

HOUGHTON

WINTER 2017

Reconciliation

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Issues of race run deep in the Wesleyan tradition.

John Wesley fought in England against the slave trade in the late 18th century. The Wesleyan Methodist church in this country was founded in 1843 in large part over opposition to slavery. For leaders like Orange Scott and Luther Lee, their opposition to slavery was not a matter of “political correctness.” It was not complicated. It was simply a part of what it meant to follow Jesus Christ in this world. This same connection between personal faithfulness to the scriptures and a commitment to social activism in the name of freedom animated Houghton’s own founders like Willard Houghton.

Somewhere in the early 20th century, things got complicated. Too many Christians felt the need to choose between commitment to the authority of scripture and commitment to social justice. This theological divide translated all too easily into a political divide. Social justice became associated with the left—and personal piety with the right. The Wesleyan Methodist Church of the 1960s shied away from participation in the Civil Rights Movement, so much so that church leaders felt the need to make a public statement of repentance at their General Conference in 2012.

Only one or two Houghton students in the 1960s joined the host of American college students journeying south to support Civil Rights. In the 1980s, I heard Wesleyan Missionaries defend the need to support apartheid in South Africa as a bulwark against Communism.

This entanglement of race and politics reached a new height in our recent presidential election. Black and White Christians alike are judging each other’s politics—and, all too often, their Christian faith—by how they voted on November 8th and its perceived implications for race.



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Today’s Houghton students and alumni are seeking to restore the wholeness between personal faithfulness and social justice that they see in the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ—especially in the area of race relations. They are pursuing this wholeness in a range of ways. For American Christians on the other side of the 20th century, these connections will never be uncomplicated—and never altogether uncontroversial. In this issue of *Houghton* magazine, we seek to honor those who are seeking to carry on the Wesleyan and Houghton tradition of linking personal faithfulness to the pursuit of social holiness—and to reflect more fully on what it means to honor our Lord Jesus Christ—in anticipation of that great day when “a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, will stand before the throne of God and before the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9). ■

Shirley A. Mullen, Class of 1976
President



I rejoice in gratitude

that the class of 2020

is our most ethnically diverse

That they may all be ONE

Eight years ago, our nation elected our first Black president, Barack Obama. Even for those who did not share his politics, it was easy to appreciate the historic nature of this election: Here we were, not even a century and a half after the Emancipation Proclamation, and a Black man was sitting in the White House. For many, this was enough to prove that we were living in (or at least approaching) a post-racial America—an America that really was capable of moving beyond racism. Perhaps we had not fully atoned for what Jim Wallis called “America’s original sin,” but at least we did not need to live in its thrall.

Today, this optimism seems naïve. Our most recent election revealed that, far from being post-racial, we face deep fissures in American society. Most have heard that 81% of White evangelicals voted for President-elect Trump. While pundits and statisticians quibble about the fine points, that number stands in stark contrast to the mere 8% of African-Americans—a large portion of whom identify as Christian—who voted for him. Latinos, another disproportionately Christian ethnic group, voted for Trump at a 29% clip.

Anyone who takes seriously Jesus’ prayer “that they may all be one” (John 17:21) should be alarmed at those statistics and the wider reality they represent. Broadly speaking, White evangelicals and Christians of color see our President-elect differently, see America differently, see the world differently. In many ways, this is because our separation has helped us to see the church, worship and God differently. This division sits heavily upon us—and it should. While some are using this post-election season to retreat to our various corners, lick our wounds and be thankful that presidential election season doesn’t come around again for at least a couple of years, Christians don’t have that option. We have a Savior who wants us to be one, and we have evidence—hard data and painful bruises—that we are not yet there.

But here and there, we see glimmers, little lights in the nighttime sky. These fledgling stars give us hope and help us chart a course toward healing. I rejoice in gratitude that the class of 2020 is our most ethnically diverse and that the previous high was the class of

2019. I like to think the Houghton Gospel Choir is another one of these little stars. **Jerome Bell ('15, MM '17)** directs the choir with grace and professionalism. For some, the choir provides an outlet to sing songs that sound and feel like home; for others, it serves as a way to learn about a musical tradition they know very little about. Many of our students grew up in churches defined by the “worship wars” and come to Houghton with very clear expectations about what worship should be, and they can be very critical about worship that doesn’t measure up. The worship wars’ turf is well-worn: Depending on our perspective, we argue that music is too tradition-bound, fusty and aloof or that it is too repetitive, culture-captive and emotion-driven. Many students (and many faculty and staff!) have chosen their sides, and we either prepare for battle or settle into cold *détente*. But the Gospel Choir winsomely shows a way forward: music that is fresh but connected with a tradition, that is buoyant and intense but not market-driven, that uses repetition and volume to joyfully connect the head and the heart without being pedantic or sentimental.

The choir has its share of ups and downs; often, there is tension between exploring the depths of the music with people who have grown up singing it on the one hand and welcoming people for whom it’s brand new on the other. But, in all, the choir is a great sign of hope, a reminder that, in welcoming those who stretch us, we often entertain angels unawares.

Each class day, the campus community is invited to morning prayer at 7:30. (Next time you come to campus, you should join us!) I often pray that we will be a sign of hope to a hopeless world—that the world will see Jesus in us. Sometimes, I think that means



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that we have some important idea to teach the world. But more and more, I think we have something to teach about unity. We’ve become convicted that the world is hopeless in part because it is divided, because we are increasingly isolated from God and from each other, that we live in a world in which “all the people did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25). So for the world to see Jesus in us is not just a matter of preaching the Gospel; it is a matter of demonstrating genuine Gospel unity in a fragmented world. If we can live as a truly unified community—a community that is learning to dialogue well across racial lines and to take real steps forward together—that will be a tremendous prophetic sign of God’s hope in a hopeless world. ■

J. Michael Jordan '99 serves as Dean of the Chapel and Chair of the Department of Biblical Studies, Theology and Philosophy.



TO BE A PROBLEM

Julian Cook '13

The summer of 2013 was the summer I grew up. That summer, I graduated from Houghton College; planned a move from the rolling hills of Western New York to the big city of Boston, Massachusetts, to pursue a Master of Divinity degree as a Fellow at Boston University School of Theology; and was hired to work my first summer job away from home as an Admissions Intern at Houghton's Greatbatch School of Music.

After four years of pestering, my mother finally allowed me to drive my high school graduation gift—a car—from Chicago to Houghton, and, with that decision, the summer of 2013 became the year my mother gave me “The Talk.”

This was not the traditional diatribe wherein parents explain “the birds and the bees” or delineate their expectations for your relationships with significant others. In fact, if you are not an African American, chances are that this rhetorical rite of passage is unknown to you.

There are a few talks that every Black boy remembers. You never forget the horrifyingly sacred hush of your mother's voice and the lump in your stomach that presses against your dignity as you are told the story of Emmett Till—a Black boy from Chicago who was murdered in 1955 by White men while visiting relatives in Money, Mississippi, for daring to assert his equality with a White woman. The summer of 2013 “Talk” was different. There was no sacred homage to a tragedy of the past in the tone of my mother's voice. Her monologue bespoke fears as fresh as the present, and there was a terror I had never heard or seen from her before.

She said, “Julian, I know that you are an adult, and I am proud of you. But, if the police pull you over, do not move, be polite, keep your hands visible, and do not appear threatening to the officer. Your job is to make it to Houghton safely. Do you hear me?” The sudden authority in her voice shook me, but it was clear that a simple car ride to Houghton had aroused fears for her Black son's life.

I suppose that the mothers of Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland and Michael Brown also gave them “The Talk.” The continuing necessity of “The Talk” indicates that, while race relations and mores have changed in this country, racism is alive and healthy. The question raised by W. E. B. DuBois in his 1903 work, *The Souls of Black Folks*, is as relevant today as it was 113 years ago: “How does it feel to be a problem?”

I was driven to my involvement in the Black Lives Matter and Non-violent Resistance movements because I was convinced by the gospel of Jesus Christ that I, and all marginalized persons, am not a problem to be solved or tolerated; we are Children of God. The gospel is clear: God is among those whose lives are regarded with indignity by society, and our call as disciples of Christ is to be where Jesus is present.

I participated in the shutdown of Chicago's Magnificent Mile on Black Friday of 2015 to protest the police killing of an unarmed and mentally handicapped seventeen-year-old Black child named LaQuan MacDonald. Two years ago, the church I am privileged to serve as Senior Pastor, St. Mark Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Roxbury (the oldest Black Congregational Church in Boston), established a community gardening program to combat the inaccessibility of fresh vegetables in the city's poverty-stricken Black and Latino community.

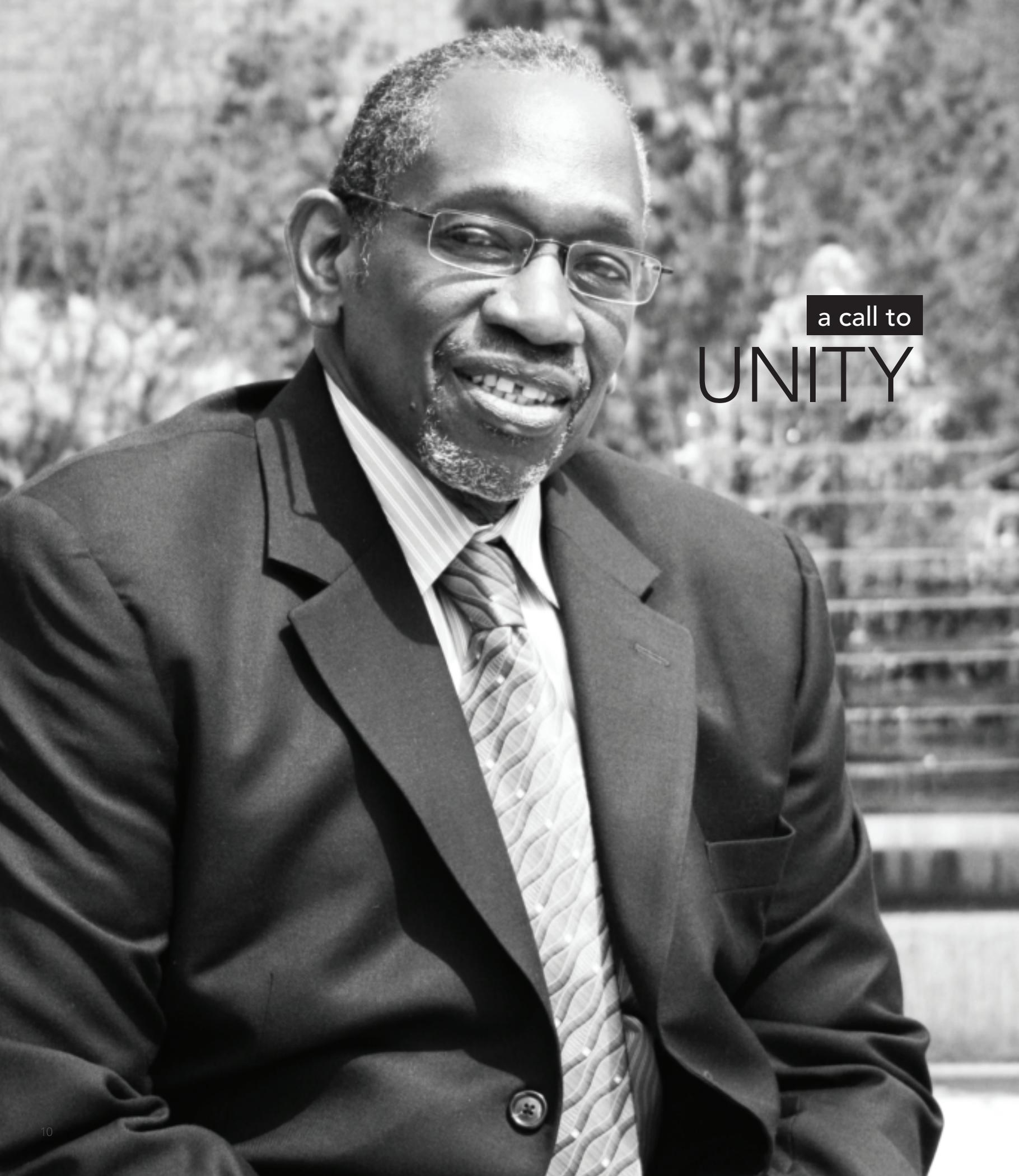
Before there can be racial reconciliation,

there must be deep truth-telling,

prophetic listening

and genuine repentance.

Racial justice and reconciliation results in liberation for the oppressed and the oppressor. It liberates the oppressed from the shackles of inferiority that cause them to live as less than what they are, and it frees the oppressor from the hegemonic superiority that permits them to live as more than what they are. Before there can be racial reconciliation, there must be deep truth-telling, prophetic listening and genuine repentance. Our task as disciples of Christ is to work until “The Talk” is no longer a necessary fact of life for people of color. Then, all of God's children will be able to “beat our swords into plowshares,” and “[n]ation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4). In the words of Ella Baker, “We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes!” ■



a call to

UNITY

The arc of the moral universe is long,

but it bends toward justice.

—REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

On April 29, 1992, four White police officers in Los Angeles, California—caught on tape brutally beating Rodney King, a Black man—were acquitted. African Americans took to the streets in outrage over the injustice. My anguish was personal, having been assumed a criminal by police because of the color of my skin on more than one occasion.

Leaders of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), a Swedish immigrant denomination established in 1884, were both shocked by the verdict and distressed by the reaction. They wrestled with the greater church's responsibility in the face of such tensions. Further, they asked, what was the responsibility of the ECC specifically?

Later that year, urban pastors and leaders in the ECC convened to develop a denominational response and strategy to intentionally engage with issues of race and class. Two key decisions emerged from that gathering. One was for every denominational board to include at least two people of color. The other was to form a department named Compassion, Mercy and Justice (CMJ), which would help the denomination and local churches develop programs addressing issues of race and class.

In 1997, I joined the denomination as co-director of CMJ, later becoming director of the department.

Our challenge soon became clear. In 2000, Dr. Christian Smith and Dr. Michael Emerson, Christian sociologists, published *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*. Compiling numerous surveys and interviews, they trace the divide between the African-American Christian experience of systemic

racism and the White Christian view of racism as an individualistic problem African-Americans must simply *get over*.

In the face of this stark contrast in world views, the CMJ team developed a series of programs to encourage and assist individuals and congregations navigating very difficult issues surrounding race.

We organized Sankofa Journeys (a West African term that means looking back to move forward) in which cross-racial partners boarded a bus in Chicago traveling to historic civil rights sites, along the way using films, speakers and other tools to process the realities of race and racism past and present.

From Sankofa Journeys came Journeys to Mosaic, in which cross-racial partners boarded a bus from Los Angeles or Seattle, traveling to explore how issues of race and racism, past and present, impact Native Americans, Latino/Latina Americans, Asian Americans and African-Americans on the West Coast.

Working with departments across the denomination, the CMJ team developed curricula for local churches to facilitate difficult discussions on race. We created benchmarks for multi-ethnic church growth, participatory involvement by people of color in denominational events and multicultural ministry opportunities. Finally, we continue

to work on incorporating denominational history that reflects diverse stories, creating our own story within the denomination.

The ECC denomination has grown over the years to now include approximately 23% ethnic or multi-ethnic churches. Denominational leadership reflects the diverse community we have become.

Work is being done. We see progress within the ECC and the Christian world at large.

I wish I could say people of color and White evangelicals have moved closer in their understanding of systemic racism since the report in *Divided by Faith* in 2000. However, it appears from recent national events and discourse that we have moved further apart. These events, while a source of discouragement, are also a call to continue our work and become more diligent in prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." ■

Rev. Harold Spooner '75 is Executive Vice President of Community Outreach for Covenant Retirement Communities. A native New Yorker, Spooner is a graduate of The Stony Brook School and has a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Houghton College and a Master of Theology degree from Fuller Seminary. He lives in Chicago with his wife Cheryl and has three adult children.

THE HEART OF A PROMISE



Like all the relatives on my dad's side of the family, I am legally a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

As my understanding of my responsibilities as a tribal citizen developed during my graduate training, I changed how I conceived my professional trajectory. I began learning to speak, read and write Cherokee, then pursued coursework beyond the PhD level at two different tribal colleges. I accepted a professorship at a second-tier university because it was close to Cherokee communities. (This last over the objections of a Princeton advisor who thundered, "I forbid you to go to the University of Tulsa!")

Since then, I've applied my scholarly skills to issues in American Indian health. A research focus on tribal health needs required two years of postgraduate training in advanced statistical analysis and grant writing. This prepared me to compete successfully for grants through the National Institutes of Health and to collaborate with Cherokee Nation Health Services on a series of projects to enhance patient experiences at our tribal clinics. I've gone on, through work with the Native Elder Research Center (housed at the University of Colorado Denver), to train dozens of American Indian PhDs and MDs for research careers serving tribal health needs, guiding their work on issues from suicide to smoking, cancer, mental illness and other killers.

Sadly, America often falls short of its promises to the people upon whose land and resources its existence was predicated and still depends. While the federal

government provides health care to tribal citizens without cost through the Indian Health Service, its hospitals and clinics struggle with chronic underfunding, understaffing and variations in quality.

American Indians remain the sickest of the country's minority populations. Rates of mortality from diabetes, for example, exceed those in the general population by 177%, and those from tuberculosis do so by 450%. Suicide and homicide are leading causes of death for adolescents, and, on some reservations, a man's average age of death is 45 years old.

Work toward "racial reconciliation" involves efforts to ensure that America satisfies promises to those with whom reconciliation is desired. For American Indians, these promises are enshrined in specific, still-binding treaties, many of which guarantee health care. They likewise inhere in the federal "trust" relationship at the heart of federal Indian law since the 19th century; this legal doctrine is the obligation by which the United States—having dispossessed Indian people of billions of acres of land, often by force—formally bound itself to protect their treaty rights, lands, assets and resources and to act always in tribes' "best interests."

I hope my work on American Indian health needs and my efforts toward training the next generation of American Indian health researchers will enlarge the foundation for racial reconciliation by helping my country keep its promises to its first peoples. ■

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*Dr. Eva Garrouette '85 received a PhD in sociology from Princeton University in 1993. She has taught as an Assistant Professor at the University of Tulsa and served as a past Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the Greater Tulsa Area. She is now a Research Associate Professor of sociology at Boston College and volunteers as mentor for the Native Elder Research Center. Publications include *Real Indians: Identity and the Survival of Native America* and various articles in sociology and health-related journals.*

For news, perspectives and information relevant to tribal communities, visit www.indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com and www.bia.gov/FAQs.



Campus News & Notes

CLASS OF 2020, Houghton's largest in five years

Mark S. Caruana '81 Named as Dean of Houghton College Utica

Dr. Mark S.

Caruana '81 has been named the dean of Houghton College Utica, the college's new Associate of Arts program in Utica, New York, aimed at the growing population of refugees in the city.



Dr. Caruana previously served as the pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica since May 1999 with ministry focused on the multiethnic congregation including approximately 900 Karen from Burma (Myanmar) friends and members. He is also the secretary of the board of directors of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees and the representative to the Burma Refugee Commission of the American Baptist Churches/USA, and he serves on the Board of Mission for the American Baptist Churches of New York State.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in humanities from Houghton, a Master of Divinity degree from Eastern University's Palmer Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from Hartford Seminary.

Houghton College Utica will welcome its inaugural class in Fall 2017.

Isaac Newton Apple Tree Descendants Arrive at Houghton

This fall, Houghton received two descendants of the famous apple tree that sparked Sir Isaac Newton's curiosity and led to the development of his law of universal gravity. **Jeremy Martin '01**, chief of staff for President Taylor Reveley of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, connected President Reveley with Houghton College President Shirley Mullen. As a result of that discussion, William and Mary gifted Houghton with two cuttings from the descendant trees.

The trees connect Houghton to Sir Isaac Newton's scientific legacy and his Christian devotion, symbolizing a relationship between science and faith that is also embodied in Houghton's commitment to preparing



informed Christians to serve in roles in the sciences. Houghton's increased enrollment in the physics major, addition of the data science major, proposed engineering major, and focus on upgrading and expanding the Paine Science Center all position the college to advance to the forefront of the Christian scientific community.



Vincent Morris

Vincent Morris Named as Houghton's New Vice President for Finance

Vincent Morris, former executive director of the Higher Education Practice at Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, has assumed the role of vice president for finance at Houghton. He comes to Houghton with experience navigating the complexities between higher education and the financial world, having advised over 600 higher education institutions regarding related matters. Previously, he served as director of risk management at Wheaton College.

Morris holds bachelor's degrees from Gordon College and Wheaton College, a Master of Arts from Wheaton College Graduate School, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Student Investment Group Celebrates 15 Years

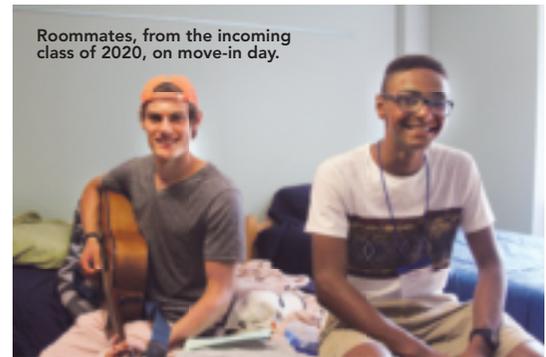
This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Houghton College Student Investment Group, the highly selective contingent of students managing approximately \$350,000 of the college's financial assets under the supervision of the business department. A true hands-on learning experience,



students apply classroom concepts in real-world situations, researching and collaborating with one another and faculty members to produce outstanding investment results. The Student Investment Group at Houghton is one of the few private Christian university groups of its kind and has consistently outperformed the major market indices for the benefit of the college.

Houghton Enrolls Largest New Student Class in Five Years

New student enrollment on Houghton's campus topped 307 students this fall, making it the largest new student class in five years. The number includes both first year students and transfers with a 22 percent increase in transfer enrollment compared to last year.



Roommates, from the incoming class of 2020, on move-in day.

More than 26 states and 17 countries are represented in the group with 15 percent being American-born minority students. Nearly 10 percent of this class comprises students from alumni families, demonstrating the generational impact of a Houghton education. A class of high achievers—over one-fifth of the class participates in Houghton's first-year honors programs and a third in intercollegiate athletics—this year's group reflects a growing interest in rigorous academics among young students.

Additionally, Houghton's Associate of Arts degree program in Buffalo increased 66 percent from 33 enrolled students to 55 this fall.



Houghton Students Hooked on Pollution Research

Dr. Rebecca Williams, an assistant professor of biology at Houghton, led research teams in experiential learning research this past summer and spring, aiming to assess local and regional pollution levels through testing for the bioindicator gene *CYPIA*. **Lydia Brown '19, Anthony Burdo '16, Jackie Clark '17, Seema Johnson '16, Teri Koetsier '18, Kayla Miller '17, Meghan Oswald '17, Frances Quigley '18 and Theresa Taggart '18** all participated in the research, travelling to local and regional lakes and rivers to collect fish samples. Additionally, the students conducted relevant experiments and analyzed the data themselves, and several representatives presented with Dr. Williams at the campus's lecture series.



Houghton College Buffalo

Houghton College Buffalo has recently received significant regional attention. The Associate of Arts program, which is aimed at providing educational opportunities to refugees and immigrants in the West Side, has been featured in The Buffalo News, on WIVB TV Channel 4, on the Wesleyan Church's website and on WBFO National Public Radio. Houghton intends to open a similar program in Utica this fall.

Houghton Approved for Full NCAA Division III Membership

After one exploratory year and four years of provisional status, Houghton was approved for full membership in NCAA Division III, effective September 1. This decision now makes Houghton eligible for NCAA championships, gives the institution voting privileges at the NCAA Convention and covers student-athletes under the NCAA catastrophic athletics injury insurance plan.

The college began the process with an exploratory year in 2011, joining the Empire 8 Conference provisionally in 2012. Baseball, softball,



Division III
DISCOVER | DEVELOP | DEDICATE

men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's lacrosse teams were added during the transition, and improvements were made to existing athletic facilities. The construction of the Kerr-Pegula Field House also began during this time.

"This is an historic achievement for Houghton College," said Houghton Vice President for Student Life Dr. Robert Pool. "This solidifies, for our students, their hopes and anticipation for full opportunities in the highest levels of competition; for our coaches, the culmination of perseverance; and for our leadership team and the President and donors, the realization of a great vision."

Celebrating 50 Years of Houghton Intercollegiate Athletics

It's a golden anniversary for Highlander athletics! We kicked off the celebration with a Genesee Rapids baseball game this summer, adding in a week of activities and contests during the first week of the academic year. Homecoming events captured athletic history with the unveiling of a 40 x 12-foot mural in the Kerr-Pegula Field

House, tracing key highlights and events since 1967. Subsequent receptions and events have reconnected coaches, teammates and current Houghton staff.

Highlander social media and the athletics website regularly feature notable moments in Highlander history while spotlighting alumni athletes in "where are they now" profiles.

Follow along with some of the stories and events at athletics.houghton.edu/highlanders50.



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HOMECOMING

Alumni, parents and community members converged on Houghton for Homecoming & Family Weekend 2016, held October 7-8. Reunion years ending in 1 and 6 gathered throughout the weekend for class meals and events culminating at Saturday evening's banquet for alumni celebrating 30 years or more since graduation.

Friday's Legacy Chapel featured the presentation of the Alumnus of the Year and Young Alumnus of the Year awards as well as four student service awards. Art and music filled the evening, beginning with the exhibition reception for the works of **Ben Frank Moss '58**. The Greatbatch School of Music once again dazzled a nearly full chapel with the Homecoming Collage Concert. **1**

This year also marks a half century of intercollegiate athletics at Houghton, an occasion commemorated by the unveiling of a 50-year anniversary wall mural at the Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex on Friday. **2** Cross-country, field hockey, volleyball, tennis and soccer matches throughout the weekend demonstrated the value and legacy of all of Houghton's athletes—past, present and future.

Saturday's schedule was a busy one, including the Purple & Gold 5K, competition events, science go-cart demonstrations, a fall festival, juggler Nels Ross, a tree planting ceremony for the recently acquired Newton Tree descendant cuttings, a unique comedy program from **Dr. Connie Finney '78** and the evening's highly anticipated SPOT performance.

Take part in this longstanding and glorious tradition by joining us next year, October 6-7, for Homecoming & Family Weekend 2017. ■





ALUMNI



1



TRANSFORMED BY LOVE

Becky (Saunders '89) Browning



The groom's face said it all. His eyes filled with tears as he saw his bride being escorted by her father down the aisle. This was no ordinary wedding. The bride, less than perfect in most people's eyes, was perfect in the eyes of her groom. Her father was not the one who had brought her into the world but, rather, had rescued her from the bitter world into which she was born. It was a poignant picture of our own Bridegroom, Jesus, awaiting His Bride.

As a freshman in 1985, I first saw Kathy—a frail, blonde-haired elf of a girl with haunting, sunken blue eyes—as she cowered among a table of enthusiastic, idealistic college students. Volunteers from Houghton's Allegany County Outreach (ACO) program would bring their “little brothers and sisters” to the cafeteria for the best meal that the children would receive all week.

In my junior year, my roommate's friend, **Kim (Johnson '88) Worling**, was Kathy's “big sister.” I never desired to be part of ACO, but as Kim's graduation approached, I clearly felt the Lord's persistent nudge and reluctantly offered to take Kathy as my “little sister.” I didn't realize that Kim had also heard the Lord speak to her about someone asking specifically to take her place. The following year, Kathy became a “little sister” to my fiancé, **Steve Browning '89**, and me.

Kathy's living situation was precarious at best. Her mother was mentally disabled, herself a victim of circumstances, trying to raise two children on her own. Both children were severely developmentally delayed due to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

It was a never-ending battle to discover where Kathy's family was living. Her recently widowed mother began moving in with different men, never leaving a forwarding address. Each time, the children were introduced to a new “daddy.” The constant search for Kathy became our routine. They lived in filth, with garbage, dirty dishes, empty beer cans and cigarette butts strewn throughout the house. One of Kathy's school teachers advised us to forget her, saying that she was too far behind socially, physically and academically and that

it was a waste of time to “bring a pig into the house.” We knew there was more to Kathy than her teacher saw; God's heart was toward this girl. We left the discussion with more resolve than ever.

Steve and I were married in May 1989. That summer, Kathy stayed with us for many weeks while I tutored her and took her to several vacation Bible schools. She was growing, and her starved body began to fill out. She lived in the fantasy that she belonged to us. We told her we loved her but that she belonged to her mom and someday would have to leave.

That winter, Steve was accepted into graduate school in Northern Illinois. We had a few months to prepare Kathy for our eventual separation. We had never seen her act out until one day when we were packing to leave, and I heard something in the kitchen fall onto the floor. There sat Kathy in a heap, sobbing. She wasn't the only one who was dreading the day we had to leave her behind permanently.

While we were in Illinois, Kim continued the arduous task of keeping track of Kathy. She called us at one point, asking us to pray because the children's lives were in danger. Once again, God miraculously intervened, and Kathy's mother suddenly gave up the children to a former boyfriend. We returned to New York for Christmas break, hoping to see Kathy. Kathy's guardian, Junior, was convinced that she belonged with us. Her mother had signed a transfer of custody to Junior, who then transferred custody to us. Our lawyer informed us that it was the most legally flimsy document and that, if her mother called telling us to bring her back, we would have 24 hours to return Kathy to New York.



1 Kathy and brother Arik right after adoption, 1992. **2** Kathy, Arik, and Grandpa Browning, 1992. **3** Kathy's high school graduation. L to R: Kim Worling, Rebecca Browning, Marion Browning, Irene Saunders, Kathy Browning, 1999. **4** Kathy and Donald at their wedding with the Browning family, 2014.

An amazing peace from God came over us. We knew that a call could come at any moment, but we did not fear it. In the few months that she had been living with us, Kathy had made huge strides in her education. While she was still far behind her peers, she had discovered the joy of reading simple words and adding simple numbers. Months passed, and we were informed by our lawyer in New York that a custody hearing was called for Kathy. Through yet another series of miraculous events, her mother signed papers granting us irrevocable, permanent custody. Our "little sister" became our daughter.

Kathy is now 36 and a lover of Jesus. She and her husband, Don, recently purchased their first home and a new car. Last November, she was named "Employee of the Month." Kathy's life, once described as worthless, has been transformed by her loving Heavenly Father who delights in His precious children. ■

Steve and Becky (Saunders '89) Browning '88 live in Chester, Illinois. Steve teaches middle school history and computers. Becky has been homeschooling for the past 19 years and operates a music studio from their home. Besides becoming Kathy's parents in 1991, Steve and Becky have three other children, Arik, Kira (who is a graduate student at The Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton), and Kendall. Becky's story about Kathy, "Polka Dots on the Inside," is included in the anthology Learning to Lean: True Stories of God's Grace at Work Today (Defender Publishing, 2017).

PLANES, TRAINS AND BICYCLES?

Houghton's heading across the country on two wheels! Joanna Friesen '17, Jiwan Dhaliwal '17, Chaz Ormond '16 and Joanna's fiancé, Tim Schmill, are biking across the U.S., sharing about Houghton and accomplishing a monumental goal while seeing many of our nation's natural splendors, parks and monuments. From Portland, Oregon to Ocean City, New Jersey (with a stop in Houghton, New York!), they'll incorporate spiritual connection along the way as they meet, stay with and even bike alongside churches, the Houghton network and their families.

Get involved with these inspiring students by hosting them, travelling with them and more by contacting Joanna at joanna.friesen17@houghton.edu.

View their route at www.houghton.edu/hcbiketeam.

Follow their blog at hcbikeacrossamerica.blogspot.com.





Alumni News & Notes

Houghton College welcomes submissions to Alumni News & Notes. Not all news items or photos may be published, and the college reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content. You can submit updates online at www.houghtonmagazine.com. Please submit photos in the highest resolution available. Thank you for keeping in touch with your alma mater!

1964

Roy Hendrix was recently inducted into the New York State Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in Middletown, New York, during the Boys Soccer Championship weekend on November 12, 2016. Hendrix coached boys' soccer for 23 years at North Collins Central School in North Collins, New York.



1973

Paul Astbury recently retired from full-time ministry after pastoring the Sherman Congregational Church (Sherman, Connecticut—14 years) and the Second Congregational Church (Douglas, Massachusetts—19 years). Paul and his wife, Julie, have two children, Jonathan and Linnea, and one granddaughter, Harper Elizabeth. Paul and Julie plan to take a little time to catch their breath and enjoy their granddaughter as they seek the Lord's leading into their next form of Christian service.



Betty Jo (Austin) and Dr. Robert Ogden '74 celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary on May 25, 2016. The couple met while playing their French horns in the college wind ensemble. Betty Jo is a housewife who runs an engraving and award business, Ogden Trophy.

Bob, a former Christian school teacher, is helping K-12 schools start chess leagues with resources from www.chessdr.com. The Ogdens have 5 children and 11 grandchildren.

1980

Mary Kay (Snavelly) Smith recently published a memoir titled *Wings Over Zululand*, which she co-authored with her parents, John and Janet Snavelly, about their lives as missionaries in South Africa. Mary Kay works as an editor and writes and directs special-interest educational discovery programs for national and international groups. She and her husband, **Brad Smith '81**, live in northern Virginia and have three grown children.



1985

Robert Coy is underwriting manager for Western National Insurance in Seattle, Washington, where he oversees a department of 47 employees.

William Mirola was appointed the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Marian University (Indianapolis, Indiana) on July 1, 2016. Dr. Mirola has served as professor of sociology at Marian for 22 years.

1986

William Greenway recently published his third book, *The Challenge of Evil: Grace and the Problem of Suffering* (Westminster John Knox, 2016). *For the Love of All Creatures: The Story of Grace in Genesis* (Eerdmans), and *A Reasonable Belief: Why God and Faith Make Sense* (Westminster John Knox) were both published in 2015. Greenway received his PhD in philosophical theology at Princeton Seminary and is currently professor of philosophical theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. He and his wife, Cindy, who is also a professor at the seminary, live in Austin with their two children, Xander (13) and Jessica (11).



1987

Greg Gidman was recently hired at the Palm Beach Virtual School as a physical education teacher. The school is located in the Palm Beach School District in Palm Beach Florida.

1993

Todd Nelson has worked as an assistant public defender for Adams County in Quincy, Illinois, since 2005. In July of 2016, he was promoted to chief public defender. In his new position, he will oversee an office of three full-time and two part-time attorneys, maintain a caseload with felonies and misdemeanors, work with the county board, and serve as head counsel for murder cases. Prior to being named chief public defender, Todd received the 2016 Bruce Robert Jacob Award, a

statewide award from the Illinois Public Defender Association presented to an assistant public defender whose efforts embody the core values of the Public Defender Movement in the United States and the State of Illinois.



1995

Aimee Bence Lin was recently featured on Eli Lilly and Company's Facebook page in a video about her ongoing cancer research. Dr. Lin is principal research scientist in early phase clinical oncology at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis, Indiana.

1999

Emily (Schiavi) Boyd works as an office assistant at McLean Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia, and also as an itinerant worship leader and singer/songwriter. She recorded an album when she lived in Israel called *The Sky is Still the Same*. Emily married Hart Boyd on December 24, 2014, and then relocated to the DC area for Hart's job as a sous chef in Georgetown. They welcomed their first son, Theodore "Theo" Walter Boyd, on January 26, 2016.



2000

Friends from the class of 2000 celebrated 20 years of friendship over Labor Day 2016 at **Mindy (Lewis) Hanawalt's** house in Pennsylvania. Alumni present were **Mindy, Heather (Conklin) Huth, Danielle (Teves) and Allen Hollenbach, Rachel (Johnson) and Doug Graham, Kristine (Hess) Larison, Charles Philip, and Paul Ulrich.** Eleven children were in attendance as well as three non-Houghton alumni spouses: Michael Hanawalt, Daniel Larison and Sherry Philip.



Jason Poole, a children's librarian for the past 10 years in Webster, New York, was selected as a 2016 Eisner judge last December after spending three years on the American Library Association's Great Graphic Novels for Teens selection committee. One librarian is usually picked to be on the six-person committee that chooses nominees for the Eisner awards—the equivalent of the Oscars for comics and graphic novels. The winners, which are voted on by the public, are announced every year at San Diego Comic Con. The photo shows Jason and the other judges holding a few of this year's nominations.



2016 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



Dr. Daniel Dix '76, recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award, is the senior director of formulation development at Regeneron Pharmaceutical, focusing on improving the shelf life and quality of medicines. Young Alumnus of the Year was presented to **Steven Grudda '10** for his work in African agribusiness with the Mango Out-Growers Project, Africa Felix Juice and Endsight Consulting. **Harold Spooner '75** was honored with the Christian Service award for his many years of Kingdom-minded work with youth, particularly in athletics. **Ben Frank Moss '58** received the Distinguished Achievement Award for his long and impressive studio art career, which gained momentum while he attended Houghton.

2002

Anna Sorensen moved from Philadelphia to Chicago in February 2016 to open and run a new branch office for Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, a law firm celebrating their 90th anniversary this year. As branch office manager, Anna is responsible for assisting with strategic marketing/branding of the firm, hiring support personnel and managing the day-to-day operations.



2003

Richard Liantonio began teaching biblical languages this past fall at Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in Topeka, Kansas. He also passed probationary review to enter candidacy for a PhD in Hebrew Bible from the University of Manchester. His dissertation focuses on a cognitive linguistic analysis of the language of happiness and particularly divine happiness in the Psalms. "I'm grateful for Dr. Carl Schultz, Dr. Terence Paige and Dr. Richard Gould for giving me a great foundation in biblical studies and biblical languages," offered Liantonio.



2007

Inti Martínez-Alemán finished his second terminal law degree in May 2016 from Mitchell Hamline School of Law. His Juris Doctor will allow him to practice law in the United States. Prior to earning this degree, Inti had been practicing law in his home country of Honduras. Currently, Inti is the founding attorney of Ceiba Fôrte Law Firm, PLLC, in St. Paul, Minnesota—a general civil practice focused on the Latino population in that state.

2008

Daniel Black (MM '08) was recently named interim assistant professor of vocal music and conducting at Houghton College. He also is serving as the director of choral activities. Along with conducting the College Choir, Black will be teaching choral seminar, conducting and other music classes.



2009

Stephanie (Candelora) Santoro recently graduated from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine where she was the recipient of the Dedication to Primary Care Award for Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Santoro is now a resident in the obstetrics and gynecology program

at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo, New York. She is married to **Ed Santoro '09**, who is currently a physical education teacher in the Buffalo public schools.

Melissa (VanBuren) Stein was recently promoted to assistant branch manager at Tompkins Bank of Castile's Retsof, New York, location. Stein has been with Tompkins Bank of Castile for more than six years, most recently serving as a customer service representative in the Chili Branch. Melissa lives with her husband, Jerrod, in Le Roy, New York, where she is registered in the National Mortgage Licensing System, has her notary certification and serves on the board of the United Way of Genesee County.

2012

Joyce (Taylor) Bingeman recently earned a Master of Fine Arts with a concentration in printmaking from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Joseph Chinn graduated from Denver Seminary on May 14, 2016, where he received his MA-CFSC (Christian Formation and Soul Care).

2013

Kate Chmielowiec graduated from Syracuse University College of Law, cum laude, in May 2016. Kate participated in the New York State Pro Bono Scholars program in which she completed over 500 hours of pro bono work for low-income members of the community before being admitted to the New York State Bar in



June 2016. She currently practices law in Syracuse, New York, at the firm of Bond, Schoeneck and King.



2015

Jeffrey Clark won an Emmy Award for Best Live Audio from the Southeast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Clark, a graduate student in the department of music at Georgia Southern University, was the sound recordist and mix engineer for the award-winning live production of GSU's Wind Symphony performance of "Lis Escoubó" from Suite Provençal by Jan Van der Roost. The school's Multimedia Development Center and Department of Music share the award.

2016

Jerbrél Bowens is a music teacher at Renaissance Academy School for the Arts in Rochester, New York, where he teaches elementary band and general music classes. In addition, he works with the Webster High School Marching Band in Webster, New York, where he is responsible for the percussion section.



WEDDINGS

Christine (Winkelbauer '15) married **Tyler Campbell '15** on July 16, 2016, in Erie, Pennsylvania. The couple is currently living in Erie, PA. **1**

Aaron Southwick '15 married **Erika (Snell '15)** on June 4, 2016, in Orchard Park, New York. The couple makes their home in Syracuse, New York.

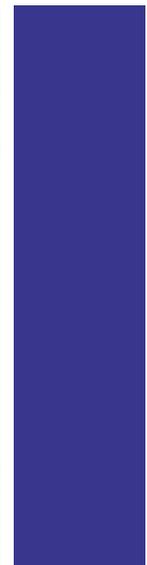
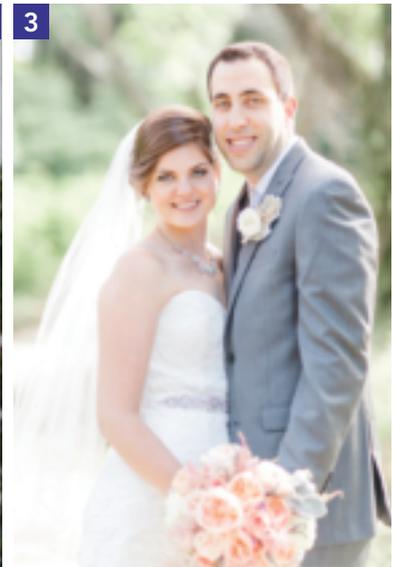
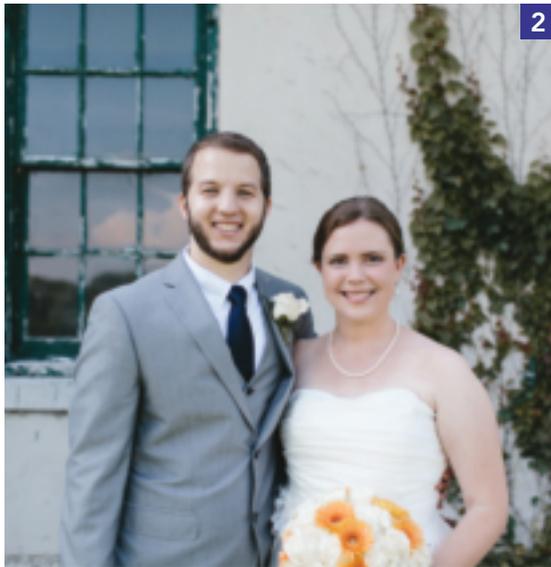
Emily (Prychodko '13) married **Anthony Cappello '13** on July 18, 2015, in East Aurora, New York. The Cappellos make their home in Asheboro, North Carolina. **2**

Kimberly (Michlich '13) married **Zachary Miller '12** on September 17, 2016, in Howell, New Jersey. The Millers live in Moravia, New York.

Kristen (Dietz '12) married Alan Barnett on June 28, 2015, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The couple lives in Hershey, Pennsylvania. **3**

Erin (Smith '12) married Matthew Thompson on August 29, 2015, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Thompsons make their home in West Lafayette, Indiana. **4**

Aaron Boynton '04 married Mary Annis on April 23, 2016, in Belchertown, Massachusetts. The couple is living in Manlius, New York. **5**



NEW ARRIVALS

1.8.2016 | NAOMI RUTH GRAHAM

Rachel (JoÚson '00) and Doug Graham '00

Siblings: Lydia Nancy (6) and Micah Philip (5) **1**

4.6.16 | SAMUEL PAUL MILBURN

Amy (Lorch '08) and Matthew Milburn

Siblings: Caleb and Liberty **2**

4.9.16 | ILANA GRACE FREEMAN

Brian Freeman '98 and Joanna Freeman

Sibling: Zoey (11) **3**

4.10.16 | CHRISTIAN DAVID ROORBACH

Susanna (Brautigam '12) and Andrew Roorbach '13 **4**

5.2.16 | ELLA JOY CROCKER

Rebecca (Fuller '05) and Christopher Crocker **5**

5.6.16 | LORIN ANDREW ZEHRING JR.

Andrea (Agliotta '09) and Lorin Zehring **6**

6.12.2016 | SARAH JAYN SPATEHOLTS

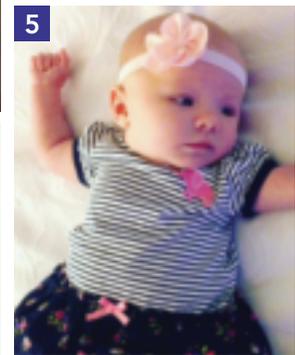
Emily (Gaerte '12) and Michael Spateholts **7**

6.13.16 | KLEAT DANIEL CHRISTA

Mindy (Swancott '09) and Ryan Christa **8**

7.28.2016 | MAPLE JOY BINGEMAN

Joyce (Taylor '12) and Michael Bingeman **9**



From the Archives

KODAK Snap Shots



How wearisome the climb to the hill top!



When King Winter reigns supreme in Houghton



Among all kids that enjoy roaming over the hills, these hold first place. They snapped this with the aid of a stick.

WHILE MUCH HAS CHANGED

on campus over the years, Houghton students of yesterday were not as different as you might suspect. 100 years ago, in 1917, they enjoyed tramping through the woods and playing in Houghton Creek. They had parties and picnics, pulled pranks and went sledding. Winter felt as long to them as it does to current students.

A 100-year-old scrapbook belonging to Houghton Seminary student Florence B. Kelly was recently discovered by college archivist, Laura Habecker. Florence chronicled her life as a Houghton student from 1914 to 1916—these words and pictures tell a familiar story:

Oct. 25 '14

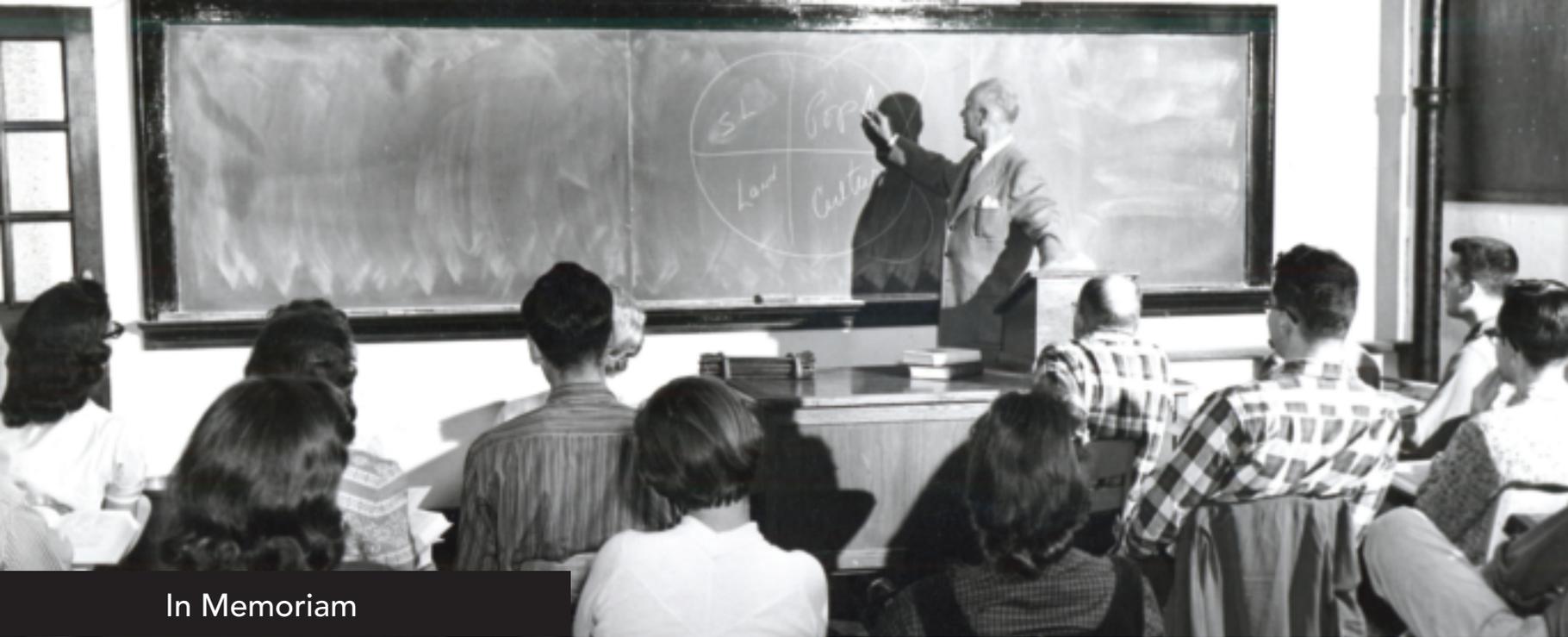
Ruth Worbois invited Pearl Leuten and myself to take dinner in the woods with her and her brother Wallace who had autoed into town. The previous day with a generous supply of eatables from home. We gladly agreed to go and starting out from the "dorm" together we walked for about a half mile up Houghton Creek. There we found some driftwood and a pretty spot suitable for building a campfire so we at once



set to work to prepare for dinner. How we did enjoy ourselves! Altho the autumn air was cool, we were very comfortable by our primitive fire as we

roasted weeners to eat with the rolls and mustard. And how good everything tasted,

The College Archives are located on the lower level of the main library and house both memorabilia and manuscript materials related to the College and the Houghton community. For more information, email Laura at laura.habecker@houghton.edu, or call 585-567-9226.



In Memoriam

1942

Adrienne (Phillips) Wickersham, 95, died on March 27, 2016. After earning her BS in communications engineering from Houghton, Adrienne was employed by the United States Army Signal Corps as a transmission engineer. She also held positions in systems engineering and publications administration for various ITT companies and later Computer Science Corporation. She is survived by her granddaughters, Kate and Elena; her daughter-in-law, Lisa; and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilfred, and their two sons, Ed and William.

1947

Lucille (Barnett) Beach, 90, died May 2, 2016. She is survived by children Nancy Cecil; **Bradley Beach '75** and his wife, **Elizabeth (Lecappelain '75) Beach**; **Kimberly (Beach '78) Scheel**; and **Robyn Beach Buxton '84** as well as 17 grandchildren including **Amy (Scheel '03) Wells** and her husband, **Kevin Wells '02**;

Andrea Scheel '05; **Jeffrey Falke '93** and his wife, **Amy (Brown '94) Falke**; **Richard Falke '98** and his wife, **Christine (Fitzgerald '97) Falke**; and **Emily Beach '01** and 30 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are brothers **Bev Barnett '49** and his wife, **Margie (Miller '49) Barnett**; Robert Barnett; **Dean Barnett '60** and his wife, **Roberta (Fiegl '59) Barnett**; and Allan Barnett and his wife, **Eveleyn (Blackbourn '69) Barnett** as well as several nieces and nephews including **Kathleen (Barnett '69) Daake**; **Barbara (Barnett '73) Daake**; **Debra (Barnett '77) Beers** and her husband, **Gary Beers '75**; **Keri (Barnett '99) Bassett**; **Ronald Barnett '79**; **Michael Barnett '81**; and **Jonathan Barnett '84**. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Richard "Dick" Beach '50**; children Stephen Beach and **Sharon (Beach '69) Falke**; and three brothers, **Gordon Barnett '44**, **Glenn Barnett '48** and **David Barnett '54**.

1949

Edna (Woodworth) Shaffner, 90, died on April 5, 2016. Edna earned her master's from SUNY Albany and was granted a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in Japan. Instead, she took a position at Jeffersonville-Youngsville Central School in Jeffersonville, New York, where she taught English for 40 years. Edna was the recipient of the NY Teacher of the Year and NYS Excellence in Teaching English Awards. She was also an adjunct professor at Sullivan County Community College in Loch Sheldrake, New York. She is survived by daughters Lois Cassano and Lila Allgeier; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Lila Woodworth. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert Clark, and her second husband, **Douglass Shaffner '40**.

1950

Arleen (Werres) Boyd, 88, died May 26, 2016. Arleen was director of women's personnel for the Haloid Co. as it transitioned to Xerox Corp. before leaving her career to raise three daughters. She taught Bible classes at various community and church organizations. Arleen was a passionate quilter and was published in books and magazines, taught classes, and received many awards, including a first prize for a quilt at the New York State Fair. Arleen is survived by her husband of 65 years, **James Boyd '49** and children **Eleanor (Boyd '77) Fox** and her husband, **Ted Fox '77**; **Nancy B. (Boyd '79) Kennedy**; and **Janet (Boyd '81) Hallatt** as well as five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Elmer Ritzman passed away on July 19, 2016. Ritzman served in the Pacific Theater of World War II. After graduating from Houghton, he earned an M.A. from the University of Chicago and a D.Ed. from Rutgers University. His career as a counselor was spent serving secondary schools, universities and community colleges. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy; his daughter, Rolanda Ritzman; a sister, Georgina Renn; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother and a sister.

Robert Wollenweber, 91, died on October 21, 2016. Wollenweber served in the Marines during WWII, and, following Houghton, he attended Gordon-Conwell Seminary. Bob pastored churches in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Illinois. He served in Quito, Ecuador, in radio and TV ministry; was executive director of Chapel of the Air in Wheaton, Illinois; and was area director in Connecticut and

Jill Kingdon Tyson

Former research librarian at the Willard J. Houghton Library **Jill Kingdon Tyson '85** lost her seven-year battle with metastatic breast cancer on Wednesday, August 31, 2016. It was her 54th birthday.

Jill was soft-spoken, peaceful and kind while at the same time fiercely advocating for more research into metastatic breast cancer and other invisible disabilities. Her passion came from her deep love of people—and, during the last three weeks of her life, Jill generously shared her final journey on her Caring Bridge website so that others' pain might be lessened by her experiences. "I found myself very misunderstood during nearly seven years of treatment for MBC," wrote Jill. "Everyone assumes you're 'fine' because 'you look so good' on the outside." Jill's account was courageous, honest and patient—often sprinkled with her gentle sense of humor—giving friends and family members a rare look into what a loved one might need during their final days. "We never know the private challenges people suffer on a daily basis," wrote Jill. To read her entire account, visit: www.caringbridge.org/visit/jillsfinaljourney/journal.

She is survived by her husband of 13 years, former Professor of Theology Dr. John Tyson; sons, Randal Tyson and his wife, Lillian, and Joe Tyson; daughters, Jessie Tyson and Lorelee Tyson; parents, Emeritus Professor of Christian Ministries the **Rev. Dr. Harold Kingdon ('57)** and **Mary (Sell '56) Kingdon**; sister, **Sheryl (Kingdon '80) Johnson** and her husband, Allen; brothers, **Col. Edwin Kingdon '86** and his wife, Deborah, and **James Kingdon '88** and his wife, Paula; and many nieces and nephews including **Spencer Kyle Johnson '12**. She is also survived by an uncle, **Dr. Douglas Kingdon '57**, and his wife, **Mary (Nichols '58) Kingdon**.



Rhode Island for Prison Fellowship. In 1991, Houghton named him Alumnus of the Year. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, **Wilma (Lange '51) Wollenweber** and three children, **Elizabeth (Wollenweber '75) Kleppinger** and her husband, **Eugene Kleppinger '75**; Faith Kaufman; and Mark Wollenweber as well as seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1951

Mary (LaCelle) Kinnetz, 87, died on October 3, 2016. Mary studied at Columbia Presbyterian School of Nursing and spent her career caring for others in labor and delivery, and as a school nurse before retiring in 1991. Mary is survived by her husband of 55 years, Ronald Kinnetz; sons Gregory Kinnetz and Douglas



Robyn McMaster

Dr. Robyn (Ottley '64) McMaster died suddenly on July 6, 2016, after suffering a traumatic brain injury resulting from a fall. She was 74 years old.

Welcoming and kind, with a gift for caring for people, Robyn served Houghton College from 1985 to 1999

as the administrative assistant for the education department. Friends remember her infectious smile and inspiring energy, her enthusiasm and passion for life, and the way she made faculty members and students alike feel valued and important.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Carl McMaster, and her children: Scott McMaster and his wife, Tracy; **Kristin (McMaster '90) Everett** and her husband, **Dr. Michael Everett '90**; and **Sean McMaster '93** and his wife, **Melody (Clendaniel '93) McMaster** as well as five grandsons and several nieces and nephews including **Jule Ann (Davis '01) Wakeman** and her husband, **Jeremy Wakeman '01**; **Alana (Davis '97) Torraca** and her husband, **Eric Torraca '98**; and **William B. Davis '04** and his wife, **Trisha (Turner '04) Davis**. Also surviving are a sister, **Jill (Wallace '71) Davis**, and a brother, David Wallace. She was preceded in death by her brother-in-law, **William R. Davis '69**.

Kinnetz; and three siblings: **John LaCelle '54** and his wife, **Eleanor (Mead '55) LaCelle**; **James LaCelle '52**; and **Esther (LaCelle '59) Pitzrick** as well as three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews including **Andrea (LaCelle '79) Redfern**; **Kristina LaCelle-Peterson '82**; **Peter LaCelle '84**; **Daniel LaCelle '78** and his wife, **Jill (Sylvester '81) LaCelle**; and **Ned LaCelle '83** and his wife, **Karen (Tworzydlo '83) LaCelle**. She was preceded in death by her twin brother, **Paul LaCelle '51**, and his wife, **June (Dukeshire '50) LaCelle**.

1952

Lt. Col. Vincent Rothwell, 91, died on June 1, 2016. Vincent joined the US Army Air Corps in 1943 where he trained to be a turret gunner on the B-24 Bomber in Europe. After his service, he graduated from Houghton, then went on to Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois. He served as a pastor until 1957, then reentered the US Army, becoming an Army Chaplain. He served in Ohio and Hawaii before being assigned to Ft. Meyers, Arlington National Cemetery, where he presided over 1,500 soldier's funerals. In 1968, he was sent to Vietnam for a year and returned to Fort Belvoir, Virginia. While in Virginia, he received his Master of Education from the

Presbyterian School of Christian Education. He retired from the Military as Senior Chaplain, having attained the rank of Lt. Colonel following 22 years of service. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Elizabeth; his children, Lucinda Kolpien, Douglas Rothwell, Donald Rothwell and Dickson Rothwell; 12 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and his brother, Keith Rothwell. He was preceded in death by two grandsons, three brothers and a sister.

Roger Rounds, 85, died on July 28, 2016, at UPMC in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Rounds was faithful in his preaching/teaching ministry throughout his lifetime in the Wesleyan Methodist and Free Methodist denominations. His teaching ministry also extended to the college/university level both in the US and overseas. He is survived by two sons, Gregory and Kevin Rounds, and three grandchildren.

Barbara Colleen Weekley, 87, died on September 10, 2016. Barbara earned her master's from SUNY Geneseo. She spent her career in Arkport, New York, as a teacher, elementary principal and K-12 principal. After retirement, she served with the American Red Cross and with Attica and Groveland Prison Visitor Centers. She received a legislative resolution from the state of New York honoring her for her work upon her retirement, and, in 1994, she was honored as a Distinguished Alumni of Houghton College. She is survived by a sister, Jean Atkins; a niece, Susan Phillips; a nephew, Randal Atkins; and numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, and great-great-nieces and -nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Ray Atkins, and a niece, Linda Graham.

1954

John Venlet, 84, died on September 16, 2016. Venlet attended Baptist Theological Seminary in 1957 and was ordained to the Gospel ministries in 1960. He spent his life serving as an evangelist and was instrumental in the early years of Word of Life Bible Clubs. He was inducted into the Word of Life Hall of Fame in May 2012. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Delores; four children: David, Douglas, Cheryl Black and Kristen Wharton; three granddaughters; five great-grandchildren; and one sister.

Richard William "Bill" Black, 86, died on August 30, 2015. Bill served his country with the Army from 1946 to 1948. He spent his career as a high school teacher and basketball coach, retiring in 1988 from Falconer High School in Falconer, New York. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Inga; children: Cindi Gronberg, Sue Swanson, Jim Black and Jon Black; 12 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; a sister; and many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

1956

Frances (Allday) Stockin, 81, died on September 24, 2015. Fran was a teacher, serving in New York State public schools as well as in California at Santa Barbara Christian School. She is survived by her husband, **Bruce Stockin '56**; children, Daniel Stockin and Rebecca Stockin; four grandchildren; a great-grandson; and several nieces and nephews including **Philip G. Stockin '67**

and his wife, **Donnalee (Berry '68) Stockin**; **LoraBeth (Stockin '77) Norton** and her husband, **David Norton '75**; **Judy (Stockin '70) Ganch**; and **Prof. Audrey (Stockin '64) Eyler** as well as a brother, Clavon Allday.

1959

Donald Trasher, 78, died on May 2, 2016. Don received his master's from SUNY Buffalo and began his career at SUNY Geneseo as an assistant professor in 1964. In 1978, he was appointed chair of the Department of Mathematics, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. Don is survived by his wife, **Virginia (Snow '58) Trasher**; children, Dennis Kenyon, **Laura (Trasher '86) Bernhofen**, **Diane (Trasher '89) Broberg**, Steven Trasher and James Trasher; 12 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; a sister; and several nieces and nephews.

1963

Alice (Belden) Rowley, 74, died September 17, 2016, at her home in Winnebago, Illinois. Alice earned a Master of Arts in Spanish literature from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and taught Spanish and French in Waverly, New York, before she and husband, John, served as missionaries in Chile and Oaxaca, Mexico. She is survived by her husband; five children: Karen Ball, Philip, Dan, George and Wayne; six grandchildren; and her loving church family at Winnebago Evangelical Fellowship.

1965

Harvey MacBride passed away May 8, 2016. After receiving his MA from the State University of

New York at Albany, he spent his career as a college administrator in Oneonta and Albany, New York. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Ruth MacBride; his children, **Jean (MacBride '84) Rupprecht** and **Neil H. MacBride '87**; eight grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his son, Bruce MacBride.

1971

Wallace Mason, Jr. passed away September 3, 2016. Survivors include his wife, Ruth; his son, Douglas C. Mason; his daughters, Heather Wright and Rachael Willoughby; and six grandchildren as well as siblings **Douglas W. '81** and his wife, **Laura (Sawyer '81) Mason**, and **Helen (Mason '84) Atzenweiler** and niece **Marcia (Mason '13) Mauger** and her husband, **Robert "Bobby" Mauger '14**. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, **Norm Mason '73**.

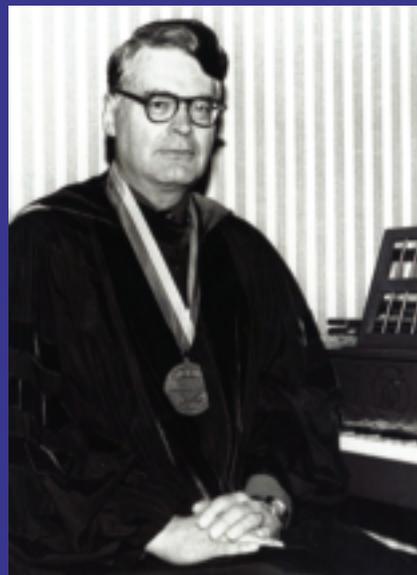
1985

Darren Allen, 53, died in a traffic accident on July 10, 2016, in El Paso County, Texas. Darren received a Master of Science in mathematics with a minor in computer science from Tennessee State University and was a mathematics instructor at Cochise College's Santa Cruz Center in Nogales, Arizona. He is survived by a daughter, Fiona Allen; siblings, Darryl Allen, Eric Allen, Sharlene Allen, and Andrea LeCompte; his mother, Yolanda Allen; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and two brothers.

Dr. William Timberlake Allen

An exquisitely rare musician whose compositional style was “unique, recognizable and all coated with his deliciously dry wit”; a kind-hearted, humble and delightful teacher; a prolific creator of music and word; and a gentle friend to the world, Professor Emeritus of Theory, Piano and Composition and retired Composer-in-Residence, Dr. William Timberlake Allen died December 29, 2016, at Olean General Hospital in Olean, New York. He was 90 years old.

When Charles Finney, the chair of the division of fine arts at Houghton College, asked 27-year-old William T. Allen to join the music faculty in 1953, Allen had to ask him several times where the college was located. Fresh from working on his Ph.D. at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, his first impression of Houghton was that it “seemed staid and overly practical.” Unfamiliar with the lifestyle and culture of the Wesleyan Church, Allen remembered that, as a young faculty member, “people would come to my studio because they thought I was far out and talk to me.” Doc Jo affectionately called him “Tall Boy.”



As Allen settled into life at Houghton, he realized that there was something special about this place. The first time he heard the Houghton College orchestra play under the direction of Professor John Andrews, Allen recalled thinking, “What? No puffed-up performers here? ... I asked myself: is it possible that self-promotion is not of the first priority at the school? Are these players giving glory where it belongs—to their Creator? If the answer is yes, then I say, ‘May it ever be so.’” Bill’s life and faith were shaped by the influence of the faithful people he worked with every day. In a 1997 interview, he offered: “I learned my philosophy, my religion, my attitude toward learning here because there were so many people who were truly humble and educated.... They literally wanted to go on in the Lord, and I’d never come across anything like that.”

Dr. Allen served Houghton College for 38 years before his retirement in 1991, and during that time, he was named one of the Houghton 100 in 1983, held the Mabel Barnum Davidson Endowed Chair of Fine Arts and received an honorary doctor of fine arts degree at the Founder’s Day convocation in 1991. He wrote for orchestral instruments, piano, organ, voice and chorus—and his piano recitals frequently ended with a few minutes of improvisation. He especially enjoyed creating musical comedies based on campus life and cultural issues. Some memorable compositions include *The Coffee Machine*, *The Coffee Machine Revisited*, *Damascus Road* and *Young John Wesley*.

“William T. Allen was a giant of a man whose positive, ever-creative and inspiring influence on me and countless other students and members of the Houghton College community cannot be measured,” recalled **Daniel J. Fortune ’88**.

“He was so witty and had such a gentle spirit,” remembers **Timothy Schwartz ’76**. “I still can see him bouncing into class, looking at us and saying with a wry smile, ‘Oh, many have come.’”

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Jane (McMahon ’61) Allen**, and children **Elisabeth (Allen ’86) Algarin** and her husband, Eleazar Algarin; **Rev. Dr. William “Bill” A. Allen ’89** and his wife, **Rev. Kristen (Roth ’90) Allen**; and **Rebecca (Allen ’03) Reyes** and her husband, Jose Reyes as well as four grandchildren, **Emily Allen ’20**, Katherine Allen, William R. Allen and Antonio Reyes, and step-grandchildren, Jose, Kevin and **Manuel Reyes ’20**.

Bruce N. Brenneman

December 25, 1939—August 22, 2016

Former Director of Conferences and Special Programs 1982-1998

Retired Assistant Professor of English 1998-2008

Dear Bruce,

How did you do it? How on earth did you make decades of Houghton students feel special, encouraged and important? How were you able to open your arms and your heart wide enough to fit all of us?

You were so encouraging! You had a way of pointing out the best in us—our gifts and strengths—even if we didn't see them yet. You SAW us, Bruce—and you BELIEVED in us—gifting us with the confidence to believe in ourselves.

Some of us were shy, and you encouraged us to audition for one of your productions—and you became our champion. Some of us were lonely and afraid of being away from home for the first time, and you and your wife, Kathie, invited us over for Mandalay Chicken, or those pull-apart cinnamon buns that melt in your mouth, or your famous ribbon Jell-O—and we laughed so hard that tears ran down our faces.

How did you manage to remember meaningful details about all of us for years and years after graduation? You came to our weddings. You mourned with us when we lost loved ones. You wrote us encouraging letters, and you wished us happy birthday every year on Facebook. We couldn't wait to make the trek back to Houghton for Homecoming to visit you—to see your smile and to be engulfed in one of your bear hugs.

And then you got cancer. We watched in real time how “the Joy of the Lord was your strength”—even when you couldn't do your two favorite things anymore: talk or eat. We came to see you—hoping to cheer you up or encourage you in some way—but we always left you feeling more blessed than when we walked in your door.

You should have seen it, Bruce. The day you passed away—August 22, 2016—Facebook BLEW. UP. You were connected to so many of us, and the news spread rapidly. You were part of our fondest memories at Houghton College, and hundreds of tributes came pouring in—memories and stories about how our lives were changed by knowing you. How you showed us what true hospitality looked like. How you always pointed to Jesus.

We will miss you, dear friend.

Love,
Hundreds and hundreds of your students
and friends from our time at Houghton College



Bruce is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Kathie (Wimer '64) Brenneman**; a son, **Brian S. Brenneman '91** and his wife, Jennifer; a daughter, **Suzanne (Brenneman '90) Beardsley** and her husband, Darwin; eight grandchildren; four siblings; many nieces and nephews including **Dr. Timothy J. Nichols '81** and **William J. Nichols '87**; and great-nephew and nieces, **Ben Wendell '09**, **Emily Wendell '14** and **Amanda Hiers Carl '11**.

Friends

Elisabeth "Peg" Folts, 95, died August 5, 2016. Peg owned and operated Peg's Beauty Shop in Fillmore, New York, for many years and was a longtime member of the Geneseo United Methodist Church in Geneseo, New York. She is survived by her children, Dwight Folts, Kathe Hartnett, and Louise Goodall; 7 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, **Stewart Folts '47**, and a son-in-law.

Dana R. Pickup, Jr., former member of Houghton's President's Advisory Board, died Tuesday, May 24, 2016. He was 73. Dana earned his MBA from the University of Texas at Austin and served with the U.S. Army in Korea. He practiced as a certified public accountant in Wellsville, New York, and then purchased the Cuba Specialty Manufacturing Co. of Fillmore, New York, in 1980. He successfully ran and expanded that business until his retirement.

Former Staff

Retired Houghton College electrician Rev. Robert Miller passed away on December 31, 2016. He served the college from 1963 until his retirement in 1991. Please see the upcoming Summer 2017 issue of *Houghton* for an extended tribute to this faithful staff member.

In addition, he served as president of the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association. During his tenure, he had the opportunity to host a fishing trip with President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush at Grand Teton National Park. Dana is survived by his wife, **Patti (Miller '68) Pickup**; children, Lance Pickup, Shannon Leonida, and Danielle Quiocho; step-children, Todd Willard and Brittany Willard; eight grandchildren; his brother, Bob Pickup; his goddaughter; and many nieces and nephews.

L. Ward Silsbee, 86, died September 7, 2016. Ward served with the US Navy and spent his career as a quality control manager for General Foods, R.T. French and McCain Foods. He is survived by his children, Gary Silsbee, David Silsbee and Susanne Laforge; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; special friend, Joanne Smith; and first cousins, **Margaret (Fancher '47) Serley** and **Joanna Fancher '50**. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Charlotte (Stebbins) Silsbee; his wife, Ruth; an infant brother, Laverne; several aunts including **Ethlyn Stebbins '23**; and first cousins including **L. Roscoe Fancher '35**, **Esther (Fancher '37) Lister** and **Ruth (Fancher '43) Hutton**.

For an additional list of obituaries for Houghton alumni, as well as UWC and BBI graduates, please visit www.houghtonmagazine.com.

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