

Houghton College

Students take their original work outside the classroom during conference at Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. — Houghton was well represented at the Ninth Annual Penn-York Undergraduate Research Association Conference held at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford on Nov. 8.

Eight students each presented aspects of their original work at the conference, which gave students the invaluable opportunity to step beyond the comfort of the classroom and receive feedback on their work from those outside the Houghton arena.

Under subject umbrellas ranging from English to biology, Houghton students gave these oral and poster presentations: Elise Spieser, "Mount Holyoke's Effects on Emily Dickinson's Religious Views"; M. Chase Whittemore, "Identity"; Paul Ziegenfuss, "The Hemlock Kingdom"; Hannah Stoveken, "Going Green: Using Plants to Produce Useful Human Proteins"; Holly Hrywnak,

"The Angelus: The Painting and a Prayer"; Emma McConnell, "The Synthesis of Béla Bartók's Compositional Style"; Clara Giebel, "Coziars' Catches and the Harmony of Immortal Souls: The Affect of Music in Shakespeare's Comedies"; Steven Crance, "Nitrate, Ammonia and Trophic Dynamics of Star Lake in the Northwestern Adirondack Park."

Houghton students who were poised in front of 58 of their peers selected from seven colleges and universities across Western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania, were accompanied by Dr. Laurie Dashnau and Dr. Matt Pelletier. Houghton boasted the largest number of participating students at the conference, with the exception of the host institution.

"I think it is important for students to have an opportunity to articulate the work they have done. Being able to communicate your work effectively is a

very important skill," Dr. Pelletier said.

While learning the importance of representing Houghton as a place that cultivates scholarly leaders and exposing their reputable work, students also received encouraging feedback from fellow presenters as well as the conference organizer. To supplement their presentations, attendees were addressed by keynote speaker Dr. Brian H. Bornstein, professor of psychology and courtesy professor of law at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. His talk was titled, "The Joys and Challenges of Undergraduate Research: Tales from the Front."

Dr. Dashnau said she's eager for more Houghton students to attend the conference in the future, "because of the fine research Houghton students are doing and the enthusiastic mentoring they are receiving from my colleagues across campus."

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