

Dr. Clem Appointed Dean of School of Music

COLLIN ZEHR

Dr. David Clem, assistant professor of Music History and previous Houghton graduate, was announced as the new Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College beginning in June of 2021.

Over the past academic year, the search for a new Dean for the Greatbatch School of Music has been underway since Dr. Arsenio Suzano stepped away from the position at the end of the 2020 Academic year. Since Dr. Suzano's departure, Dr. Timothy McGarvey, Professor of Conducting and Director of Instrumental Music Activities, has served as the interim Dean of the School of Music.

The Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music runs the school, including tasks concerning, "budget, overseeing a faculty/staff of 30 people, curriculum, policy, liaison with all other Houghton entities and our outside constituents, and the day to day administrative work," as described by Dr. McGarvey.



Dr. Clem plays the viola onstage.

COURTESY OF DR. DAVID CLEM

While serving in this position, Dr. McGarvey has worked alongside Dr. Sara Massey, assistant professor of Music Education. Dr. Massey described the search for a new Dean along-side a revisioning process for the Greatbatch School of Music. As liberal arts colleges all across the country deal with financial struggles, Houghton is alongside them in recognizing the need to adapt in

order to remain viable as an institution of higher education. In order to confront this challenge head on, Dr. Clem became the apparent choice to serve as Dean due to his creativity, intelligence, integrity, and forward thinking. "No one else could do it," described Dr. Massey.

Since his first experience with Houghton College as a Music Composition undergraduate student

about 20 years ago, Dr. Clem could tell that God had a hand in bringing the right people to Houghton and the School of Music. Dr. Clem described how the "great communities" fostered at Houghton were something that he wanted to contribute to. "The faculty are invested in students on a somewhat personal level" describes Dr. Clem, "[they] are preparing students for whatever is

down the road" and "how to live and practice a Christian lifestyle in the world of music." Dr. Clem was among one of the first groups of Graduate students to earn his Master's Degree from the Greatbatch School of Music as well.

Though Dr. Clem never necessarily sought an administrative role, he notes that he has "ended up in leadership positions throughout his life" and this is a role he is equipped to fill. Before accepting this position, Dr. Clem described his thought process as determining three things. As someone who often says "yes" to things asked of him, he has "had to learn to stop and think before saying yes. This means stopping and talking to God about things. Is this an obligation? Is this something I want? Is this what God wants?" After considering this, he said yes willingly. Since Dr. Clem is a current faculty member at the school of music and is already serving on the committee to re-envision

See DEAN page #2

Impending Revisions to the College Constitution

HANNAH FRASER

In a changing world, clarity and trust are vital for functioning organizations. The Houghton College Constitution outlines the roles of decision-making parties at the college and is currently being revised by a committee which the president organizes every ten years. The constitution is a document that summarizes the "shared governance" of the college, which "is the language that higher education uses to indicate the desire that all stakeholder voices are properly consulted and heard in the process of decision making," said President Mullen.

The committee is organized by the president and typically involves two

members of the Board of Trustees, two members of the Administration, and two members of the Faculty. As the president is preparing to step away, there is an urgency in ensuring that all is clarified, and nothing is left ambiguous.

The Board, Faculty, and Administration are the groups who are most directly involved in decision making. They each play a different role, and according to Professor Brandon Bate, "the Board of Trustees is charged with managing the financial aspects of the college, the Faculty with the academic aspects, and the Administration with seeing that these, and other constituencies within the college, work together in cooperative ways." A revised, up to date constitution allows for a governance system that is "nimble enough to make decisions swiftly," said Professor Benjamin Lipscomb. He added that trust is fundamental to this process so that all three groups are able to

See CONSTITUTION page #2

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Prohibition Work in Oswego Co., N. Y., and The National Prohibition Convention

C. FLOYD HESTER

This article was originally published in 1912, in volume 5, issue 1 of the Houghton STAR.

During the "summer-winter" months of July and August I pumped my bicycle over the hills, across the valleys, and beside the lakes of Oswego county; now sailing along on a smooth macadamized road, now driving thru the sifting sand, now witnessing to the intense heat along the parched highway, now moving with retarded speed thru mud and rain. In my personal canvass I interviewed 671 voters, enrolling 356 with the Prohibition Party, 120 of whom

were recruits, raised \$268.97 for the Prohibition Com. besides collecting \$49.50 on former pledges, took 145 subscriptions to the American Advance, and spoke in 13 churches.

As the National Prohibition convention was held at Atlantic City, N. J., July 10-12, it seemed best to take advantage of this great opportunity so near at hand. On July 9 occurred the National Convention and contest of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association to which M. R. Hamm of Colgate Univ., N. D. Cranmer of Syracuse Univ., and myself were delegates from N. Y. The large

Music Hall, of the "Steel Pier," which rests on pillars in the midst of the splash-ing waves and white caps of the Atlantic Ocean, was probably the most delightful place that could be found anywhere for the six orators to vie for National Honors in Prohibition Oratory. The chairman requested the audience not to interrupt the orators while speaking. But when Frank Wideman of Florida pealed forth like an Abraham Lincoln, the crowd could contain itself no longer and burst forth in cheers, shouts and hurrahs, greeting the young southerner with a sea of waving handkerchiefs. The judges decided this man had won the first prize of \$100, and H. G. McCain of Oregon second prize of \$50.

The following day, July 10, the Prohibition National Convention convened, and the temporary chairman,

See ARCHIVES page #2

ARCHIVES *from page #1*

C. N. Howard, "Rochester's little giant," gave his masterpiece, "The Handwriting on the Wall." The work of the convention moved on. About 1000 delegates were there to DO BUSINESS. And they DID business. Everyone was intensely interested in what was done. Prof. Chas. Scanlon of Penn., who is probably the ablest man in the party ranks, for presiding over a deliberative body, wielded the gavel most of the time. There was no need of armed policemen as was the case at the Chicago conv., nor were any of the liquor sellers enriched by the delegates as was the case at the Baltimore conv. Notice this quotation taken from the "Atlantic City Daily" of July 12, 1912: "Three days of almost continuous session and not a cigar or cigarette stub, with nary an empty bottle or tobacco stain on the pier, is a mighty testimony to the difference in the personnel [sic.] of the Prohibition delegates and those of the Chicago and Baltimore conventions."

A national platform was adopted which excels all other platforms out this fall, in dealing with the prominent questions

before the American people. Even Roosevelt with all his claims has not come up to our progressive principles. El W. Chafin and A. S. Watkins were chosen for our standard bearers.. MY pious brother, if you have been looking for a "Good Man" for whom to cast your vote this fall, you need not look any farther. Here he is. Behold, the man. Eugene Chafin was admitted to the bar of the U. B. Supreme Court in 1909, for three decades has been an ardent champion of Prohibition, and has for many years been accorded a place among the greatest orators America has produced. Besides this he is an author, a profound scholar, and an encyclopedic authority upon all phases of American history. He is a graduate of Wisconsin University.

Voter, you need not hesitate, for, as Capt. Stanley sang: "Eugene Chafin is the man to lead us on"

Although this is the third summer I have spent in this manner, yet the work does not grow old; for, as long as our government continues to sanction vice, legalize crime, and protect the greatest curse the world has ever known; so long, will the cause

of POLITICAL PROHIBITION be a live issue for which to fight and sacrifice. There is no alternative for us; we must destroy the legalized Liquor Traffic, or the LIQUOR TRAFFIC WILL DESTROY OUR NATION. Neither Debs, Taft, Roosevelt, now Wilson will do anything to relieve the dangerous situation. This fact is evidenced by the past and present of these men. True, the fourth named candidate advocates LOCAL OPTION, which policy has the effect of cutting off a lizard's tail with the unceasing result that the tail soon grows back again because the head and body are left untouched. We have been trying local option in one form or another for the last half century-but with what result? The Liquor Traffic today is stronger and mightier than in any time past. Does this look like we have been accomplishing much by our non partisan-local-option methods? Richmond P Hobson boldly declares [sic.] that the ALCOHOL CANCER can never be cured by gouging out little spots here and there. It must be a NATIONAL OPERATION. Thos. F. Marshall has told us plainly, what to do when he said: "The DEMOCRAT who be-

lieves that the Liquor Business, should be abolished entirely, should not vote for me. He should vote the Prohibition Ticket." The Indiana governor stated a fact which some of the rest of us need to set down in our day book to be reviewed on election morning. For instead of the word Democrat, in the above quotation, we may substitute "Republican," "Socialist," or "Progressive," and the statement will still be true when uttered by the respective candidate.

Voters, comrades, will you do your duty this fall and help win the approaching victory; for the PROHIBITION PARTY now FACES THE OPPORTUNITY OF ITS HISTORY.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

One of the articles that we had planned to publish this week in news had to be pushed back to our next issue, so this struck me as a good opportunity to reprint something from our archives of past issues (all available online at <https://dSPACE.houghton.edu/handle/hc/1> for anyone who is interesting in pursuing them further!). I stumbled upon this issue and decided to print it, not because it bears particular relevance to

the issues of our day - prohibition as such is a thing of the past, at least in our current time - but precisely because at first it would seem so much not to be relevant to the Houghton of today. However, I think it's a good reminder of the humanity of the past. Movements like prohibition and political figures like Theodore Roosevelt or Woodrow Wilson may all just seem like textbook datapoints to us in the present, but to the author of this piece they were just as real and relevant as Donald Trump or President Biden are to us today! In many ways, the world that this article was published into was a very different one, but the political fervor we see this student is surely no less than we ourselves might have to the causes we hold most important, though we may express such fervor in different ways. Circumstances may change, but the human condition changes very little.

Anyway, enough of my ramblings and I apologize for this mini-editorial in the midst of what is usually the news section. I just found this to be interesting, and I hope you have too!

- Josiah Wiedenheft, Co-Editor-in-Chief

DEAN *from page #1*

the school of music, he has been working closely with Dr. McGarvey, resulting in a more gradual transition. So, Dr. Clem has already begun learning about the administrative role that the Dean will fulfill.

The general consensus among other students in the Greatbatch School of Music is one of excitement for Dr. Clem to assume the role of Dean. Current Junior Education Major, Caleb Durant, described his excitement "because [Dr. Clem] knows the students really well and has a great rapport with the rest of the faculty. He is a great choice to represent the interests of the school and students."

The Greatbatch School of Music's mission statement expresses the goal to develop "musical excellence" in order to be "effective musical practitioners" and advocate "in the Christian community and in the broader world." When asked about his goals during his tenure as Dean, Dr. Clem described how "faith is a journey, not a destination. Excellence is the same. The bar

is constantly moving" and we must treat it as such. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Houghton College and the Greatbatch School of Music have had to embrace the importance of maximizing the resources available in order to maintain the high standards we seek to achieve.

Dr. Clem hopes to implement an array of summer programs within the Greatbatch School of Music including a summer music camp for high-school students. The graduate program will also expand to an online Music Education Masters Degree that will contain a summer intensive in-person component. The School of Music will be adding a new Worship Arts degree program that will hopefully benefit from summer songwriting classes with a workshop. Dr. Clem hopes that this summer program will allow students to learn and work with named CCM artists. Beyond the addition of summer programming, Dr. Clem wants to embrace the expertise within the School of Music to partner with local schools and churches to

provide opportunities for those not directly involved with Houghton College.★

CONSTITUTION *from page #1*

communicate and speak into the areas where they have expertise, but decisions can still be made in a timely manner.

The document should aim at a spirit of collaboration and give clarity of authority, which the committee works to achieve. Professor Bate said, "The committee that is meeting right now is charged with recommending changes to the constitution that we hope will improve the functioning of the college and ensuring compatibility with other foundational, legally binding documents. The recommendations will go to SGA, faculty, and staff for comments, and then to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

The document clarifies the importance of students' voices, and President Mullen said, "The college believes that it is important that students have a voice in

the governance of the college both because the college exists to serve students well, and because it is an educational opportunity for students to know how shared governance works." While these revisions have little impact on current students, they determine how decisions are made and who makes what decision, and students are invited to have a voice in this process through representatives in SGA.

Ken Schenk, who represents the Administration on the committee, said, "Students will be glad to know that the new Compact clearly states that you are the reason we exist. All the details of structure, all the clarifications of roles are to provide you with an academically excellent, Christ-centered education that equips you to lead and serve in a changing world." As the higher education world changes rapidly due to demographic downturns and COVID-19, a flexible constitution will benefit the college as it makes decisions and prepares for a change of presidency.★

Interested in Contributing to the STAR?

Just email us at [star@houghton.edu!](mailto: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 a 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!

Finding God Amidst Declining Mental Health



BY SAMANTHA GORSKI

When you think of the word “Dissonance,” what exactly comes to mind? Music majors might think of the sudden disharmony between chords. Psychology majors, like myself, think of contradictory beliefs or values. But either way, the word “dissonance” perfectly sums up my 2020 in a nutshell. Like everyone else you’ve heard talk about COVID-19, the pandemic took a toll on me that was completely unexpected. A lot of my expectations for the year went out the window, along with my sense of trust that things would hap-

pen the way that they were supposed to. But unlike everyone else, the pandemic also robbed me of my faith, which I unknowingly left unguarded. Only now, in the Spring of 2021, am I finally reclaiming what I internally lost and finding my way back to a God that never left.

If I were to ask the entire campus how COVID has impacted them, I don’t believe a single person would say their life got better last March. Social iso-

“In my fallen mess, He found me once again and lifted me up.”

lation and country-wide closings don’t exactly make for a happy lifestyle. But, for an introvert like me, I figured it wouldn’t be too bad. It could only last a couple weeks (which I’d peacefully spend at home), right?

Wrong. So wrong. I think once COVID ran into summertime, I knew something was

“I was making rash decisions, not caring about consequences because it seemed like the things I had planned for myself were gone anyways, so what could it hurt?”

different about myself. I was making rash decisions, not caring about consequences because it seemed like the things I had planned for myself were gone anyways,

so what could it hurt? I rarely thought about God, was skipping church, barely prayed, and listened to secular music. Where the heck was the version of myself that started out at Houghton College with the hopes of becoming stronger in my faith? Where was the sophomore in high school that was already committed to Houghton before she

even visited? The girl who knew she was home as soon as she stepped out of the car? Because she was nowhere to be found, and a defiant teenager was in her place all because of a pandemic that no one thought would last this long. I knew the beautiful thing about college was that you could rewrite yourself, start new. But what if you didn’t like who you were becoming? Actually missed your old self? Then what?

So yeah, I was a dissonant mess. An unfaithful servant at best. Yet, the beautiful thing about God is He tends to leave the 99 for the 1. In my fallen mess, He found me once again and lifted me up. And now, I can’t lie and say that I suddenly felt better, that COVID didn’t matter to me, or that my life was suddenly on track. But I knew what I needed to do to feel better, and it was possibly the best realization of my life. I needed God.

I remember finding a safe haven in Josh Garrels music. And then Switchfoot. And then We the Kingdom. My playlist evolved. Going on walks with earbuds in, stopping

and noticing the nature around me. Saying to God, “I might not be happy right now, but gee the leaves sure do look pretty and I thank You for that.” Going to church, finding meaning in the worship music, and applying the pastoral message to my life. Actually reading Scripture and... wait for it... enjoying it. I can confidently say that my faith is at an all-time high right now.

However, I didn’t want to give you the message that my life is perfect now, or that I won’t fall again. Because it will surely happen; we’re all human after all. I’ve still had some rough days and had to remind myself that someone will always be beside me in the fire. But I felt compelled to tell my 2020 journey in case COVID has hurt you as well. If you’re struggling a lot to feel God’s presence, I want you to know that you’re not alone no matter how much it might feel like you are. God will welcome you back to His side with unfailing arms. Always. And that was something that a global pandemic had to teach me. I don’t think I’d ever value my faith as highly if life was perfect. And for that, for all the struggling and unrest, for all the dissonance, I’m thankful. ★

Samantha is a sophomore majoring in Psychology and Intercultural Studies, with a minor in Diversity Studies.

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT
owen.hardiman22@houghton.edu

SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO
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.

HOUGHTONSTAR.COM | STAR@HOUGHTON.EDU | FACEBOOK.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | TWITTER.COM/HOUGHTONSTAR | INSTAGRAM @HOUGHTONSTAR

The Houghton STAR

2020-2021 Staff

- MOLLY BRIZZELL // Co-Editor-in-Chief
- ERIN MAGGIO // News Editor
- EVAN TSAI // Photos Editor
- JOSIAH WIEDENHEFT // Co-Editor-in-Chief
- ALEXANDER DEARMORE // Columns Editor
- OWEN HARDIMAN // Houghton Voices Editor
- SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB // Faculty Advisor

Christian Political Discourse

David Bowers

In my last piece, I wrote about who we are: the fundamental identity of all people as bearers of the image of God, and the unique Christian identity as a child of God through the gospel. I tried to apply those two core doctrines to Christian political engagement. I argued that all people, regardless of political persuasion, deserve respect as image-bearers, and that Christians, being fundamentally united in Christ, mock the gospel when we divide over mere political differences.

But really, why does it matter that Christians are united with all people in the image of God and that we are united to each other in the cross of Christ? An identity isn't worth much if it doesn't come with certain responsibilities (a claim that could take up a whole series on its own). In this piece, I will try to answer the question of what Christians are supposed to do in light of our identity. Why are we here? Answering this question well will illuminate further how Christians can engage biblically with politics and broader sociocultural issues.

Those few of us with a creedal, Reformed background would turn quickly to the Westminster catechism's answer: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." Even for those few of us, this answer is only the start. But it is the start, so let me try to show it from scripture (though it's one of those things that's such a part of the fabric of scripture that it isn't easily proof-texted).

Rev. 4:11 is perhaps one of the most compelling single texts: "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." It grounds God's worthiness to receive glory in his creative, sovereign power over "all things," which suggests that all things exist to give him glory, honor, and power.

We see it hinted at again in the most beloved psalm, the 23rd: "he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness..." Why? "For his name's sake." All the blessings God gives are ultimately to make his name great. That is, they are ultimately for his glory.

Does this make God the greatest narcissist? Far from it. C.S. Lewis wrestled with God's preoccupation with his own glory, and recorded his conclusions in his book *Reflections on the Psalms*, which I will quote at length because there is no such thing as too much Lewis.

"I had not noticed either that just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it: 'Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that magnificent?'... My whole, more general, difficulty about the praise of God depended on my absurdly denying to us, as regards the supremely Valuable, what we delight to do, what we indeed can't help doing, about everything else we value. I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation... The Scotch catechism says that man's chief end is 'to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.'

But we shall then know that these are the same thing. Fully to enjoy is to glorify. In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him."

Lewis helps us to see that, in demanding that we glorify him, God is doing no less than giving us what the psalmist calls "fullness of joy" and "pleasures forevermore" (Psa. 16:11). Far from making him a narcissist, for God (and only for God) demanding glory is an act of profound love: it gives us the only way to be truly, fully, ultimately satisfied with fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. Lewis also points us to the next step in answering our question, "why are we here?" Look again at his first sentence: "men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it." This points us to the practical outworking of the theological purpose the catechism gave Christians: telling the world about our joy in God.

This task, often known as the Great Commission, isn't much more than the natural conclusion of the catechism's premise. But Christians should consider it their chief end, even as they recognize its deeper theological roots. Jesus' command at the end of his tenure on this marble that is Earth was simple "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you" (Mat. 28:19). That's what you and I, Christian friends, ought to be spending our lives doing with all our hearts. That is our missional priority.

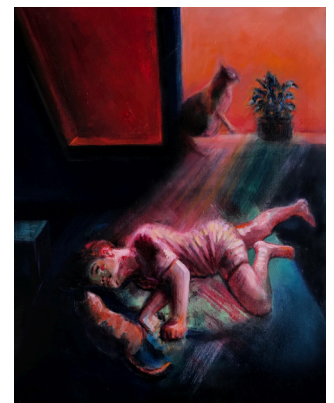
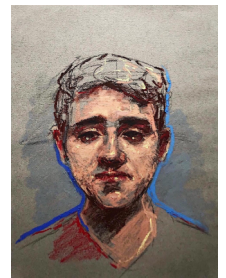
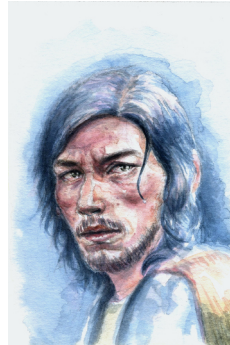
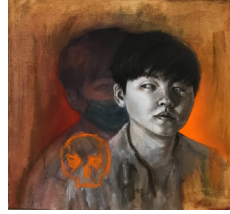
I've gone on at length about most-certainly-not-politics, which may seem odd in a column about Christian political engagement. I anticipate a little less of this in the future, and a little more getting our hands dirty in the political weeds. But I think it's important to start with a common idea of who we are and why we're here before we move into more concrete debates about Christian political engagement. But of course, you came here and read this far to hear something about those debates. And I promised you, at the beginning of this article, that the answer to the question, "what are our missional priorities?" would help us think about Christian political engagement. So that's what I'll do.

Knowing that we exist to glorify God by enjoying him and helping others enjoy him radically influences how we see non-Christians on the other side of the political aisle (or on the same side, for that matter). We are freed from seeing them as enemies or as obstructions to our political priorities. We don't have to use the progressives' favorite "unfriend me if you [insert a non-progressive action or belief]." And we don't have to use the conservatives' favorite "leave the country if you [insert a non-conservative action or belief]." Those statements usually betray self-righteousness, fear, or both.

Instead, we can embrace the person who opposes the policies we espouse, because what divides us ultimately is no policy, but life and eternity itself. What sense does it make to squabble about politics with a non-Christian when the life of their soul and the joy of their life is at stake? Jesus, rightly understood, is offensive (Rom. 9:33); we needn't add to the offense by tying him to our political agenda. ★

Artist of the Week

Mary Hannah Kennedy



About the Artist



Mary Hannah Kennedy (张叶颖) is a junior majoring in fine arts. Her current medium of choice is watercolor, and her favorite subject is the human face. Her work focuses on the universality of suffering. She is currently preparing her portfolio for her application to a master's program. Feel free to follow her page if you are interested in seeing more of her work. Her art Instagram is zhangyeying.jpeg.