

► Houghton

# Ex-Kuhl staffer joins Houghton College

HOUGHTON – Robert Van Wicklin, former chief of staff for two area congressional representatives, has been appointed senior vice president for advancement at Houghton College.

“We are blessed to be gaining the talents of such an accomplished executive and doubly blessed because Bob is a Houghton graduate who is committed to our mission and future,” said Shirley A. Mullen, college president.

Mr. Van Wicklin served as chief of staff to former representatives Randy Kuhl of the 29th Congressional District in New York state and his predecessor, Amory Houghton Jr. In these positions, he managed all operations associated with both congressional offices in Washington and in area

offices in New York state.

“After nearly 17 years of working for two dedicated members of the House of Representatives, I look forward to returning to my roots in Allegany County and contributing to the work of Dr. Mullen in her far-sighted efforts to guide Houghton College to an even higher level of influence in our community and beyond,” Mr. Van Wicklin said.

Dr. Mullen has asked Mr. Van Wicklin to develop strategic approaches in the area of college advancement. In his new position, he will lead the college’s currently established Advancement Team, which is responsible for donor relations, alumni relations and marketing programs.



**Robert Van Wicklin**

Mr. Van Wicklin graduated from Houghton College in 1992, earning a bachelor’s degree in international studies and political science. He began his professional career as a staff assistant for Congressman Amo Houghton and progressed steadily through a series of staff jobs, including press secretary. He was named chief of staff in 2003.

He is a commissioned intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and earned a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. and Washington. He has also studied at the Institute of World Politics through Boston University, focusing on intelligence and counterintelligence work.

In addition, Mr. Van Wicklin is a trustee of the

National Defense Committee and The Faith and Politics Institute. He is a member of Monroe Community College’s Homeland Security Training Steering Committee and the Naval Reserve Officers Association. He also served on the President’s Advisory Board at Houghton College from 2004 to 2008.

During his career, Mr. Van Wicklin traveled to more than 65 countries on various assignments for the two congressmen and as a member of numerous task forces and committees.

“These travels have given me a unique global perspective which I feel will be very useful in helping to advance Houghton’s intercultural and global perspective and the college’s overall mission of preparing students to do good in a most challenging world.”