

# HOUGHTON

FALL 2020



Celebrating  
**IMPACT**

# HOMEcoming/FAMILY WEEKEND 2020 SCHEDULE

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

### 11:00 a.m. Legacy Family Chapel

Steve '65 & Karen (Greer '65) Lynip will join Michael Jordan '99 and J.L. Miller for a special Homecoming chapel discussion. The Lynips have a multigenerational connection to Houghton College, and they will share that legacy and discuss the impact of Houghton on their family.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020

### First-Year Student Tradition Event

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020

### Alumni Art Exhibit

RECOLLECTIVE offers new perspectives on a familiar place. This is a space for exchange and reunion to build something new together once again. Through visual art and design in various media as well as written work, the alumni artists ask critical questions and carefully consider their experience at Houghton and in the time after.

Merritt Becknell '15, Amy Coon '14, Joshua Duttweiler '15, Alex Hood '15, Natalie Moffitt '14, Hannah Jennings Murphy '13, Brady Robinson '15, Lindsay Burgher Seddon '13, Laurissa Widrick '15

### Highlander 5K

Participate between 8:00 a.m., Friday, October 2, and 12:00 a.m., Sunday, October 4. Pre-registration is required with a suggested donation of \$10.00 per person. All proceeds will support the Student Government Association Turkey Drive for Allegany County families. Prizes will be awarded. Event and registration details available at [www.houghton.edu/Homecoming](http://www.houghton.edu/Homecoming)

### Campus Tour

Ride along with Daniel Noyes '93 to see the latest updates and old favorites on campus. [www.houghton.edu/Virtual](http://www.houghton.edu/Virtual)

### 11:00 a.m. Homecoming Legacy Chapel

Join a time of convocation and worship as we celebrate the rich heritage of Houghton College and the achievements and service of our alumni.

### 4:00 p.m. Alumni Art Panel Discussion

4:30 p.m. Houghton Alumni Family Dinner Conversations: Learning to Discuss Difficult Topics in a Polarized Context  
Moderated by President Shirley Mullen

### 6:00 p.m. Society Celebration (by invitation only)

Gather for a celebration of the 1883 Society and the James S. Luckey Society for their faithful generosity to Houghton College.

### 8:00 p.m. Homecoming Collage Concert

The Greatbatch School of Music presents "Homecoming Collage 2020." This virtual performance will feature select student ensembles and faculty performers.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020

### Equestrian Open House

10:00 a.m. The Power of Endowment  
Advancement Seminar

11:00 a.m. Highlander Locker Room  
Virtual gathering for alumni and student-athletes

### 11:45 a.m. IMPACT Celebration

[www.houghton.edu/Impact](http://www.houghton.edu/Impact)

### 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Hands-On Houghton Festival – fun activities for all ages

[www.houghton.edu/Hands-On](http://www.houghton.edu/Hands-On)

- » Lego Fancher Hall
- » Rope Tying – Laura Alexeichik '01
- » Birding – Eli Knapp '00
- » Art – Aaron Harrison '01

### 1:00 p.m.

- » 35th Reunion Celebration Class of 1985
- » 30th Reunion Celebration Class of 1990

### 2:00 p.m.

- » 10th Reunion Celebration Class of 2010
- » 15th Reunion Celebration Class of 2005
- » 20th Reunion Celebration Class of 2000

### 6:00 p.m. Mosaic Center Round Table

Hosted by Nuk Kongkaw '11, Director of Mosaic Center

### 7:00 p.m.

- » 25th Reunion Celebration Class of 1995

### CONNECT to Homecoming happenings:

[www.houghton.edu/Homecoming](http://www.houghton.edu/Homecoming)



Look for this symbol inside! It indicates opportunities for you to engage online with Homecoming fun and learn more about what's new at Houghton!



DR. DEBORAH BIRX '76

16



VAN DYK LOUNGE REFURBISHED

08

## HOUGHTON MAGAZINE

FALL 2020  
Vol. 95, No. 1

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Houghton magazine welcomes letters, alumni news, and art or photographs for possible inclusion in the magazine. All are subject to editing, and the opinions expressed are those of the authors or their subjects and are not necessarily shared by the college or the editor. Send information in care of the editor to the college or e-mail [magazine@houghton.edu](mailto:magazine@houghton.edu). Address changes should be sent to Houghton College, Houghton, NY 14744-0128. Written permission is required to reproduce Houghton magazine in whole or in part. Contents ©2020 Houghton College.

# CELEBRATING Grace

As academics, we are well trained in seeing the world through the lens of neat packages called disciplines—even though we know they don't perfectly reflect reality. As humans, we love to make plans and craft lists as if we are sovereigns of our futures and our days—even though we know that we are not.

This past spring has been a powerful reminder of what we know in our minds but so often fail to remember in our daily lives. We are not in charge!

Just as our "normal" routines here at Houghton were summarily disrupted on March 19th when we traded in-person residential life for the less familiar routines of remote learning, all of our personal and professional lives have been similarly disrupted by the intrusion of COVID-19. We are all getting used to a new kind of life that, even six months ago, we could not have imagined. Part of this new reality is the prolonged and vexing uncertainty of when it all will end—and what life after the pandemic will look like. We know from history that the future never returns to exactly like the past—so we all wait nervously to see what "normal" will be at some future point that is equally unknown.

But just as life does not fit into neat packages of our own making and planning, so reality does not meet us in ways that are fully uniform or consistent. Births and deaths happen on the same day. New opportunities come whenever things are shaken up—and, indeed, often because things have been shaken up. Our very happiest moments are laced with the underlying knowledge that they cannot last. We are reminded in the imagery of the New Testament that kernels of wheat must "die" to bear fruit. This strange intertwining of dying and living—of sorrow and of joy—is part of our world.

And so it has been for us here at Houghton this spring. When COVID-19 hit, some wondered if we should slow down the pace of the IMPACT Campaign and delay the closing date. We chose to continue moving forward. Instead of what some had predicted, we experienced an overwhelming outpouring of generosity in this April's One Day Giving Challenge, which continued through the end of May. Thanks to generous gifts—some of which we knew about, some of which were total surprises—we not only reached our \$70 million goal; we exceeded it.

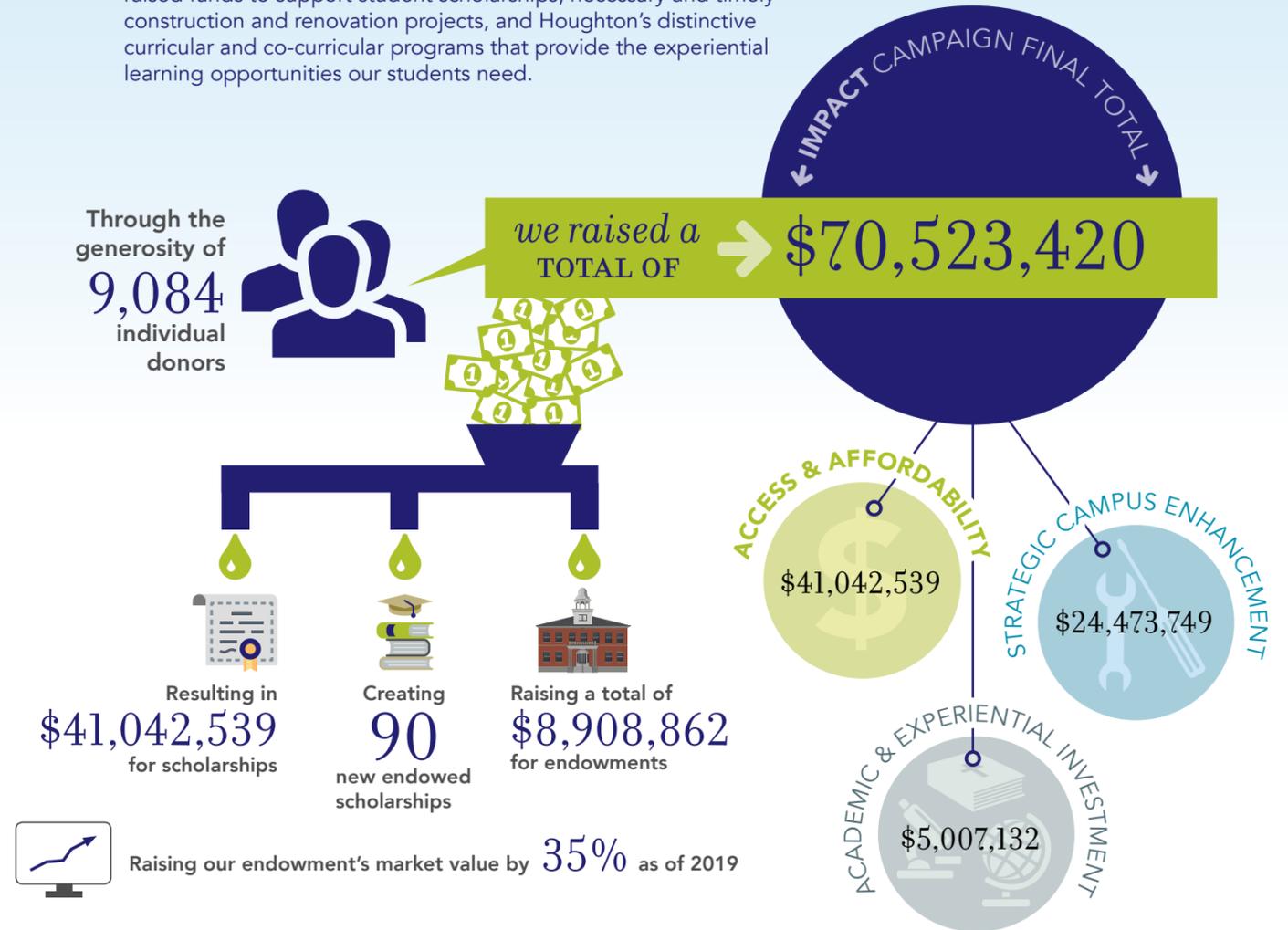
It is this amazing story of the generosity of Houghton alumni and friends, partnering with God's faithful purposes, that we want to celebrate in this issue of the Houghton Magazine. We wish we could be all together in person at Homecoming to share together in this climax of IMPACT. Instead, we are seeking in this moment—as in all of our lives—to focus on the unique gifts that are available to us in Homecoming 2020 rather than wishing things were different.

We thank you for your part in IMPACT, look forward to seeing you soon, and wish you God's richest blessing on this season in your journey, even as we celebrate together God's gracious provisions for our beloved alma mater.

  
 Shirley A. Mullen, Class of 1976  
 President



**IMPACT: THE CAMPAIGN FOR GREATER HOUGHTON,** our \$70 million comprehensive campaign ending on May 31, 2020, raised funds to support student scholarships, necessary and timely construction and renovation projects, and Houghton's distinctive curricular and co-curricular programs that provide the experiential learning opportunities our students need.



# ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

## The IMPACT of Endowed Scholarships

The Houghton family creates and continues to grow endowed scholarships for many reasons, often in honor of someone who has played a meaningful role in individuals' lives. With ninety new endowed scholarships created over the course of the IMPACT campaign, funds have been created to pay tribute to beloved professors, such as Jake Jacobson; honor the memory of parents, such as Maxine Hildebrandt; or celebrate an entire family's legacy of generosity, such as the Brautigams. These funds are a tribute to both the sacrificial nature of Houghton alumni and the legacy of those who have left a lasting impression on the lives of others.

### PROFESSOR JAKE JACOBSON SCHOLARSHIP

As we reflect on our college experience at this stage in our journey, both of us are impressed by the significance of those brief four years. People like Professor Jacobson instilled in us a marvelous view of Christian service that set us on a lifelong pilgrimage, one that has been filled with opportunities to touch others with the gracious love of Jesus Christ. We can never fully repay Houghton for those transformative and foundational years. Endowing a scholarship in honor of Jake is a small gesture of our profound debt to Houghton College and its faculty and staff.

Rev. Wally '76 and Mary (Grazioplene '76) Fleming

### BRAUTIGAM FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

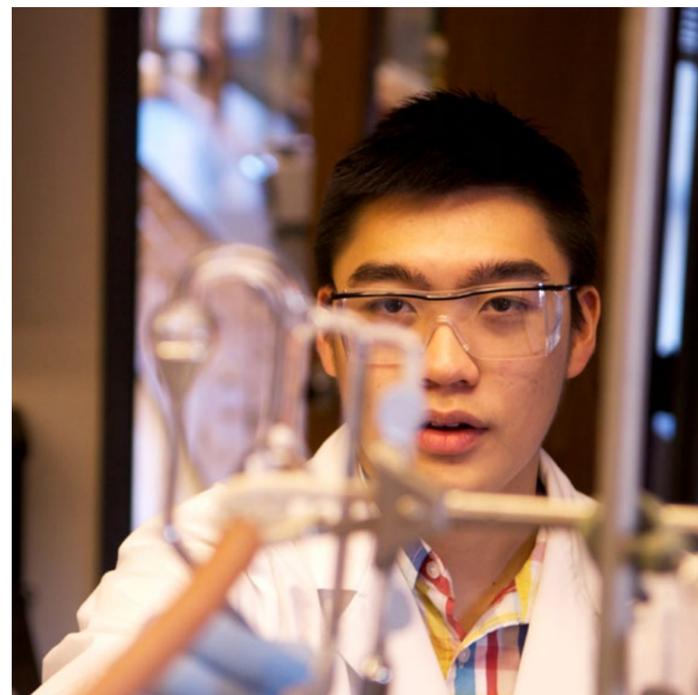
Houghton College has been tremendously important to the Brautigam family. We thrived with Houghton's emphasis on the whole person, becoming academically prepared and more spiritually mature. It was such a special experience that nine of the next generation also graduated from Houghton. I love Houghton and was very happy to learn that we could have an ongoing giving legacy for current and future students by setting up an endowed family scholarship that family and friends can also support. The Brautigams all needed financial aid, and we want future students to also have access to a Houghton education.

Dr. Donald Brautigam '70

### MAXINE HILDEBRANDT SCHOLARSHIP

For me and my two younger sisters, the goal of a Christian college education at Houghton was only accomplished through the financial sacrifice of our mother. She was a single parent raising three girls on her hourly bookkeeping wage. It was because of her constant and careful budgeting that we were able to each graduate from Houghton College debt-free. We created The Maxine Hildebrandt Scholarship Fund in her honor and aligned our estate plans to help others also realize their dream of a transformational Houghton experience.

Tanya (Hildebrandt '73) Shire



# STRATEGIC CAMPUS ENHANCEMENT



## At Home at Houghton: The IMPACT of Bob and Elizabeth Van Dyk

When the students return “home” to Houghton this fall, they will find the campus living room—the Van Dyk Lounge—stylishly but comfortably refurbished. This gathering area serves our student body as a study room, a place to rendezvous with friends, the entrance to our campus store and the site of evening coffee houses. It is also the proverbial front porch through which we at the college welcome visitors, including parents, off-campus guests and prospective students.

We owe the spirit of warmth and hospitality in the campus center to **Bob** and Elizabeth **Van Dyk '75**, for whom the lounge is named. This is not the only space on campus that has benefited from the Van Dyks’ generous support over the years. Their vision and support have also enabled us to establish the Van Dyk Fitness Center, located in Nielsen Physical Education Center (also renewed and upgraded this past summer); remodel the lower level of the Campus Center; and, most recently, create The Robert and Elizabeth Van Dyk Data Science Analytics Suite in the Center for Data Science in the Paine Science Center and the Van Dyk Scholars program. Each of their commitments is intentionally designed, above all, to enrich the student experience at Houghton College.

We recently spoke with Bob and Elizabeth about the reasons for their longstanding investment in Houghton. Given their own successful careers in a range of areas, including health care and medical equipment sales, respectively, and their deep engagement with non-profit fundraising for Alzheimer’s research, plus their love of international travel, it is definitely a deliberate choice to stay connected to Houghton. In addition to their financial contribution, Bob has served for many years on the President’s Advisory Board under both Presidents Chamberlain and Mullen, including a term as the chair of that group.

For Bob, Class of 1975, it is all about Houghton’s impact, which he first witnessed in his daughter, Kristina, Class of 2005, who has become a highly successful artist, children’s book writer, entrepreneur and supporter of children’s orphanages overseas. But this impact goes beyond a personal connection. It is the kind of impact that Houghton graduates in general have on the world because of their “scholar-servant” mentality. As a savvy investor, Bob enjoys knowing that his commitment to Houghton pays dividends for the world. In particular, Bob has noted with appreciation the way that Houghton has sought to “skillfully navigate the changing circumstances of our world in such a way to remain relevant and effective while also remaining loyal to its core Christian values.” Elizabeth, who saw Houghton for the first time through Bob’s eyes, has come to treasure the place for herself. She likes the feeling of “home” and safety that the campus engenders, noting her initial surprise when she saw a stack of unattended backpacks in the Ladies Lounge on her first visit to Houghton. Elizabeth, like Bob, values Houghton’s commitment to prepare graduates with a clear sense of identity and integrity who are also ready to translate those qualities of character into a world of ongoing change.

Both Bob and Elizabeth have cultivated in their own lives the values that they hope to see cultivated in Houghton students. They seek to treat others as they would want to be treated, recognizing that this is more important than ever in a world that is increasingly suspicious of Christian language without actions that match. Elizabeth emphasized the importance of focusing on the needs of clients more than on how to beat out the competition. “Do the right thing,” she said, “and the rest will care for itself.”

They strive to practice transparency and integrity—and always humility. Bob credited Louise Penny, a writer of mystery novels, as an unexpected source of the wisdom when her main character described success in life and business as the ability to say, “I don’t know,” “I need help,” “I’m sorry” and “I was wrong.”

They are testimonies to the surprises of life. Neither of them ended up in places they would have imagined during college. They emphasize to young people the importance of being open to new ideas, considering all options, being willing to change one’s mind and, above all, being committed to one’s own core values. In Bob and Elizabeth, we see individuals who have dared to be themselves. (Kierkegaard would say they have dared to be “originals and not copies.”)

Do the right thing,  
and the rest will  
care for itself.

Bob and Elizabeth demonstrate the importance of hard work, careful planning and a focus on helping others find solutions. Today, Bob and Elizabeth are seeking to provide state-of-the-art care amid the COVID-19 pandemic for their nationwide work in elder care. As we thank them for their ongoing generosity to Houghton, we also join them in their tireless pursuit of creative ways to address new challenges, their willingness to reckon with the complexity and persistent uncertainty of this current public health crisis, and their commitment to be part of a community committed to learning together for the good of the world.

## Paine Center for Science

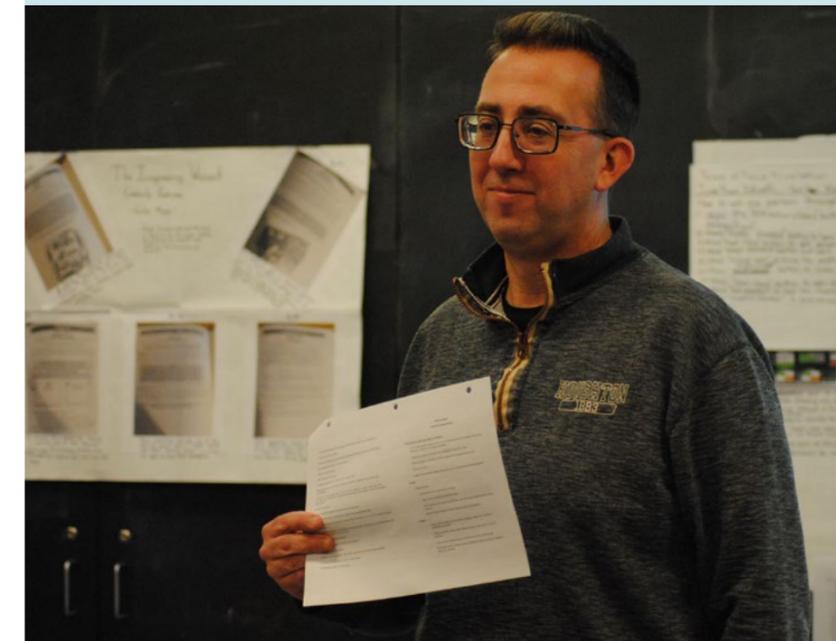
Words from the faculty:

The renovations to the Paine Center for Science allowed us to hold our first engineering classes at Houghton College this past year. The facilities allowed our students to actually start doing engineering in their first semesters on campus.

Dr. Mark Budnik, Irwin Chair of Engineering

We were able to hire two new engineering faculty members this year. The remodeled areas, particularly demonstrating our emphasis on involving students in design projects throughout their course of study, were a fundamental component for helping these new faculty catch the vision for engineering at Houghton.

Dr. Mark Yuly, Professor of Physics



Dr. Mark Budnik,  
Irwin Chair of Engineering

## Jo-Anne Young, the IMPACT of Faculty

Since opening in the summer of 2018, the Equestrian Event Center has had a substantial impact on Houghton students and the regional equestrian community. But anyone who has been to the equestrian facilities here at Houghton knows that the real impact – as with most places on campus – has far more to do with the people than the physical space.



Left to right: Jo-Anne Young, Dale Wright and President Shirley Mullen

From the beginning, the equestrian program at Houghton has been the fulfillment of the vision and tireless efforts of Jo-Anne Young '69, program director emeritus. Her vision created a distinctive Houghton

program that has launched scholar-servants prepared for equine therapy, equine business, equine training and veterinary medicine. Currently, over twenty-five students have declared a major or minor in equestrian studies, and the student Equestrian Society has seventy members.

Throughout the course of IMPACT: The Campaign for Greater Houghton, Jo-Anne Young has played the roles of visionary, advisor, donor and advocate. More than \$100,000 was donated in tribute to Jo-Anne, resulting in the creation of the Jo-Anne O. Young Competitors' Wing in the Equestrian Event Center.

[O]ver the last thirty-one years, this program has been built from modest beginnings into one of the signature academic programs of [Houghton] College and one of finest equestrian programs in the land. [It is] a program where, as Jo-Anne once said, "each student and each horse is regarded as one of God's treasures to be taught, developed and encouraged in a way that fulfills the talents and passions of each one."

Excerpt from former provost **Dr. S. Jack Connell '82** emeritus citation on October 7, 2017

Jo-Anne's dedication, determination, vision and selfless commitment are nothing short of amazing. Her devotion to serving Christ is evident to those around her, not by her words, but by her actions, attitude and genuine commitment to use the riding center to glorify God and advance the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Heidi Piper '87

What makes Jo-Anne special is that God is always the center of Joanne's life. I have seen that quiet peace demonstrated many times over the years. Joanne's life reflects her Christianity. I am honored to call her my friend.

Shirley Levernier, community member

Jo-Anne cares deeply about her students, and it shows in the ways she pushes them to excellence, encourages them in their spiritual walk, and invites students into her home. In Jo-Anne I found a mentor, cheerleader and coach as I prepared for a career in the equine industry.

Joanna Sudlow '15

## IMPACT of the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex

In 2014, Houghton College opened the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex (KPAC), ushering in a new era of collegiate athletics and community health and wellness. The KPAC is home to Burke Field; a new baseball stadium; a new softball stadium; and the capstone facility, the Kerr-Pegula Field House. The field house features a competition-quality, eight-lane, 200-meter indoor track; six indoor tennis courts; locker rooms; Athletic Department offices; weight and exercise facilities; practice space for outdoor sports during inclement weather, and a venue for other large campus and community events.

The gift from **Kim (Kerr '91)** and Terry Pegula was a significant lead gift in the IMPACT campaign and paved the way for Houghton College to become an NCAA Division III school competing in the Empire 8 Conference.

Approximately one-third of Houghton students participate in intercollegiate athletics, making the facility a significant and vital component in attracting and retaining future generations of Highlanders. Our student athletes are consistently top academic performers, with over seventy students named to the Empire 8's President's List each semester. Students with new majors or minors as well as pre-professional degrees or concentrations in Pre-Physical Therapy or Sports Ministry have all benefitted from opportunities provided by the KPAC.

Beyond Houghton students, the widespread community impact of the KPAC is substantial. Houghton has hosted two division championships and one national championship since opening the KPAC. In the 2018-2019 school year, we hosted over 10 high school indoor track sectionals during which at least 16,000 individuals visited the facility. In 2019-2020, before athletic competitions were suspended, over 14,000 individuals attended twelve indoor meets.

According to Lancaster High School Coaches George Rak and Kevin Carriero, who were interviewed on WGR 500 radio's show "Inside High School Sports," "It is fair to say one of the things that I believe has had an enormous impact on Section VI indoor track is the ability to run at the Houghton College fieldhouse...[It's] a Division I-quality track in a Division III school, and it has had a profound effect on the performances of Section VI athletes since its inception four years ago."

After seeing how I would be able to use the KPAC every day to improve my game, it was an easy decision to come to Houghton. I play tennis, and with the weather being the way it is in New York, it is crucial to have an indoor facility to be able to play. It gives me an advantage over my competition who don't have access to such a nice facility.

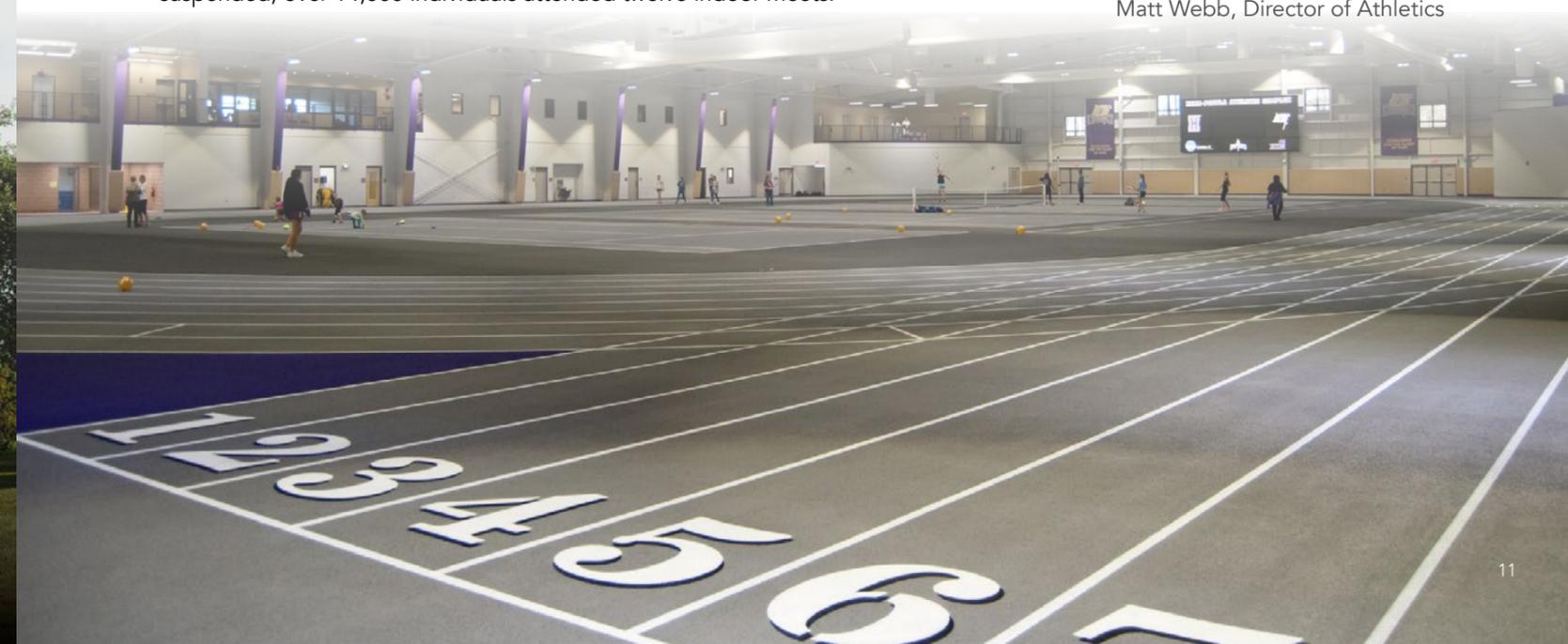
Jacob Fisler '20, Men's Tennis

The KPAC has brought countless visitors to Houghton College. The facilities have been used quite often by local high schools for practices and contests. We've also hosted a number of sectional softball games, and our baseball field is used quite a bit by area colleges whose own fields have been rained out. The KPAC has also been used for a number of clinics featuring former Olympic and professional athletes, including Tamika Catchings, Jenny Finch and Ryan Hall.

Matt Webb, Director of Athletics



An anonymous lead gift enabled construction of the Equestrian Event Center, which includes a 24,000 square foot indoor riding arena. This investment facilitated the growth of Houghton's nationally recognized Equestrian Studies program, and provided on-going learning and performance opportunities for our students and the regional Equestrian community.



# ACADEMIC & EXPERIENTIAL INVESTMENT



## A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

by Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

### SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH BASKETBALL IN THEIR VEINS.

I've met a few of those people. They eat, sleep and breathe basketball. **Lori Wynn '92** was one of those people—but, when you talk to her former college coach, H. "Skip" Lord (or "Coach," as most of us call him, whether he coached us or not), it's clear that basketball, for Lori, was a key to something much, much greater.

After a lifetime dedicated to coaching collegiate women's basketball, Lori Wynn lost her battle with ovarian cancer in April of 2020, only a few short hours after being (virtually) inducted into the Houghton College Athletics Hall of Honor.



[www.houghton.edu/LoriWynn](http://www.houghton.edu/LoriWynn)

Lori left behind a legacy in the lives of the hundreds of young women she coached throughout her career, and she's leaving behind a legacy through Houghton to make sure women can be a part of the Houghton Women's Basketball family for years to come.

"Lori epitomized the Houghton Women's Basketball family," recalls Coach Lord. "I remember leading a mission trip to the Czech Republic that included both current players and alumni. Lori, as an alumna, came along. It was clear that, regardless of what year you graduated, you were part of the same family."

Coach first met Lori on a recruiting trip, hoping to encourage her to come to Houghton to play basketball. It wasn't until after competing against Houghton while playing for Geneva College that Lori decided Houghton was the right place for

her. It was the interactions with that family—team that persuaded Lori to transfer. Over the next thirty-odd years, Lori and Coach would remain colleagues and friends.

Lori coached at multiple schools during her career and even had teams compete against Houghton. She was never too far from the Houghton family, however, and often returned to campus in the summers to coach at basketball camp. Living not far from some of Coach Lord's family, she could often be found on a run with Coach during his family visits.

Coach remembers Lori as a dedicated athlete, driven, focused and committed not only to her personal development but to the development of her team. Lori was never satisfied with "almost" and was both loved and respected by her teammates.

Looking out for others –  
it's a trait of a great leader,  
**a servant-  
leader.**

It's the way Lori led as a student athlete,  
as a coach and now through her legacy.

Coaches often lead like they play, and it is certain that Lori instilled in her players a strong sense of hard work and dedication while keeping them focused on what matters most in life: relationships with others and relationships with their Savior.



As Coach Lord transitioned from working as a coach to full-time athletic director and then to his current role as National Director of Athletics Engagement in the Office of Advancement, Lori was going through transitions of her own. In 2016, Lori was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and the challenges associated with that led to her stepping down from her coaching position after the 2018-2019 basketball season.

Although her health was challenging, Lori continued to run, and it was on one of these runs that Coach shared with Lori about his new position. He mentioned that one of his roles was to help those who have a passion for what Houghton does to leave a lasting legacy to benefit future generations of students. Lori realized that, even as she continued to pray with great faith for healing, it was time to put her estate in order.

Lori's dedication to Houghton's intentionally Christian, academically rigorous athletics program inspired her to give back. That inspiration led to the creation of the Women's Basketball Endowment. The endowment can't support the entire Women's Basketball program, but the funds generated are set aside as above-and-beyond funding, creating a situation in which a coach can do the "little extras" that make a program truly special – things like new uniforms, specialized training programs or team trips.

Lori's endowment fund is the gift that keeps giving, not just because endowed funds grow over time when they are wisely stewarded, but also because they open a door for others to contribute. Since Lori's passing in April, colleagues, friends and former teammates have all added to the fund in Lori's memory, growing the impact of her legacy. That isn't the only way Lori's legacy is growing. Lori's dedication and generosity inspired her mother, Judy Wynn, to also get involved. Judy's passion isn't the Women's Basketball team, however; Judy is using her estate to create an endowed scholarship fund providing scholarships for first-generation college students.

The Houghton Women's Basketball family is drawing a little closer to each other these days. Some of Lori's teammates have reached out to Judy, supporting her through her first Mother's Day without Lori. Some gathered in August, along with Coach Lord, for a Celebration of Life ceremony. In a moment when we feel so distant and cut off from one another, the Houghton Women's Basketball family is doing its part in making sure others aren't alone.

"I'm always amazed at the students," says Coach Lord, "and the more complete adults they become. Lori's story is a sad one, but it's also encouraging. I'm encouraged by Lori's courage, by Judy's courage, by the peace and bravery with which they've faced their situations, with the generosity with which they're looking out for the rest of us."

Looking out for others – it's a trait of a great leader, a servant-leader. It's the way Lori led as a student athlete, as a coach and now through her legacy.



# Houghton College Buffalo: East Side

by Julian Cook '13

In his anthology of letters to his college-aged pen pal, Letters to a Young Doubter, William Sloane Coffin writes that life's most important question is not what you are but, rather, "Who tells you who you are?" While one has a lifetime to answer this question, it is crucial to start answering now.

The gravity of this question hinges on this: We are only as strong as that which tells us who we are. If our world will have ethical leaders with the moral imagination, creative courage, intellectual confidence and spiritual vigor to meet the challenges of our day, we must have sites of hope where emerging leaders covenant together to explore who they are.

All were chosen—chosen by Houghton but, more importantly,  
**CHOSEN BY GOD AND GRIPPED BY HISTORY FOR THIS moment.**

Established in September 2019, Houghton College Buffalo: East Side is a two-year associate degree-granting program focused on the rich tradition of African-American moral and intellectual engagement. Here, we train ethical leaders who are globally minded and locally connected.

As in many U.S. cities, stark and storied racial segregation divides the city of Buffalo. Buffalo's East Side is a haven of communities and culture predominantly occupied by Black people. Our campus is housed in the historic Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Urban Life Center. The site is a recognized bastion of education and advocacy on the East Side.

Our work reflects the needs of our community. All but one East Side student identifies as a person of color. Our youngest student is seventeen; our oldest is sixty-two. We serve as a point of access to education by offering an affordable, high-quality academic program complete with essential incentives like laptop computers, monthly bus passes and course books for all registered students.

East Side students are a cadre of emerging leaders with the ethical vision and spiritual audacity to believe that education and faith are tools for hewing our collective destinies.

They are writers, singers, waitresses, debaters, Christians, skeptics, mothers, Muslims, fathers, grandmothers, wrestlers, professionals, people who graduated high school at the top of their class, people who graduated high school last month and people who graduated thirty years ago. All were chosen—chosen by Houghton but, more importantly, chosen by God and gripped by history for this moment. East Side students do not surrender their minds, their power, their freedom or their potential to the world as it is. They come together each day to join God in imagining and creating the world as it could be.



An ordained Baptist clergyman, Julian serves as the Director of the Houghton College East Side program in Buffalo, NY, and is Senior Pastor of Buffalo's historic Macedonia Baptist Church.

## One Day Giving Challenge

### THE IMPACT OF #IAmHoughton

THE ANNUAL ONE DAY GIVING CHALLENGE is a day focused on inspiring alumni and friends to come together in support of Houghton by offering giving challenges made possible by generous lead donors. These 24-hour challenges match gifts given to the Student Scholarship Fund, invite as many donors as possible to participate, and offer a \$25,000 endowed scholarship in honor of the alumni class with the greatest number of donors. This exciting day is highlighted with a social media takeover, special videos and on-campus activities.

CELEBRATING



and a total of **4,714** UNIQUE DONORS, including **2,042** CUMULATIVE NEW DONORS, and **928** CUMULATIVE NEW YOUNG ALUMNI DONORS

WHO RAISED THEIR HANDS TO SAY



#IAmHoughton #HoughtonIsHere

and gave a cumulative total of **\$5,962,868.75** including **\$3,551,959** FOR THE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Winners of the Class Challenge for a \$25,000 endowed scholarship in their class name: **2014** (twice!) and **2019**

We were so excited to hear the news that Houghton successfully surpassed the goals of its IMPACT Campaign! Participating in the dollar-for-dollar Student Scholarship Fund matching challenge during the annual One Day Giving Challenge is something we continue to be passionate about. Both of us benefited greatly from scholarships when we were students. We know that would not have been possible without generous donors and recognize the impact Houghton has made in our lives and careers. We now get to enjoy seeing the fruits of our matching gift contribution assist students pursuing their own dreams and goals. Nothing better than that!

Mike '94 and Tamara (Marshall '93) Gaffney

Houghton was generous to us when we were undergraduates. We have found it important to share and pay forward the generosity we received.

Efrain and Michele (Burkett '78) Rivera '78



# DR. DEBORAH BIRX, Scholar-Servant TO THE NATION

by Shirley Mullen '76

LAST FALL, WHEN I ASKED **DR. DEBORAH BIRX**, A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF **1976**, TO SPEAK AT HOUGHTON'S 2020 COMMENCEMENT, NEITHER OF US COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT, WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, SHE WOULD BECOME A HOUSEHOLD NAME THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

I had asked Dr. Birx to speak because of her accomplishments in global public health, which showcase the impact of Houghton's outstanding science programs. She'd accepted for the opportunity to return to see her alma mater with her children and witness the beauty of Western New York in the spring. This year, we are all learning to imagine the unimaginable!

I always look for graduation speakers who have modeled throughout their journeys the values that we at Houghton hold up before our graduates. Dr. Birx has certainly done that. She has been a lifelong learner, pursuing through a medical degree at Hershey Medical Center, an internship and residency in internal medicine, and two fellowships in clinical immunology the passion for scientific

investigation that she first acquired in the context of high school science fairs in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Birx does whatever she does with all her mind and heart. Whether it is an honors project in Houghton's Chemistry department or HIV/AIDS vaccine research at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health, she has sought to master the data thoroughly and to follow the data wherever it leads. Finally, demonstrating the Houghton attitude of the scholar-servant, she has made her gifts and her achievements available for the good of others.

Her reputation for expansive excellence, her commitment to sound research and her capacity to work well with people opened up ever-growing opportunities for service to her country and the world. She served in various capacities in the United States Army from 1980 to 2008, earning the rank of Colonel and rising to the position of Director of the United States Military HIV Research Program at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. After serving in that position from 1996 to 2005, Dr. Birx was invited to be the director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Global HIV/AIDS, a position she held from 2005 to 2014. It was from that post that President Barack Obama nominated Dr. Birx to be the Ambassador at Large and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator as part of his commitment to end the AIDS epidemic. In 2014, she was confirmed by the Senate and served in that position until 2020. Her faithful stewardship of both her gifts and her opportunities made her an obvious candidate for the White House Coronavirus Task Force when that need rose unexpectedly this past spring.

Throughout her journey, Dr. Birx has been able to focus her attention on both the research she is doing and the people with whom, and for whom, she is doing it. It is this deep personal commitment to both the scientific and human dimensions of her work that brought her to the attention of Dr. Bernie Piersma, Dr. Larry Christenson and Dr. Irmgard Howard at Houghton College and that continues to draw comment even in the context of her work with the Coronavirus Task Force. When she stands before the public at the White House briefings, there is no question of either her command of the data or her capacity to explain those data in ordinary language to the

Be loyal to what you believe to be the truth of the data, no matter the cost.

American people. Her choice to bring her own personal style to the occasion rather than to appear in the stereotypical white laboratory coat has underscored her commitment to being her own person even in this most public of roles. While she has drawn criticism for her loyalty both to the data and to those she is serving in this highly charged moment of political polarization, these decisions have highlighted more strongly than ever her personal and professional determination to stay focused on the data and on the task at hand and to deal graciously with those around her.

Unable to speak to a Commencement audience of 1,200 in Wesley Chapel, as she and I had anticipated last fall, Dr. Birx instead delivered her message not only to our graduates but also to the world. (I know from the many comments I have



received this spring that her fellow Houghton alumni are watching and listening.) Her virtual Houghton Commencement address was chosen by C-SPAN to be aired on national television. But even more powerful is the fact that she has lived out before the world in these last six months the three points she highlighted in her Commencement comments. First, be grateful to family and to friends who help you do what you are called to do. No one succeeds alone. Second, do what needs to be done wherever you find yourself. No task is beneath you. Finally, never betray yourself. Be loyal to what you believe to be the truth of the data, no matter the cost.

These are good words for this time of COVID-19. They are good words for all times.

[www.houghton.edu/Birx](http://www.houghton.edu/Birx)



# HOUGHTON news & updates



Did you know that Houghton College teaches students beyond the beloved Allegany County campus? From now on, the Campus News you have come to expect will become Houghton News & Updates with stories from our Allegany County campus, online, or Buffalo and Utica sites. In this issue, catch the latest updates from Houghton Online and the college's COVID-19 preparations for the fall semester.

THE ABRUPT TRANSITION TO REMOTE LEARNING at the end of the spring semester left Houghton students, as well as many others around the world, uncertain of the future. Whether concerned over family health issues, finances or travel restrictions, the prospect of returning to campus in the fall poses a challenge for many. To assist these students, Houghton College now allows customized paths to graduation. Students may choose to take their courses on campus, online or a combination of both, depending on the format that best fits their life and schedule each semester.

In the past, if residential college students had to leave mid-semester, it might have required them to withdraw. The college credits left incomplete cost such students time and money because they couldn't complete their coursework in person. With Houghton's new, flexible option, students who needed to begin and complete their coursework from home this fall had the freedom to do so.

"In this season when our normal routines have been disrupted, Houghton is committed to delivering a flexible, relational education that students can access residentially or online," says Dr. Ken Schenck, Vice President for Planning and Innovation at Houghton. "Our faculty are committed to highly personal connections with the individual learners in their classrooms—in any format."

This new model empowers students to complete their education in a way that works best for them. If residential students need to reach graduation faster than is typical, they can augment their schedule with extra online courses that they can take from their residence hall. If students must balance family, work and education, they can choose to complete their courses from home and still be on track to graduate on time.



While this new model has been instrumental in allowing students to continue their education remotely this fall, it has also assisted the students who chose to return to campus to resume or begin their studies. As new safety measures were implemented by teams across campus, including additional sanitizing stations, socially distanced classrooms and other steps to ensure continued wellness, the faculty dedicated themselves to redesign their courses to facilitate student learning in the new reality. Classes were restructured to allow students to continue their coursework remotely if they must temporarily quarantine or return home for the remainder of the semester.

"We have structured our fall semester to be one that offers students a safe and healthy environment to live and learn in and that affords ample opportunities for social and spiritual engagement," reports Dean of Students **Marc Smithers '08**. He also chaired the Preparing a Residential Education Plan (PREP) team.

In consultation with county and state health officials, Houghton College will continue this work to protect the community's wellness and ensure a timely pathway to graduation for all students.



## HOUGHTON ONLINE

"I am a mom to a busy, energetic toddler, and I also work full time," reported Human Resources student **Ashley Berlin '23**. "Having an online program where I can go at my own pace is exactly what I need."

Pursuing a college degree later in life may not be a new trend, but many would be surprised to learn that, nationally, nearly one-third of all students enrolled in a college degree program are over the age of 25. "Many people do not always know exactly what direction they want to take in life until they are beyond the normal college years," commented Ken Schenck, Vice President for Planning and Innovation. "Our online programs in areas like business, psychology and ministry allow a person to retool where they are in their current situation. Then, our M.B.A. and M.S.Ed. programs are there to take someone to the next level."

That has been the experience of **Rachel Hibberd '19**, an advocate with anti-human trafficking organizations in Nepal and a student in Houghton's online Psychology program. "Houghton was the one school that seemed to be the perfect fit for an adult like me who has quite a bit of life experience and informal training."

Born from the college's longstanding P.A.C.E. (Program for Accelerating College Education) program, Houghton Online transformed these bachelor-level programs, designed for working professionals, into a suite of remote learning opportunities. The increased flexibility for students combined with the rigorous academic instruction of Houghton's beloved faculty, multiple opportunities to begin throughout the year and the freedom to access course materials from anywhere with an internet connection has allowed the college to embody further its mission to provide an academically challenging, Christ-centered education to aspiring world-changers from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds.

But the transition of Houghton's established programs and the launch of new degrees in an online format is more than an innovative method of hosting courses. For Hibberd, Houghton Online provided the opportunity to embody her calling more fully. "Providing support for survivors [of human trafficking] through safe shelter and employment opportunities taught me a lot about the great need for effective mental health care for survivors and people working to support them. This led me to want to pursue professional counseling, and I knew I needed to get the formal education required for quality practice and licensing."

"Even though I was studying from the other side of the world, I was able to build authentic friendships with some of my classmates because of the collaborative assignments and discussions. The size of Houghton's programs made it so that I had a lot of the same professors and classmates for much of the program, which made it feel intimate and like we could connect on a relational level as well."



Ashley Berlin



Rachel Hibberd (right)

This experience runs counter to the typical news report of this spring's rushed transition to remote learning by schools at all levels following the spread of COVID-19. Still, it comes as no surprise to those familiar with Houghton's welcoming atmosphere. Thanks to the Houghton community's generosity, the opportunity created through Houghton Online will be available to more students in the coming years.

"Throughout the course of IMPACT, I have seen time and time again how gifts made by the Houghton Faithful have enabled us to expand the reach and ministry of Greater Houghton," reflected Karl Sisson, Vice President for Advancement and External Engagement. "This has included launching or enhancing new programs; expanding our online education offerings; and creating an innovative, non-residential educational experience for marginalized populations in Buffalo and Utica. I am so grateful for this exceptional generosity and shared vision because I know these sacrifices represent an eternal investment in Houghton students who will positively impact our world for Christ."



## MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



[www.houghton.edu/MBA](http://www.houghton.edu/MBA)

**Meghan Taylor (B.S. '14, M.B.A. '20)** joined the first graduating class of Houghton's online Master of Business Administration program to equip herself for leadership positions in today's challenging marketplace. She took a few moments to share her experience.

**Q: Has Houghton's M.B.A. program better equipped you to live out your vocation?**

**A:** The M.B.A. has helped me become a more critical thinker in my day-to-day work. Equipped with the right background of business knowledge, I am able to see the bigger picture of our operations and more effectively develop solutions within our systems and processes.

**Q: How did the flexibility of the online format help you balance the competing demands of work and family?**

**A:** The flexibility of the online format helped me be able to balance working thirty hours a week, raising two children and pursuing the M.B.A. full-time. With most assignments due on weekends and classes being in the evenings, I was able to stay on top of my work without needing to sacrifice all of my time with my kids! Pursuing a master's degree at any point in your life requires some sacrifices, but I am grateful that this program allowed me to continue working, be able to put my kids to bed and still attend class!

**Q: What impact has the Christian foundation had on your approach to business?**

**A:** One of the most influential aspects of the program was seeing how our professors, most of whom are working professionals, were able to integrate their own faith into their day-to-day work. When we study business in a Christian context, we remember that there is more to business success than just "maximizing shareholder wealth," and we can have a huge impact on the social and ethical futures of our respective companies.

**Q: Why do you feel it is important for Houghton to train the next generation of M.B.A.-prepared leaders?**

**A:** Houghton has always aimed to "equip students to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world." 2020 has certainly presented a rapidly changing world, and this program has helped prepare me for a future in the rapidly changing landscape of higher education. From turning a hobby into a registered business to receiving a promotion or wanting a terminal degree in their field of study, an M.B.A. is a versatile degree that is relevant to individuals from a very wide range of careers and passions.



Meghan Taylor

## LITERACY EDUCATION, M.S.

"I chose to enroll in the graduate program at Houghton because of the experience I had in my undergrad," says M.S.Ed. candidate **Sam Hirsch '19**. "[The professors] were there for me as an entire person, including mental and physical health."

Sam is pursuing her M.S.Ed. degree through Houghton's online program because she wants to open a respite center for children with special needs. "I think the M.S.Ed. is a way for me to continue to learn while I'm teaching. [The program will] push me to achieve my academic goals while providing me with new research, input and information."

"Houghton's Master of Science in Literacy Education program naturally builds on Houghton's undergraduate Teacher Education Program and supports those from



other teacher education programs to extend and deepen their professional engagement," explains Dr. Sunshine Sullivan, Associate Dean and Professor of Education. "We are equipping teachers for transformative service and learning by preparing educators who are scholars, reflective educators and caring servants—truly hallmarks of a Houghton education."

Another hallmark of a Houghton education is learning from expert faculty members. While many online programs hire adjunct faculty to teach, "all of the courses in this program are taught by faculty with earned doctoral degrees," continues Sullivan. "The same faculty serve as mentors throughout the coursework, embedded practicum and internships, providing seamless support as candidates work to both apply their theoretical learning and develop their professional learning network."

Sam has appreciated her faculty's expertise throughout her time in the program. "The faculty that I have worked with through the M.S.Ed. program bring their own experience," she explains. "They've been in the same place that I am now, and that means that they are more than able to offer advice and support to all of us."

If equipping students to be responsive educators while learning from expert faculty members are hallmarks of a Houghton education, at its heart is the personal attention students receive from their professors. "The courses incorporate video coaching," explains Sullivan. "Using video-based reflection and collaboration, our graduate students are mentored by our faculty and participate in an enriching and supportive community of practice with teachers from diverse teaching contexts. This allows students to receive in-depth, personalized feedback from professors and peers."

For Sam, the professional development she is receiving in the program will directly impact her career goals. "The M.S.Ed. program has been incredible in teaching me how to manage curriculum and how to teach in a culturally conscious way, which will be huge in a center that focuses on partnering with families."

[www.houghton.edu/MSEd](http://www.houghton.edu/MSEd)



## MASTER'S IN MUSIC

Shortly after the dedication of the Center for the Arts in late 1999, an anonymous gift gave wings to the long-held dream of establishing a School of Music at Houghton College. When the State of New York granted approval for the graduate program in 2002, the School of Music became a reality and was soon renamed to honor the faithful friendship and support for the college given by Wilson and Eleanor Greatbatch.

"My experience at Houghton was academically challenging, spiritually inspiring and musically fulfilling," says **Alicia (Atwater '03/MM '05) White**, recipient of the first Houghton graduate degree in 2005. "I found it very enriching to be involved in collaborative music-making and academic instruction aimed toward excellence and the giving of ourselves and our talents to God." Today, over one hundred students have received their graduate music training through the Greatbatch School of Music. Graduate candidates choose from two degrees and a variety of concentrations.

Building on the foundation of a well-established undergraduate music program, the graduate program in music seeks to foster fine music-making combined with academic rigor, informed and deepened by a Christian perspective. "Houghton's atmosphere of Christian nurturing combined with a continual striving to become a better musician resulted in creating an educational environment where I felt myself come alive," says **Beth (Martindale '13/MM '15) Liddick**. "Upon graduating, I felt thoroughly prepared to successfully satisfy any musical aspirations I had acquired," continues White, "whether it be in performing, teaching or conducting."



[www.houghton.edu/GradMusic](http://www.houghton.edu/GradMusic)



## 1960

**Patricia (Frey) Nichols** and her husband, Allen, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2020.



## 1970

**Rev. Dr. Michael Rogers** is retired from forty-five years of pastoral ministry within the Presbyterian Church in America having recently served twenty-five years as Senior Pastor at Westminster PCA in Lancaster PA. Michael and **Carol (Gass '70)** live in Lititz, PA.

**Linda (Bowen '78) Edwards** received a STOP DWI Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. The now-retired Allegany County STOP DWI coordinator and Youth Bureau director continues her commitment to traffic safety in Allegany County as chair of the Traffic Safety Board.

## 1984

**Mark Nabholtz** has been appointed Chief Editor of Publications for the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO), in which capacity he will oversee the organization's peer



review journal, The Choral Scholar, and the NCCO Choral Music Series in cooperation with ECS Publishing.

## 1986

**Kevin L. Clayton** was promoted to Deputy Chief of Enforcement, South Coastal Bureau (Rank: Captain) for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Environmental Law Enforcement, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on March 31, 2019.

## 1990

**Jennifer Wagner** manages all accounting and business functions for an independently owned furniture, décor and lifestyle store with twenty-two employees and \$6M in gross sales called Duh for Garden and Home located in Pensacola, FL.

## 1995

**Andrew Hopson** is the co-owner of VE Team - Vertical Engineering, a family-owned company based in South Carolina that specializes in being a "one-stop shop" for adventure-based program creation from Challenge Course (low and high) design through implementation and evaluation.



## 1997

**Jason Towers** is the Chief Officer of Enrollment and Marketing at Houghton College. Jason



returns to Houghton after spending the last nineteen years working in higher education, most recently overseeing enrollment, marketing, and retention efforts at the University of Maine at Fort Kent and the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

## 2000

**Melanie Petersen** earned a Master of Social Work from University of California, Berkeley on May 21, 2019, magna cum laude.

**Cara Tallo** has been promoted to executive producer of All Things Considered, NPR's flagship newsmagazine show. In this role, she oversees a staff of 30 between Washington, D.C., Headquarters and the NPRW Culver City bureau.

## 2001

**Jessica (Rudl) Carlson** is the Instruction Coach at Garrett Middle School in Garrett, Indiana. She was recently certified as a National Board-Certified Teacher (NBCT).



## 2004

**Jeremy Zaborowski** is the Deputy Director of the Berks County Industrial Development Authority in Reading, PA.

## 2005

**Rachel Wightman** has been promoted to the Associate Director for Instruction and Outreach at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN. In this role, she leads a team of librarians who teach students how to find and use information effectively. She credits her experience as a student worker in the Willard J. Houghton Library for her career choice.

## 2010

**Michael Blankenship** is the Director of Marketing at Houghton College. Michael joins the Houghton team after spending the last seven years in marketing with Northeastern Seminary and Roberts Wesleyan College.

## 2011

Over Homecoming Weekend 2019, five Houghton friends, along with their spouses, were overjoyed to finally have a mini reunion at Evergreen Trails Campground. The crew enjoyed attending some Homecoming events as well as getting together with **Bruce and Sarah (Smith '87) Kornhaus '86** and **Ray and Lisa (Parizek) Parlett '85!**



Pictured: **Kelly (Bennett '11) Spencer** and spouse Brandon; **Karen (Kornhaus '10) Muti** with spouse Doug; **Katie (Lindsey '11) Belmore** with spouse Bryan; **Katy (Hurd '10) Gelin** with spouse Kyle and **Colleen Sarnicola '11**

**Caroline Hogan** is a librarian for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in Lincoln, NE, where she oversees day-to-day library operations and management for the inmate library at a men's correctional center.

**Josh Wallace** is an associate at the law firm Phillips Lytle LLP and was recently listed in Buffalo Business First's People on the Move.



## 2012

**Andrew Bonanno**, PhD Candidate in Anthropology at the University of Georgia, received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for the project "Examining Land Tenure Change and Well-Being." This complements a 2019-2020 Fulbright Research Award to Sierra Leone completed earlier this year.

**Shannon Ames Fuller** earned a Master of Divinity from Trinity School for Ministry in May 2020. She is currently serving as a children's minister in a local church and has entered the ordination process in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in the Anglican Church of North America.

## 2013

**Josh Mertzlufft** announced his candidacy for District 60 of the New York State Senate. Following his time at Houghton, Josh went on to graduate from University at Buffalo's School of Law. He now works as an attorney while residing in Hamburg, NY, with his wife, Shea, and their newborn son.

**Jehoshaphat Reich** earned an MD/MPH from the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine on May 5, 2019.

## 2014

**Ben Murphy** was awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for his dissertation at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill titled "Provisional Beings": Crowd Science and Race in American Literature, 1877-1900. One of the most competitive graduate fellowships, this award supports a year of research and writing to help advanced graduate students in the humanities and related social sciences in the last year of PhD dissertation writing.

**Jim Vitale** completed his Master of Divinity degree at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, with a culminating internship in Berlin, Germany. He and his wife, **Isabel (Sanders '13)**, and son, Ezra, moved to Pennsylvania where Jim now serves as the pastor of Beaver Lutheran Church in Beavertown. Jim was ordained a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on October 26, 2019.

## 2018

**Jeffrey Zane Hansen** completed his master's degree in World Arts with a concentration in Linguistics from Dallas International University in May 2020.

*The Alumni News and Notes section invites alumni to share milestones on their post-college journey. In the spirit of an alma mater ("nourishing mother"), Houghton College welcomes news from the entire alumni family and seeks to honor the richness and diversity of the journeys on which our alumni find themselves. These news items reflect what alumni wish to share with each other rather than endorsed announcements from Houghton College. Submit your news at: [www.houghton.edu/Magazine](http://www.houghton.edu/Magazine).*

# Down the Aisle

**Jennifer Wagner '90**  
married **Todd Blanchard**  
on May 27, 2018. (1)

**Leona (Wescher '93)** married **Jack Steiner**  
on August 10, 2019. (2)

**Mike Russell '04** married **Elissa Leuer**  
on November 10, 2019. (3)

**Alex (Huntington-Ofner '05)**  
married **Dr. Paul Mikowski**  
on June 16, 2018. (4)

**Cana Roth-Austin '09**  
married **Brandon Austin** on  
October 26, 2019. (5)

**Andrew Brubaker '10** married **Jen Zerance**  
on February 29, 2020. (6)

**Shannon Ames Fuller '12**  
married **Andrew Ames Fuller**  
on January 4, 2020. (7)

**Shelby (Skinner)** married  
**David Dytschkowskyj '12**  
on August 17, 2019.

**Sophia Ross '17** married **Thomas Eckert '16**  
on July 14, 2018. (8)

**Kayleigh (Gurney '17)**  
married **Noah McNeill** on  
August 4, 2019. (9)

**Kayla (Miller)** married **Michael Ganger '17**  
on June 22, 2019. (10)

**Kirsten (Hedstrom-Brady)**  
married **Ryan Hartzell '18**  
on May 18, 2019. (11)



# Future Highlanders



**05.29.18 | Theodore Robin (1)**  
**Joyce (Taylor '12)** and **Michael Bingeman**

**9.25.18 | Nigel Benson**  
**Andrea (Agliotta '09)** and **Lorin Zehring**

**11.14.18 | Clementine Joy**  
**Brandon and Hannah (Compton) Cooper '14**

**12.24.18 | Maggie Carlene (2)**  
**Megan (Springstead '04)** and **Jonathan Neurock**

**1.9.19 | William Cash**  
**Nate and Elizabeth Austin '09**

**2.23.19 | Leo (3)**  
**Kristen (Zale '05)** and **Mike Poyer '04**

**5.15.19 | William Elijah (4)**  
**Christine (Winkelbauer)** and **Tyler Campbell '15**

**6.2019 | Phillip (5)**  
**Ian and Kimberly Gates '12**

**8.25.19 | Rosalie**  
**Chloe (Naujokas '14)** and **Andrew Williams '12**

**9.2.19 | Andrew Luke (6)**  
**Amanda (Shine '05)** and **Daniel Zambrano**

**9.28.19 | Peter William (7)**  
**Rachel (Smith '11, MA '13)** and **Jason Decker**

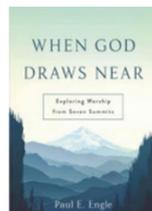
**12.9.19 | Elijah Luis**  
**Lindsay (Hansen '10)** and **Luis Rosado**

**4.4.20 | Luke Nathaniel (8)**  
**Elizabeth (Pisaniello '13)** and **Robin Munn**

**4.10.20 | Ellee Hope (9)**  
**Kelly (Bennett '11)** and **Brandon Spencer**

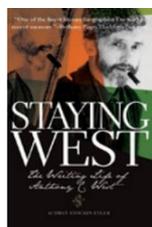


# alumni Book Shelf

**PAUL ENGLE '64**

*When God Draws Near: Exploring Worship from Seven Summits*

P & R Publishing, October 1, 2019

**AUDREY STOCKIN EYLER '64**

*Staying West: The Writing Life of Anthony C. West*

Kitsap Publishing, September 1, 2019

**KEN MCGEORGE '66**

*Health Care Reform in New Brunswick: Lessons from a Socialized System*

2020

**JAMES LEWIS '70**

*Making Sense of ADHD; Overcoming the Challenges of Coexisting Conditions*

High Tide Press, 2018

**JEFF CRAWFORD '72**

*Heart Winds, Finding the Way Home: A story of Healing, Hope and Humor*

Independently published, June 16, 2019

**JERRY WALLS '77** and David Baggett

*The Moral Argument: A History*

Oxford University Press, November 1, 2019

*Do Christians, Muslims and Jews Worship the Same God? Four Views*

Contributor, Zondervan, 2019

**ANITA (HILL '78) PLACIDO**

*Dreams of Sanity: A Journey of Depression and Beyond*

Inspiring Voices, May 24, 2019

**NANCY B. KENNEDY '79**

*Women Win the Vote! 19 for the 19th Amendment*

Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W.W. Norton, February 2020

**JEFFREY MCCLAIN JONES '84**

*The Love Scam*

Independently published July 31, 2019

**KRIS "PAROLINE" (CAVANAUGH '90) CASTRO**

*"Crazy" Might Be a Blessing in Disguise*

Shift Inc., February 8, 2019

**C. KEVIN THOMPSON '91**

*The Letters*

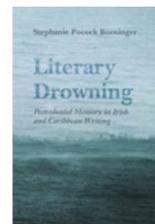
Scrivenings Press LLC, July 1, 2020

**ERIN (BENNETT '00) BANKS**

illustrated and designed

*G is for Gibbes: A Museum ABC Book*

Published 2019, the Gibbes Museum

**STEPHANIE (POCOCK '04) BOENINGER**

*Literary Drowning: Postcolonial Memory in Irish and Caribbean Writing*

Syracuse University Press, 2020

**ISABEL "BEL" (TO '05) TOM**

*The Value of Wrinkles: A Young Perspective on How Loving the Old Will Change Your Life*

Moody Publishers/Northfield, March 3, 2020

**ELISE (MATTHEWS '08) PIOTROWICZ**

as E. Piotrowicz

*Wild Mushrooms*

Wipf and Stock Publishers' Resource

imprint, March 25, 2020

**LAUREN ASHLEY (BRUGGER '12) JAINARINE**

*A Celebration of Black Lives Through Food and Culture*

Houghton contributors:

**Amara (Graham '13) Charles, Abena N'zinga (Griffin '14), Kai Hill, Sarah Wangai '12**

E-book, 2020

## In Memoriam

**1942**

On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, **Mary (Deal '42) Clinch** went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She was 99 years of age.

**1943**

**Virginia (Black '43) Homan** passed into heaven on March 28, 2019, in her one hundredth year.

**1945**

**Catherine "Bonnie" (Bonneman '45) Stanley**, a Sioux Falls, SD, resident since 2003, died peacefully in her sleep of natural causes at the Sanford Hospice Cottage on February 25, 2019, with family at her side. She was 96.

**1948**

**Mary (Wight '48) Torrey**, 92, of Elba, NY, died peacefully Sunday morning, March 17, 2019, at The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing in Batavia, NY.

**1949**

**Myrtle (Miller '49) Gent** passed from this death to life everlasting in the presence of her beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, on April 7, 2019.

**Jayne (Williams '49) Giffin**, 93, passed away peacefully on May 22, 2019, in Livermore, CA, after suffering a stroke.

**Rev. Dr. Harold H. Hinderliter '49**, of New Wilmington, PA, died on

Thursday, August 9, 2018, at UPMC Jameson, New Castle.

**George Kay '49**, 92, died on Monday, February 10, 2020, in Fredericksburg, VA.

While in the care of the Buffalo Hospice Center, **Reverend Paul F. Markell '49** stepped into the presence of Jesus on April 15, 2020. He was 92 years of age.

**Guendolen (Stuart '49) Smith** of Caledonia, NY, passed away on September 15, 2019, at age 92.

**1950**

**Rev. Nelson Crowell '50**, a retired pastor with the Wesleyan Church, passed away Tuesday, January 14th, 2020, at his Florida residence. He was 92.

**Frances (Bassett '50) Hostetter**, a resident of Sacred Heart Home in Oregon, OH, for the past eight years, was promoted to heaven on February 10th, 2019. Fran passed away peacefully with her

devoted husband of 65 years, Ed, and family members at her side.

**Rev. William A. Masters '50**, of Ogdensburg, NY, passed away on Friday, December 6, 2019, at St. Joseph's Home surrounded by his loving family. He was 94.

**1951**

**Helen (Lawrie '51) Mulholland**, 89, was ushered into the presence of her Lord and Savior on Sunday, October 20, 2019. During her last several months, she was competently cared for at Lakeside at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster County, PA.

**1952**

**Marilyn (Gravink '52) Fierri**, 88, previously of Simsbury, CT, passed away on February 6, 2020, of late-stage Parkinson's Disease at her current residence in Saco, ME.

On January 13, 2019, **David Thomas Skolfield '52** of Friendsville, TN, passed away at his residence. He was 88 years old.

**ROBERT CUMMINGS**

Tender-hearted and tenacious and "a fun-loving, caring and interesting gentleman," emeritus professor of German **Robert L. Cummings '50** passed away June 13, 2020.

Herr Cummings, as he was known, began teaching at Houghton in 1962. For twenty-six years, he taught with kindness, patience and a great sense of humor.

Several Houghton alumni cited Cummings' support as a main reason they were able to make it through their four years at Houghton. "Many students have come and gone through my German classes and out into the world," said Cummings in an article about him in the November '81 issue of the Houghton Milieu. "Some of them didn't learn much German, but they ate a lot of popcorn in front of my fireplace, and together, we solved a lot of our problems—both personal and spiritual."

"Though I have forgotten the German he taught me, I haven't forgotten him," remembered one Houghton alumna. "Such a gentle soul."

He is survived by a son, **Col. Stephen**, and his wife, **Kathleen (Houck) Cummings '71**; a daughter, **Brenda (Cummings '75) Dix**, and her husband, **Dr. Daniel Dix '76**; and grandchildren **Rebecca Dix '09**; **David '11** and his wife, **Lindsey (Hults '10) Dix**; and **Dr. Michael** and his wife, **Sierra (Mitchell) Dix '13**. He was predeceased by his wife of over sixty years, **Marion (Thornton '47) Cummings**, and five siblings.

## EDNA PRINSELL

A missionary to the people of Japan for sixty-five years, **Edna D. Prinsell '52** passed away in Okinawa on April 22, 2019. She was 94 years old.

Edna knew she was called to be a missionary by the time she was eight years old. Her family attended the Jersey City Wesleyan Church under the ministry of Rev. and Mrs. Adam. J. Shea, Sr., and she grew up hearing their son, George Beverley Shea, sing songs and play the organ for services.

Edna arrived at Houghton just as her brother, **Gustave Prinsell '48**, was graduating. She had already earned her RN at the time and worked her way through college as a nurse. After graduating from Houghton, Edna dedicated sixty-five years of her life to advancing the Kingdom of God in Japan. The president of Immanuel General Mission of Japan wrote this in her memory: "She shared the gospel and Jesus to anyone in Okinawa. She loved Jesus, Japan and Japanese people so deeply because of the divine love of God. She has been loved by the family of God in Okinawa."

She is survived by one brother, former college physician **Dr. Gustave "Gus" Prinsell '48**, and his wife, long-time Houghton community member Louise Prinsell, and nephews **Jonathan '70**, James, **Jeffrey '75** and **Joel '77**.

**Mary (Holzman '52) Wood**, a long-time resident of New Paltz, NY, completed her earthly journey at her residence on June 13, 2019.

**Joan (Krisher '55) Thomas**, 86, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at Absolut Care in Gasport, NY, surrounded by family.

## 1953

**Miriam (Bitner '53) Henry**, 88, of Hagerstown, MD, went to be with the Lord, Sunday, December 1, 2019, at her home surrounded by her family.

**Robert L. Kurtz '53**, age 90, went into the loving arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 14th, 2020.

**Rev. David Suetterlein '53**, 88, passed to his eternal home on January 10, 2020.

## 1954

**Rev. Robert G. Bender '54** went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

**Dr. Roy Livingston '54** passed away at the Maplewood Nursing Home in Canton, NY, on Thursday March 28, 2019.

## 1955

**Donald Rhine '55** of Fairhope, AL, departed this earth to be with his Savior for eternity on April 14, 2018.

## 1956

**Richard Pendell '56** of Lynchburg, Virginia, passed away on May 6, 2020. He was 87 years old.

## 1957

**Marilyn (Johnson '57) Driscoll** passed away on August 23, 2019, in New York, NY.

## 1958

**Rev. Richard "Dick" Kaylor '58**, formerly of Buffalo and Angola, entered into rest April 27, 2019, in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Buffalo, NY. He was 90.

## 1959

**Kay (Dingman '59) Rickett**, 82, of Watertown, NY, passed away Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at the Samaritan Keep Home, where she had been a resident since June 24, 2019. Her loving husband was at her side.

## BEN FRANK MOSS

Painter and teacher **Ben Frank Moss '58** died in his sleep on Friday, August 9, 2019. He was 83.

Since beginning his art career as a Houghton sophomore in 1954, Moss became known for his use of luminous color and expressive form. His works can be found in over 375 private collections today, and he participated in numerous exhibitions at renowned institutions such as the National Academy of Art and Design, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Yale University Art Gallery.

"Ben and his wife, Jean, have been dear supporters and friends to the Art Department for decades," said Ted Murphy, Mable Barnum Davidson Distinguished Professor of Fine Arts. "They have supported our faculty and students and gallery series financially and gifted to Houghton paintings and drawings that now can be seen in every building on campus." Moss contributed 140 paintings to the college's permanent collection as well as creating the Ben Frank and Jean Moss Gallery program, an endowment providing for the annual Ben Frank and Jean Moss Invitational Exhibition that supports both emerging and established artists.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; his daughter, Jennifer Moss; his son, Benjamin Moss; his daughter-in-law, Te-Wen Lo; and his sister, L. Millicent Miller.

## 1960

**Rev. Dr. Charles Richard "Dick" Sheesley '60**, of Indian Trail, NC, died on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at his home. He was 81.

**Rev. Gordon Strong '60** went home to be with the Lord January 16, 2019, in Ft. Myers, FL. He was 83 years old.

## 1961

**Lee A Breckenridge '61**, 79, of Oakfield, NY, died September 4, 2019.

**The Rev. Kenneth D. McCaw '61**, age 85, of Grand Rapids, MI, passed away Thursday, September 5, 2019, at Clark on Keller Lake.

**Dr. Donald Rasmussen '61**, age 79, died on March 17, 2019 at his Leesburg, Florida winter home after a short illness.

## 1962

**Dr. Richard A. Ulrich '62 (Col., USAF, Ret.)** transferred to Glory-Land on Oct 17, 2019, after a long battle with heart disease. He was 78.

## 1964

**Constance "Connie" Day '64** passed away on Sunday, September 22, 2019. She was a resident of Oklahoma at the time of passing.

## 1965

**Robert Elliott '65**, 76, of Eastham, MA, died on December 21, 2019.

**Lorraine (Solloscy '65) Getman**, age 76, of Ogdensburg, NY, passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at St. Joseph's Hospital with her family by her side.



## DAVID HOWARD

Former history professor **Dr. David A. Howard**, 76, died Sunday, June 9, 2019, after an unexpected illness.

As professor at Houghton College for forty-eight years, Dr. Howard taught classes in Latin American History, African History, British History, The Reformation and History for Science Honors, among others. He advised hundreds of students pursuing careers in the humanities, law and sciences and was known, according to Dr. Paul Young, for his "perspicacious" insights and a deep but subtle sense of humor. Long-time Houghton community members may recall that he was also a faithful Noon Ball participant.

"He was one of the brightest men I have ever known, but he coupled that with amazing grace, selflessness and humility," remembers a former student of Howard's. Another alumnus recalls "being impressed by [Dr. Howard's] kindness, his wide knowledge and his ability to remember more details about historical situations than I could even fathom."

In addition to his wife of fifty years, emeritus professor of Chemistry Dr. Irmgard "Irma" Howard, he is survived by four children, **Dr. Deborah Howard '92**, **Bill Howard '93**, **Eleanor (Howard '95) Henebury**, and **Stephen**, and eight grandchildren, including **Ekaterina Nikolaeva-Howard '22**.

## DONALD DAYTON

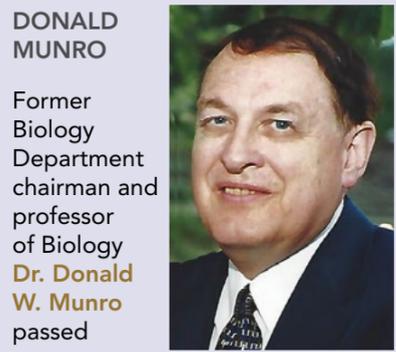
Theologian and church historian **Dr. Donald W. Dayton '63** passed away May 2, 2020, in Pasadena, California. He was 77 years old.

Son of former president of Houghton College **Wilbur T. Dayton '38**, Don Dayton was recognized as "a scholar who has dramatically changed the ways we view Christianity, theology, and ethics," said Dr. Don Thorsen of Azusa Pacific Seminary in 2010, when Dayton received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wesleyan Theological Society.

Over a thirty-five-year teaching career, Dayton held academic positions at five different seminaries and lectured at over thirty-five institutions on six continents. A prolific writer, his most well-known books include *Discovering an Evangelical Heritage*, *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism* and *The Variety of American Evangelicalism*. He also edited or authored dozens of papers, articles, book chapters and volumes.

Don also made major contributions through his extensive ecumenical work, in which he advocated for marginal voices and traditions to be taken seriously and given a seat at the table.

"On May 2, the theological world lost one of its most unique voices," wrote former student and colleague Christian Collins Winn in a tribute to Dayton for Christianity Today. "The Wesleyan Methodist Church lost one of its most ardent sons, and hundreds of students and colleagues lost one of their fiercest friends."



**DONALD MUNRO**

Former Biology Department chairman and professor of Biology **Dr. Donald W. Munro** passed away on September 3rd, 2019. He was 81 years old.

From 1966 to 1994, Don Munro prepared Houghton students to serve the Lord through science, medicine and missions. As advisor to Houghton's pre-med students, Dr. Munro had the satisfaction of seeing many of his students enter prestigious graduate schools and medical programs at such well-known places as Duke University, Johns Hopkins and the University of Rochester. His students have gone into medical missions, education and veterinary science as well.

Following his tenure at Houghton, Munro was the director of the American Scientific Affiliation in Ipswich, Massachusetts, until he retired.

He is survived by two children, **Deborah (Munro '90) Polyakov** and **Dr. Mark Munro '94**, and five grandchildren. He was followed in death by his wife, Joyce.

**1966**

**Rev. Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Stone '66**, 79, of Richmond, VA, died at Sunset, April 29, 2020, at home surrounded by his loving family after waging a four-year courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

**1967**

**Lawrence "Larry" W. Hodge '67**, 75, of Conklin, NY, went to be with the Lord on September 29, 2019.

**Richard A. "Dick" Martin '67**, died Saturday, November 24, 2018, at home in Leola, PA.

**1969**

**Ronald N. Brown '69**, of Wilmington, DE, died peacefully at home on April 11, 2019, after a seven-month battle with cancer. He was 71.

**1972**

**Gayla (Moffatt '72) Coburn** passed away in March 2019 at the Ottawa General Hospital after a brief struggle with cancer. She was 69.

**Archdeacon Gordon H. Finney '72**, who served in the diocese of Toronto, taught at Seminari Thelogi in Malaysia and then retired to the diocese of New Westminster, died July 23, 2019, after eight years of living with colorectal cancer.

**1978**

**Julie (McNiel '78) McCollister**, age 63, died peacefully in the arms of her husband on November 30th, 2019, at Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, NY, after a lifelong debilitating battle with myotonic dystrophy and a brief final illness.

**1981**

**Patricia Yantomasi '81**, 76, of Alpena, MI, passed away Saturday, April 6, 2019, at her home surrounded by her family.

**1984**

**Kevin W. Oakes '84**, 57, of Sinclairville, NY, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, April 1, 2019, from his home.

**1990**

**Jennifer (Anno '90) Meidl**, 50, passed away Wednesday, November 28, 2018, in Vienna, Austria, after a brief illness due to Hodgkin's lymphoma.



**DUANE SAUFLEY**

Former professor of physics **Dr. Duane C. Saufley** passed away at home on August 19, 2020. He was 79 years old.

A gifted teacher and communicator, Dr. Saufley began his tenure at Houghton in 1965. By the second decade of his thirty-five years of service, he and former physics professor **Dr. Fred Trexler '64** had revised the entire physics curriculum at Houghton College. "He was like a brother to me," shared Trexler on Facebook. "We shared the same goals for the Department of Physics and Earth Science, pointing students to Jesus through our teaching." When Saufley was awarded the Sears-Roebuck Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1991, he said that his goals included "modeling for my students what it means to be a person, a teacher, and a Christian."

Students remember him as soft-spoken and gentle. "I took Astronomy from Dr. Saufley," said former student **Nate Ransil '93**. "I learned things about stars and also about kindness."

He is survived by his wife, former Houghton College student development staff member **Barbara**; children **Beth Ann (Saufley '86) Pocock** and her husband, **Daniel Pocock '86**; Megan (Roy) Caldwell; Sharon (Henry) Brubaker; and **Matthew (Katherine) Saufley '96** and twelve grandchildren including **Alissa Pocock '12**.



**ROSEYLN DANNER**

**Roselyn B. Danner '84**, retired staff and former manager of what is now known as the Ortlip Art Gallery, passed

away on April 13, 2019, in her home at Yorkwood House in Houghton, New York.

Houghton is even more beautiful because Roselyn Danner was here. She played a critical role in the design of the Ortlip Gallery and served as director of the Houghton College Gallery series and exhibitions for fifteen years. In addition, she maintained a regular drawing and painting practice in her home studio, had her illustrations published in several books, and created pen-and-ink pieces for the college and Houghton Wesleyan Church.

In addition to her husband, Emeritus Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, Lieutenant **Colonel Robert "Bob" Danner, US Army, Retired**, she is survived by their four children, David; **Maribeth (Danner)** and her husband, **Rev. Dr. Joey Jennings '86**; **Nathan** and his wife, **Casda (Liddick '88) Danner '89**; and **Amy ('93)** and her husband, **Dave Sperry '91** as well as her sister, **Marilyn (Ballard '62) Hiler**; 13 grandchildren including **Hannah Jennings Murphy** and her husband, **Ben Murphy '13**; **Clayton** and **Tori (Bachman) Danner '15**; **Courtney (Danner '18)** and her husband **Jonathan Meyer '15**; and **Christopher Danner '19**; and seven great-grandchildren.

**2008**

**Jessica Nguyen Davidson '08**, caring friend, international traveler, committed believer in Christ and beloved family member, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, August 5, 2019, at the age of 33.

**2009**

**Misty D. Johnson PACE '09**, 57, of Jamestown, NY, passed away Friday, March 20, 2020, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester.

**FRIEND OF HOUGHTON**

**Elizabeth "Betty" O'Byrne DiSalvi**, former Houghton staff and community member, passed away in January 2019 after discontinuing chemotherapy. Her cancer had returned in 2018, and her passing was a quick and merciful answer to her prayers.

**B. JEAN REIGLES**

Intimidating at first with surprising humor and warmth underneath, **Dr. B. Jean Reigles**, former professor of Music and Choral Conducting from 1977 to 2009 and Director of Choral Activities for fifteen years, passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019.

Music majors and non-majors alike admired Jean Reigles with equal parts love and fear. "Dr. Jean Reigles was a force," said **Jennifer (Hartenstine '00) Felty** in a tribute on Facebook. "A strong woman with tremendous talent who demanded and expected excellence." At the same time, students remember the way she believed in their music. "Jean Reigles was a brilliant musician with an incredible ear," said former student **Laura (Mercadante '95) Mee**. "But her real gift was drawing out of her student-singers a level of performance that was truly magical due to her leadership and attention to detail."

During her thirty-two-year tenure at Houghton, Dr. Reigles conducted the Women's Choir, Houghton College Choir and the Madrigal Singers and held opera workshops. She also sang in a variety of performances including a joint recital with Bruce Brown and joining the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Chamber Players.

Surviving are a sister, Diane (Jack) Bates of Whitney Point; a brother, David (Sandy) Reigles of Ohio; several nieces and nephews; and her beloved students and colleagues from Houghton College.

**CORRECTIONS**

*We make every effort to ensure that information presented within this publication is accurate and timely. The following corrections are for the Summer 2019 issue of Houghton.*

In the obituary notice for **Anne (Wetherbee '63) Wagner**, we incorrectly listed her husband, **Daniel '63**, as David. Their children are **Jennifer J. Wagner '90** and **Benjamin Wagner '92**. We apologize for the mistake.

In the obituary notice for **Margie (Miller '49) Barnett**, we omitted surviving brother-in-law Allan Barnett. We apologize for this oversight and thank **Evelyn (Smith '63) Day** for bringing it to our attention.



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