 24 hours of deciding on candidates, they offered the job to Dr. Wilbur Dayton. This made him the

See **PRESIDENT** page #2

## The Return Of Sports

ERIN MAGGIO

With the women's basketball team taking the court against Elmira College on March 6, the 357 day streak of no Houghton Highlander teams competing will be snapped. With the spring 2020 season being halted due to COVID-19 and the fall 2020 seasons being pushed to this spring, no teams have competed since March 10, 2020, when the men's lacrosse team came away with a 21-12 defeat over the Keystone Giants and the women's lacrosse team bested the Hilbert Hawks 23-4.

With fall teams having their seasons pushed to the spring, many of them have not hit the field in well over a year, including the men's and women's soccer teams and women's field hockey team, who have not played a game in well over 450 days, since their



COURTESY OF HOUGHTON COLLEGE ATHLETICS.

Houghton defends against Elmira's offense in March 2 matchup.

last competitions on November 2, 2019.

However long the drought of competition riddled with uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Houghton's athletic conference, the Empire 8, has unrolled plans for all 23 Empire 8 sponsored sports to hold competition per their Instagram post on March 1. This arrangement includes fall, winter, and

spring sports all playing in the next few months.

"The approach to the spring seasons for all our sports has been very unique to say the least!" Houghton's Athletic Director Matthew Webb commented.

Some of this uniqueness comes from the fact that fall and winter team sports will be having abbreviated schedules, most playing just fellow con-

ference teams. While normal seasons in the fall typically span nine to 10 weeks, the seasons this spring will be about four to five weeks in length.

Another aspect of the season which differs from the past is the "opt-out" process which the Empire 8 has created because of the unique impact that the pandemic has on many teams and institutions. Teams from across the conference have had to

opt out due to roster size implications, whether because of dual-sport athletes, students not returning to campuses this spring, or actual COVID related issues like positive cases and quarantine.

In terms of Houghton specifically, two teams have opted out of competition this spring. The first of these is the men's lacrosse team, who, according to Webb, "actually initiated this response as they came to the [athletic department] with their preference to just compete internally this spring." Webb added that there were many factors which led to this. Though they won't be playing a full Empire 8 schedule, it is possible that they may play a few games.

The other Houghton team opting out is the women's basketball team. This decision rests on the fact that the team has a small roster with many dual sport athletes which makes choices limited. Rather than a full confer-

See **SPORTS** page #2

## Houghton Welcomes New Program with Ithaca College

ANNA CATHERMAN

An innovative new Mayterm will bring 15 lucky Houghton students an opportunity to develop communications and relationship skills that will help them better relate to people with different religious, political, and social views.

"Bridging the Gap" is a nationwide initiative which pairs students from Christian and secular colleges and trains them on how to better listen to those with other worldviews. "People often focus on how they don't feel heard, but there's not a lot of time taken to then focus on hearing other people," noted Nuk Kongkaw, director of the Mosaic Center.

For Mayterm, Houghton students will be teamed up with students from nearby Ithaca College. Ithaca College's Executive Director for Student Equity and Belonging, Herald Osorto, is enthusiastic about the partnership. When asked what he is looking forward to most, he told the STAR that he's excited to bring together two Higher Ed institutions that most people don't

think could come together. "[Y]ou have an institution like ours that is a non-sectarian secular institution. There is no religious affiliation from our onset. That's not part of our history, necessarily. And then you have an institution like Houghton that has a particular religious identity that has rooted who it is and its values in the world. And to...unpack that and then see what it looks like to bring our students together, I just think that's an incredible opportunity. Oftentimes, we're not seen as being able to come together. And here we are, through this course," he explained.

Founded by Simon Greer, "Bridging the Gap" began as a partnership between conservative Christian college Spring Arbor University and Oberlin College, a liberal secular institution. In January 2020, 15 students - 10 from Oberland, 5 from Spring Arbor - got together for a winter term program of "courageous conversations." Since then, a total of five schools have participated in "Bridging the Gap," with four more hosting the program in May.

"Bridging the Gap" alum Kristina Grace was

enthusiastic in her correspondence with the STAR. "My experience in the original program was life changing. It was a program that exceeded my expectations and something I will cherish for a lifetime." She graduated from Spring Arbor University in May 2020 and has since joined Bridging the Gap as their partnership coordinator, a job in which she puts the skills she learned in the program to use every day.

Like everything else this school year, "Bridging the Gap" will look a little different than it would under normal circumstances. Students from Houghton and Ithaca will most likely be working in groups at their respective schools and utilizing Zoom for interschool interactions. Kongkaw noted that activity boxes have been put together so students have tangible activities they can do even through distance learning. The program's main topic will be immigration, an issue that impacts both schools heavily. There will be a panel of experts on hand to learn from. Students will then discuss amongst themselves, utilizing the

conversational skills taught.

Registration for "Bridging the Gap" runs from Monday, Feb. 22 until the program is full. Those

interested are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. The course will run from May 24 - June 11, and the fee is the normal Mayterm class rate. ★

### STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

In the lead-up to the Bridging the Gap mayterm, the Mosaic Center has been hosting panels and events to promote conversation on topics around immigration, refugees, and New Americans.

They have also provided cash prizes to be awarded to finalists in an essay competition of responses to these topics, to be printed in and judged by the STAR.

However, we at the STAR want to be sure that as much of this as is possible is in the hands of you, the students. As such, the judging will be conducted by a panel of judges nominated by your choice.

Scan this QR code or go

to the link below to

nominate a faculty

member or fellow

student who you think

would be well-equipped

to judge essays on

these topics:

<https://forms.gle/XemVpqsanjVMFUmX6>



### PRESIDENT from page #1

quickest chosen president in college history. Ironically, he was also the quickest resigning president. After 4 years, he moved to Jackson, Mississippi to teach and left the campus with the quest of finding another president.

Little is known about how President Daniel Chamberlain was chosen after Dayton. According to past issues of The Houghton Star, he was accepted to the campus in September of 1976 and immediately made himself known as a man who loved sports and wanted the various elements of college life to compliment each other instead of compete with one another.

In February 2005 he announced his retirement during a chapel service. Interestingly, the process of finding a replacement president had been in the works since 2000 when the The Presidential Search Committee was formed to replace the previous committee which consisted of faculty, trustees, and students.

And that brings us to our current outgoing leader, President Mullen. "My journey to the presi-

dency was not at all the typical one—nor an easy one," she explained in an interview. "I viewed my primary calling in Christian higher education to be in the classroom as a professor. I never intended to become an administrator. The lesson I learned from this is that sometimes God's calling is made more clear looking back than looking forward."

In the months that followed, Mullen worked with Chamberlain to ensure a smooth transition. "He was always available for questions and advice and counsel after I came into the office," she said. "I want to be that kind of support for the person who comes after me—always available, but never in the way!"

The current selection committee is not available for questioning, however, the process seems to be going smoothly. According to the Houghton College website, the new president will be announced this March or April. ★

### SPORTS from page #1

ence schedule, they will be hitting the court for three competitions, the first of which will be the aforementioned contest against the Elmira Soaring Eagles. The other two will be on March 4 and 9, against Alfred University and a rematch with Elmira College, respectively.

More than 230 student athletes will compete for Houghton this spring. But with this opportunity comes the responsibility of strict adherence to COVID protocols to keep themselves, their teams, opponents, faculty, staff, fellow students, and community members safe. These include wearing a mask at all required times, social distancing, attending all scheduled COVID-19 tests, and participating in any necessary contact tracing.

Along with such protocol, the conference and Houghton's Athletic Department have taken increased measures to protect all involved. On February 16 the conference announced their plans to proceed with spring competition,

along with information concerning safety measures. "The Empire 8 has adopted more robust testing standards than the NCAA guidelines for intermediate and low risk sports in the interest of student-athlete health and safety," the press release shared.

Chuck Mitrano, the Empire 8's Commissioner, celebrated the resumption of conference competition on Instagram; "Nothing great is achieved without persistence and teamwork. The return to athletics competition has been challenging but we are thrilled to have preserved opportunity for many of our fall and winter student-athletes.

Thanks to the energy and collaborative leadership of our presidents, directors of athletics, senior woman administrators, athletic trainers, sports information directors and coaches, the day has arrived! This is truly a statement about our commitment to the Empire 8 student-athletes!" he remarked.

While no in-person attendance is allowed at intercollegiate events as per New York State guidelines, fans can follow along with most home contests through Stretch Internet and be on the lookout for live streams from opponents in the case of away games. ★

### Interested in Contributing to the STAR?

Just email us at STAR@houghton.edu! Contributing to the paper can be a great way to get experience in media and journalism or just with expressing your ideas, and as way to be involved with the latest goings-on on campus. Even if you want to be involved but don't feel confident in your writing abilities, get in touch! Our editors can work with you to give advice and help get your piece polished up!



# The Only Kind of "Radical" God Wants Us to Embody: Radical Love

BY BRIANNA ENGLER

Out of all the commandments that Jesus could have focused on during his ministry and time on Earth, he chose the two commandments centered around love. Not only did he speak of love, but he also lived it. He did so as an example of how us Christians should love each other. Yet, as I look around today, I seldom see this radical love. As Christians, we are called to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and we are failing. This is the part where you may say, "But I love everyone." If you are truly honest with yourself, do you though? This radical love I am talking about is more than a surface feeling or description of your agreeable personality. This is action. You may be kind to someone to their face, or tolerate their presence when you are near them, but what about when you aren't around them? Under your breath do you say "ugh, those [democrats/republicans/fill in the blank]?" Do you talk to your like-minded friends about how wrong someone else is? I have. I am writing this as someone who is in the midst of figuring out how to love radically. I am failing, but I am striving to be better.

It is all over the news: we are an extremely divided country. We love our neighbors, as long as they think just like us. Any other individual is not one's neighbor, but rather an evil being. We

love to demonize the out-group almost as much as we love our ingroup. Let's make this a little more convicting with examples. Have you ever heard, or said, "All those democrats are baby killers," or "All those republicans are homophobic?" How are these statements helping anyone? Answer: they are not. Why are we all high and mighty? Jesus lived among the sinners, he loved them and cared for them. One thing Jesus did not do was demonize them or look at them as lost causes. Yet we, each and ev-

*"We are Christians first and foremost, our political party is not, or at least should not be, a large part of our identity, especially when compared to the image of God that we bear."*

not mean a conversation in which you are trying to disprove the other by demolishing them, nor do I mean a

idea that I know the whole truth? Currently, we all believe we have the truth, but we do not. The only way to get to the Truth is to communicate with others and be willing to learn and grow together.

Just to reiterate, I am not advocating for everyone to "agree to disagree." We should be able to disagree respectfully and still learn from that. In addition to this, part of radically loving someone is helping them. If someone you know has been given misinformation, you should call that out. Just a few examples of topics that many people are misinformed on include COVID, the vaccine, and voter fraud. With so many variations of the truth swirling around, we may need to be directed to reliable sources. Ones like NPR and The Wall Street Journal are fairly neutral and are fact reporting (according to Media Bias Chart, 2018). Using resources like this can be very helpful. One thing that is never helpful: telling someone they are not a Christian because of the political party they align with. Let us remember that we have all fallen short of the glory of

God but are saved through grace. We are Christians first and foremost, our political party is not, or at least should not be, a large part of our identity, especially when compared to the image of God that we bear. While I focused on political affiliations, since it is the most prominent area in which we are failing as Christians, we are divided in so many more ways. Be diligent at looking into yourself and work with God to pluck out any hatred. Work with those who see things differently than you in order to reach Truth. Above all, look to the greatest example of radical love and do likewise. ★

*Bri is a junior majoring in psychology with a minor in diversity studies.*

*"This radical love I am talking about is more than a surface feeling or description of your agreeable personality. This is action."*

ery one of us sinners, believe it is our right to point out the sins in others and ostracize them for it. To that I repeat the words of scripture, "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye." We are called to be the light of the earth, but do not believe that people see light when they look at Christians right now. Rather, they observe our hatred towards one another, our anger, our hypocrisy. Each side unwilling to seriously talk to the other. This is where we are failing. We should be able to have a conversation with those we disagree with. By this I do

conversation where you hide your true views. I mean an authentic conversation in which all parties are open to learning about the side of the person they are talking to. One in which each person is not yelling at one another but are trying to learn from the other. Do not get me wrong: this is hard. It is so difficult to hear another side when you so desperately believe that you are right. I have had these moments. Moments where I want to shake someone until they see the truth and scream "why don't you understand, why don't you see?" Where did I get the

**What do you think of Houghton's new website?**

Scan the code below or use the link: <https://forms.gle/Q4MpmMwb1HP2j9B57> to fill out a short (2-3 minute) survey on your thoughts!



Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT [owen.hardiman22@houghton.edu](mailto:owen.hardiman22@houghton.edu)

## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO [star@houghton.edu](mailto:star@houghton.edu)



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

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# The Houghton STAR

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# Lantern Lite

Ally Stevick

*“Villa #4”  
Katherine Stevick  
November 2018 Edition*

We have stopped wearing clothes indoors, in all this heat. Our house has become a grotto, almost dark (the curtains stretch to not-quite cover the windows)

Almost cool (the air conditioner rattles and beeps in frustration, icing over for no reason), A secluded cloister.

We nap in the dark, Sweaty bodies stretched out on hard beds.

We eat mangos in our underwear, leaning over the sink,

The juice running down our elbows.

The lizards in the shower, which began as enemies, have ended as friends.

They wriggle over my toes as red earth runs off and pools slowly in the grate.

(The lizards run. Why, I wonder, do creatures that live in a drain fear water?)

At night we lie in hot blackness,

(Sheets drawn over our heads, a pale fortress against flying things,

Listening to the whining of the AC and the chatter of frogs)

And pray for rain. Not for us, But for those who will remain behind

With no sinks to catch the mango juice that runs down their elbows,

Who lie in the dark and pray, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

**Editor’s Note:** “Villa #4” uses parentheses to great effect. While the narrative of the poem moves along from one idea to the next, the parentheses serve as a kind of picture painting to enhance our understanding of each part. I appreciate how this conveys some of the simultaneity of our own thoughts--allowing us to think of lying in blackness and praying for rain, while simultaneously being conscious of the frogs chattering and air conditioner making strange noises. The overall impression this poem gives me is one of generosity--a generous invitation to the reader to join the seclusion the poem describes, a willingness to become comfortable with shower lizards, the generosity of praying for rain for others, and the kind of generosity that is willingness to say “not my will, but thine.” This poem does a wonderful job of involving the reader in a life other than their own--which I believe is one of the greatest gifts a poem can bestow.

*“Tulip”  
Hope McKeever  
March 2016 Edition*

The gardener knows what to expect,  
But I, the frail observer,  
Perplexed by beauty,  
Find the blooming a shock  
And undeserved delight.

**Editor’s Note:** I love how “Tulip” captures the sense of incredulity and child-like wonder that we all have felt at some time or other when we encounter something beautiful. The word “shock” in the second to last line comes so unexpectedly--a monosyllable of hard sounds after the soft sound and idea of the word “blooming”--that it makes the reading a shock itself. I like how that conveys the feeling of surprise through both the meaning of the words and the experience of reading them. I also appreciate the reminder that this poem gives of how we can experience something when we encounter it with fresh eyes. Though we aren’t all gardeners, probably most of us are used to, and have come to take for granted, the re-emergence of flowers each spring. Reading this poem makes me contemplate again the near-miraculous quality of tulip bulbs--how they patiently wait under ground all winter until, at just the time, they mysteriously push their green shoots into the air, form buds from water and sunshine and then unfurl with color.

*Ally Stevick is a senior and an editor of the Houghton Lantern*

# Sudoku

FROM SUDOKUOFTHE DAY.COM

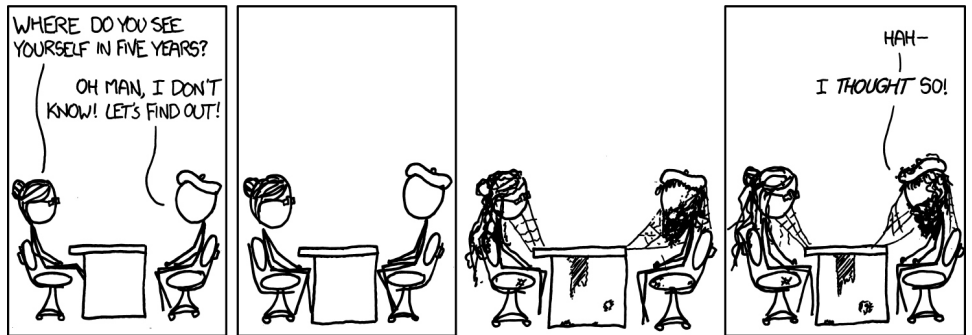
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	7		4	6		1	3	
		2	8					6
			1		9	7		

Solution will be printed in next week’s issue!

Have an interest you’d love to write about? CONTACT alexander.dearmore22@houghton.edu about writing a column!

# Comics

## XKCD - Five Years



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## XKCD - Kites



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