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## CHANGES TO CHAPEL THIS SEMESTER

VICTORIA HOCK ('23)

For the first time in years, Houghton College's chapel has been completely overhauled. As Dean of the Chapel Michael Jordan explained, these "three main changes" include Monday and Friday chapels being mandatory (though four skips are allowed), Wednesday chapels being "totally voluntary" with "a variety of different kinds of programming", such as music/worship, faith journeys, preaching from Jordan or JL Miller, Assistant Dean of the Chapel, "or other creative ideas". There is also a new program that just started up called "Around the Table", which students will need to attend ten sessions of.

Dean Jordan explained that these changes were made be-



The return to in-person chapel has come with major changes to chapel requirements.

PHOTO BY RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT

cause "Habit formation is a very important part of spiritual growth", and that they thought "moving to a schedule where attendance is basically expected on certain days helps with habit development, not just for students, but for the whole Houghton community." He also added that "the

old system could help you build a legalism, but couldn't help build a habit. I think this will help with that."

For Wednesday chapels, Dean Jordan clarified that they "really wanted to emphasize the kind of attention we want to have to students who really are

committed to serious spiritual growth and times of worship", also adding that while they are emphasizing services of song early on in the semester, they "also will be doing some higher level Bible teaching and faith journey sharing", and mentioning that "we want to

give something really good to those students who are motivated to grow."

Dean Jordan mentioned that Around the Table is a program that "highlights the different big conversations going on in the church and between the church and world", also mentioning that they realized that one of chapel's functions in previous years has been "to introduce Houghton to a wide variety of authors/thinkers, etc. Not all of these folks are preachers, and to have their main interaction with Houghton's campus be a 25 minute sermon doesn't do their work justice, and doesn't help Houghton to get to know their passion." There will be various virtual and in-person options, with his office

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## Houghton Welcomes 10 New Faculty Members, 2 New RDs

JACQUELINE JOHNSON ('23)

This year, Houghton has welcomed ten new faculty members and two new resident directors (RDs) into our community. While they have only been at Houghton for a short period of time, the value of a first impression must not be overlooked. A warm welcome goes out to all of Houghton's newest community members.

The new faculty and staff have already begun to feel at home here at Houghton. Reagan Zelaya, the new RD of



Reagan Zelaya, new RD of Lambein and the Townhouses, and Shua Wilmot, Men's Area Coordinator

COURTESY OF MICHAEL BLANKENSHIP

both Lambein and the Townhouses, has described her experiences so far as a joy and has said "I have enjoyed meeting so many lovely people and getting into the rhythms of life here while learning more about the culture and traditions that makes this place special." As the new Men's Area Co-

ordinator, Shua Wilmot says he feels appreciated here at Houghton. "I can be myself here, and I try to make it safe for students to be themselves too. I'm looking forward to getting to know the students more and to help guide them in their journey."

As the newest addition to the biology de-

partment, Dr. Vincenzo Antignani has noted his appreciation for a researched based environment as well as the flexibility and connections with both student and faculty that are created in such a tight knit community as Houghton. Also in the paine building is Dr. Carmen McKell, who is welcomed

this year as an associate professor of Data Science.

Dr. Mark Borchert, who has become the director of the MBA program and professor of business and communications, expressed that he and his family "felt so warmly welcomed and cared for by the Houghton community". He also noted how excited he was to be joining the Houghton community at such a pivotal time as an inauguration of a new Houghton president.

Dr. Biwei Chen, Dr. Torrance Jones, and Dr. Alex Wright have all entered into our business department this year. Dr. Biwei Chen has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of economics and finance. Dr. Torrance Jones has joined the faculty this

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## Meet the Fall 2021 Editorial Staff!



### Josiah Wiedenheft

*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

Josiah is a senior philosophy and psychology major, filling the Co-Editor-in-Chief role during his final semester. His vision for the paper is to make it somewhere students are free to voice their opinions and enter into dialogue with one another and with the school administration.

### Owen Hardiman

*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

Owen is a senior majoring in Communication with a concentration in Media Arts & Digital Communication. He has minors in Psychology, Diversity Studies, and Faith & Justice. In addition to working on the STAR, he serves as a captain of the Roaring Sheep Ultimate Frisbee team and works as a barista at Java 101.



### Victoria Hock

*News Editor*

Victoria is a junior majoring in writing and minoring in communication. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing and watching TV. Victoria has been a frequent contributor to the STAR's News section since her freshman year, and is excited to step into the News Editor position this year.

### Alex Dearmore

*Columns Editor*

Alex is a senior studying Inclusive Childhood Education. He enjoys watching movies, hanging out with friends, and learning about the world around him.



### Rylee Archambault

*Photo/Media Editor*

Rylee is a junior Communications major with a double focus in Media Arts and Visual Comm. and Integrated Marketing Comm. She is currently a freelance photographer and is interning in Houghton's MarComm department.. She also enjoys drinking tea, wearing Crocs and hanging out with her housemates.

### Megan Brown

*Opinions Editor*

Megan is a junior who is a double major in Writing and Communication, with a concentration in Media Arts and Visual Communication. She also works as a Writing Center consultant. In her free time, Megan writes fiction, crochets, and listens to Taylor Swift.



PHOTOS BY RYLEE ARCHBAULT

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year as an assistant professor of business and criminal justice, and Dr. Alex Wright is welcomed as an assistant professor of management and business administration.

Dr. Jonathan Gates has been teaching at Houghton for a few semesters now, and is returning to the English department as a full-time faculty member.

Dr. Katrina Koehler, who goes by Dr. K, has joined the faculty this year as assistant professor of Physics. She notes her excitement saying, "The last month teaching at Houghton has been the best month of my professional life. I love spending the day helping students grapple with tough concepts, thinking about how to best facilitate students' learning in data science

or physics, and chatting with students about everything from moral psychology to life in Kenya to the best form for squats." Dr. Koehler mentioned that she is looking forward to her engagement with both student and spiritual life.

Dr. Silas Schaeffer comes to Houghton this year as an assistant professor of education as well as the director of undergraduate research in education and the director for the center of teaching and learning.

A warm welcome goes out to all of the new members of the Houghton community and a warm welcome back to faculty, staff and students returning to campus this year. May everyone have a wonderful year of academics, community, and serving the Lord. ★

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offering 11 virtual ones. He also added that he expects "others on campus to offer credit for their events".

Overall, the reception to these changes has been mostly positive. Sarah Rider ('24) discussed that she "really liked how they made the Monday and Friday chapel required, also adding "I love chapel, so I don't mind going all the time, and I like how they're trying to get the student body together after the past year." While Adeline Morgiewicz ('24) was curious if there were any ways to make up chapel credits that you miss, similar to last year, she also expressed similar sentiments to Rider, mentioning she likes that "Wednesdays are now optional, and more relaxed." She also appre-

## 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 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!

ciates "the chapel administration's efforts in trying new ways to encourage students to come." Hopefully, these changes to chapel will continue to have a pos-

itive reception, and help the Houghton community develop a habit that will help them to grow spiritually and worship the Lord regularly. ★

# Back on Campus: Virtual vs. In-Person Experience

NEIL PERL ('22)

During the pandemic, spring semester of my junior year, I had decided to participate in my education virtually. This was for a variety of reasons: to save some money on school costs, be with my family in case anyone gets sick, and work some hours and save some money. It was also because my fall semester of my junior year took a real toll on me. I had to wear a mask all the time, I was in the most social environment in my life, though I could hardly see anyone. It was all so restrictive. I was able to keep my grades up, but I didn't have a roommate and I was getting lonely. I missed those back home. This time was stressful for many, and so I thought it may be better for me to stay home that next semester. Being able to see my friends back home, be with the dogs, it was good for my well-being.

And so, I had experienced in person education during the brink of COVID and had then decided to try the virtual learning experience. It was nice at first. I got to see my friends a bit more, got a job to save some

money, and got to lay in bed during my classes. After a couple weeks, this became a bit more stale. I hardly had a reason to leave my room, and I was always in front of a computer screen. I was much less engaging, and I had difficulty with some of my classes. I had to take less hours at work to keep up with my classes. I struggled to study and learn in the same way I did when I was physically in the classroom. Just had to buckle down and really focus.

*"I hardly had a reason to leave my room, and I was always in front of a computer screen."*

Many meetings were over Zoom during this time. It was much more convenient to schedule meetings with my professors. I would be able to find a time slot and meet weekly or bi-weekly. I enjoyed visiting my professors in person when I was on campus. Having the chance to schedule these meetings and catch up with my professors was reassuring. Allowed

*"I want to experience my education firsthand. I find it motivating to get up, present myself in a social manner, and participate in class."*

me to feel in touch with Houghton while I was away. The consistency was nice and I was able to

my advanced project. I was able to get on the Dean's List and complete the semester. It was refreshing and healthy for me to be around my family. Being around my family kept my stress down, helping me focus on my school work. Since my bedroom was also my workplace, I was able to work when I needed to. I had to work harder to participate in my classes and focus on my studies. It was difficult, but with the encouragement from those at Houghton from a distance and my junior year wrapping up, I was determined to get on the Dean's list and make it back for my senior year.

It is now the fall semester of my senior year. I'm back participating in person. It's definitely a relief to see many of my friends at school. It was nice to see my professors, stop for a visit, or talk after class. Seeing them in person and talking face to face was better than having to communicate through a screen. It's also much easier to discuss assignments or ask for help. Communicating over Zoom, sharing screens, and emails was much more complicated than just going to my professors' offices and having a discussion without any

pause or overlap. COVID has also been around for a while now, so it's more comfortable in the conditions we have to participate in. The masking and social distancing are still in effect, but it is tolerable. We don't want to risk having to transition to online only.

After participating in-person and virtually during these times, I definitely have strong opinions for both sides. On one hand I get to stay home, have less restrictions, and participate online. Although, this way was taking a toll on my education experience. Virtual learning was less motivating, and I missed the community at Houghton. I want to experience my education firsthand. I find it motivating to get up, present myself in a social manner, and participate in class. It's much easier to pay attention and engage as opposed to sitting in front of a screen all day. School was stressful when I was participating when COVID first began, but it is much less tense now.

I definitely prefer in-person learning compared to virtual. Though, it also depends on the work you have to do, or your personality, etc. I am a bit of an introvert and extrovert, plus I am a communications major. I live to communicate with people. Being back is nice and engaging with my professors and classmates firsthand is definitely refreshing. I wanted to try both styles of learning. In this ever changing world, it was an experience I can learn from. ★

Have an opinion you want to share?

CONTACT  
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## SPEAK OUT!

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less

SUBMIT TO  
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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**

2021-2022 Staff

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OWEN HARDIMAN // Co-Editor-in-Chief

VICTORIA HOCK // News Editor

ALEXANDER DEARMORE // Columns Editor

RYLEE ARCHAMBAULT // Photo/Media Editor

MEGAN BROWN // Opinions Editor

AC TAYLOR // Interim Faculty Advisor



# Review

MACKENZIE MILNE (#23)

Each night I go to bed looking forward to my morning coffee. I wake up every morning and make myself a nice cup using my drip coffee maker. Starbucks blonde roast is my preferred coffee. Typically, I prepare my personal coffee with some half and half, but the coffee I drink in my townhouse is not the only coffee I drink throughout the day. It is almost a guarantee that I have two cups of coffee while I am up on campus throughout the day. Here at Houghton, I enjoy French vanilla creamer with my dining hall coffee because the French vanilla creamer has always distracted me from the taste of the coffee. When I heard the dining hall was serving new coffee from Jockey Street, I was eager to sample it. I made the decision to drink all the new coffee with precisely two half and half creamers in an attempt to actually be able to taste the natural flavor of the coffee.

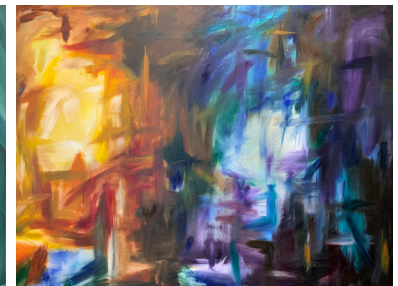
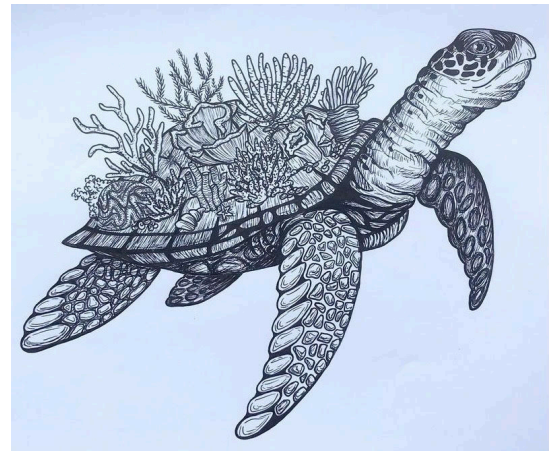
I first tried the Boulder coffee, which is their dark roast. I will say that in comparison to the previous Columbian dark roast coffee, Boulder was a pleasant surprise. With the two creams it was tasty, and I was able to drink more than just half a cup of it. The more I drank it the more I liked it. A couple days after I first tried the Boulder coffee, disaster struck. There was no half and half left, so I decided to add some French vanilla creamer in-

stead. Disaster struck again, and there was no French vanilla left either. I made the risky decision right there to drink the coffee black. I only drink my coffee black when I am out of options, and while there was still original creamer left, I wanted to step out of my coffee comfort zone. So I drank Boulder black. It was surprisingly better than I thought it would be, but I still would suggest half and half and maybe a splash of flavoring.

Now, I said I never drink coffee black, but what is even more rare for me is drinking decaf coffee. One afternoon last week I decided I had to drink Three Falls, mostly because the name is fun. As I filled my cup with Three Falls, I racked my brain to see if I had ever tried the previous decaf coffee from the dining hall. I could not pinpoint one time I had, so I had to nothing to really base this comparison on. Luckily, there was half and half to put in my Three Falls. I stirred in two creams and thoughtfully took a sip. It was lukewarm (my biggest coffee pet peeve). This is probably because it was the same decaf from breakfast because who really drinks decaf coffee in college? Anyway, it was good. I would drink it again if it was late at night and I did not want to keep myself up. The new dining hall Jockey Street coffee was a pleasant surprise, and I can now enjoy the two cups of coffee I drink from the dining hall everyday a little bit more.★

# Artist of the Week

Julia Wilmot



# Sudoku

FROM SUDOKUOFTHE DAY.COM

	4		8	1	6			
2	7	1			3			4
			4			1		2
	3			6	9			4
	6	7				3	2	
8			3	1				5
7		3			6			
	2		1			4	6	5
		6	5	2			7	

Solution will be printed in next week's issue!



**About the Artist:**

Hi! My name is Julia Wilmot and I am a senior Art Major with minors in Education and Art Business. Art has always been a passion of mine, and it's a way for me to connect more deeply with God. I use all kinds of mediums, but I focus mainly in oil paint, ceramics, and photography. After Houghton, I hope to do some more world traveling and go to grad school to get an MFA! Follow me on Instagram @blessings.by.julia "