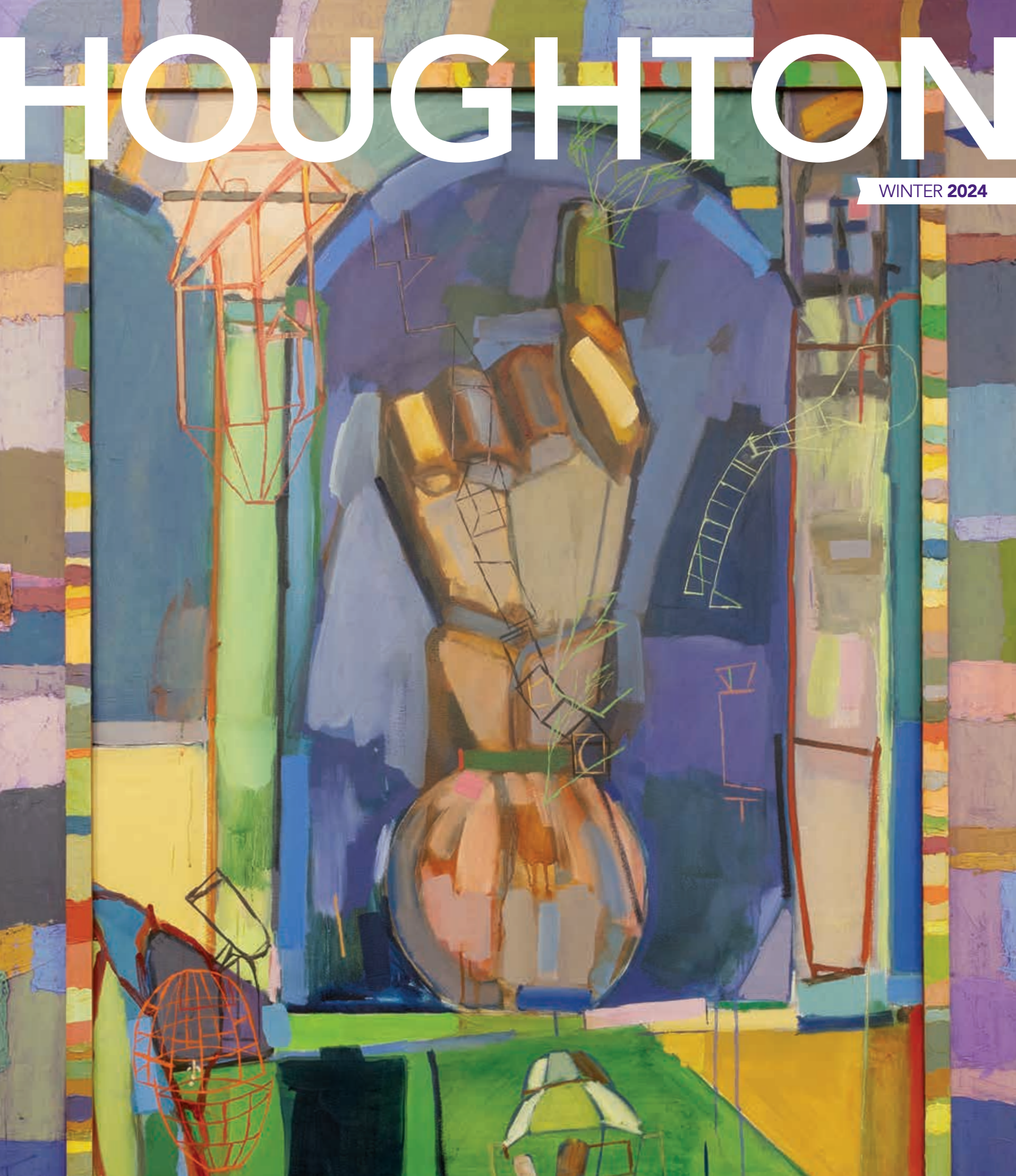


# HOUGHTON

WINTER 2024



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# On the COVER



**Ted Murphy** was commissioned to create this work, titled *Strangely Warmed*, for the Inauguration of President Wayne Lewis in 2021. Those familiar with Houghton history will quickly recognize the

hand pointing upward. Murphy writes, "I decided to begin the piece with a direct inclusion of what in Houghton is as close to a relic that we have preserved from Houghton's early days as a college and community church—that being the wooden carved hand that was fixed on the façade of the church." Professor Murphy has taught art at Houghton since 1986, spanning courses in drawing, painting, art history, film and much more. His personal work has been exhibited widely at galleries, museums and educational institutions.



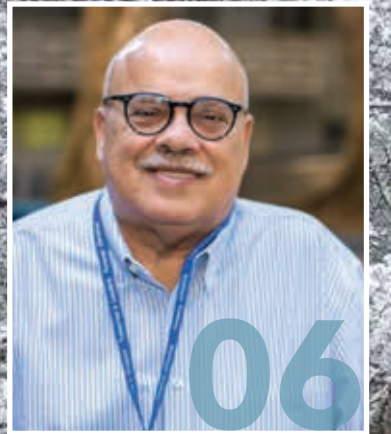
To hear Professor Murphy describe the thought process and explain the rich symbolism in this piece (including divulging the unexpected material used to make the frame of the piece—can you guess it?), point your phone camera at this QR code and follow the link. Or visit

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



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Dear Friends,

For 140 years, Houghton University has provided students with a high-quality, intentionally Christ-centered education. Founded initially to ensure such an education was available and affordable for students in Western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania,

Houghton now serves students from our region and well beyond and prepares graduates to go from here to the ends of the earth, transforming the world for Jesus.

During the last academic year, as Houghton successfully completed its immediate past strategic plan, The Arc Toward Our Future, the university community came together to craft a set of strategic priorities intended to move Houghton boldly into the future. While firmly and unapologetically grounded in Biblical truth and centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we needed to collectively chart a course forward that provides for Houghton's continued relevance, sustainability and impact. By the grace of God and with the collaborative effort of students, staff, faculty, administrators, community leaders, the Athletics Advisory Board, the Alumni Board, the President's Advisory Board and the Houghton Board of Trustees, a new set of strategic priorities was developed and adopted. For the next five years, this set of priorities and objectives, and corresponding key performance indicators, will guide strategic decision making and resource allocation at Houghton.

Houghton's new strategic priorities are neither a document to be shelved nor a checklist of tasks that have minimal impact on the university's policy and leadership. These priorities represent the direction and steps Houghton is taking now and over the next five years to ensure the university is a destination of choice for Christian students and families, provides an unparalleled Christian academic experience, and has a transformative impact on our region and the world. The stories in this issue of Houghton Magazine help to illustrate how and where these priorities are already shaping Houghton's fearless and relentless pursuit of excellence for God's glory.

*Yours for fixing up the world,*

*Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.*  
Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.  
President

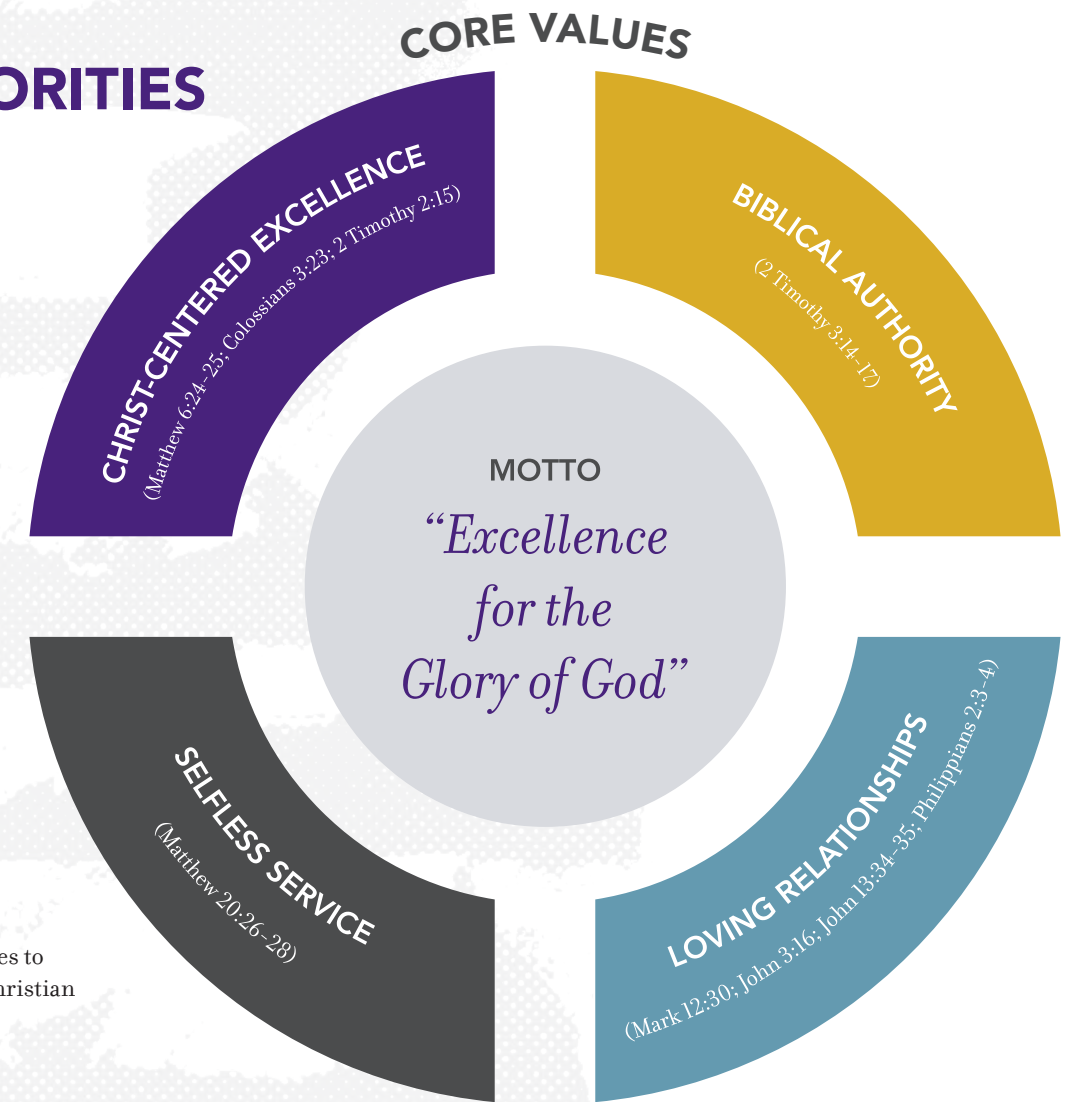
## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2023-2028

### MISSION

Houghton University provides an academically challenging Christ-centered education in the liberal arts and sciences to students from diverse traditions and economic backgrounds and equips them to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a changing world.

### VISION

Houghton University aspires to be a leading Christ-centered liberal arts and sciences university, providing an academically challenging educational experience through an orthodox Christian worldview. Deeply rooted in the Wesleyan theological tradition, we will equip graduates to transform the world through courageous Christian service, scholarship and leadership.



## YOUR UNIVERSITY | YOUR LEGACY

Endowed scholarships and programs are legacy investments preserving the impact of Houghton University today, tomorrow and long into the future. Through the creation of an endowed student scholarship or by endowing a vital Houghton program, you can ensure Houghton's academically challenging, Christ-centered education is accessible to students regardless of their economic background. Endowment gifts are invested wisely, and a disbursement from the annual income is used to expand student opportunities. If you wish, you may determine criteria and purpose of the fund and name it in honor of a loved one, allowing you to meet your personal giving objectives. This enduring giving opportunity provides you with the satisfaction of knowing your generosity and investment will dramatically impact the current generation of Houghton students and countless generations of students to come.

To learn more about making a will bequest or any other legacy, please contact the Office of Advancement at **585.567-9340** or [advancement@houghton.edu](mailto:advancement@houghton.edu), or visit [www.houghton.edu/giving](http://www.houghton.edu/giving)





The essence of servant-leadership is *helping others to be successful.*

- John Román '77

# CONTINUING Tradition

By Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

Wesleyan Academy in Puerto Rico

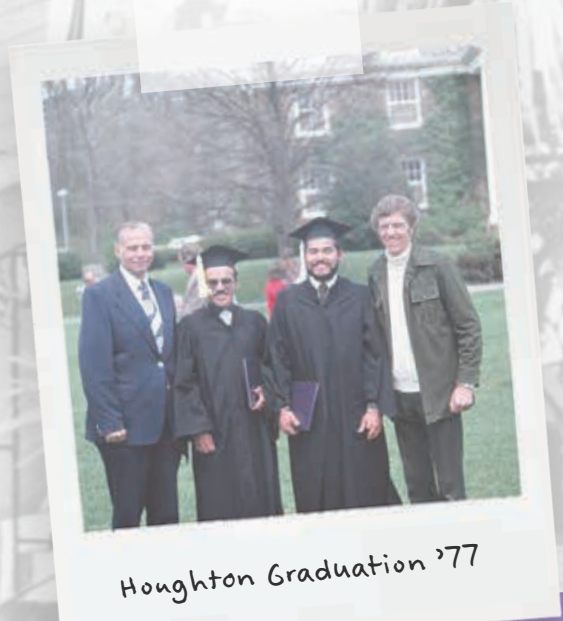
## *"I want to die in my desk chair."*

It sounds like the start of a really sad story, doesn't it? It isn't. Instead, it's an authentic and enthusiastic statement made by **John Román** that emphasizes his dedication to his students, his faith, and his alma mater. John is a graduate of the class of 1977, but his Houghton story began at Wesleyan Academy in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

In the 1960s, Wesleyan Academy was full of Houghton alumni, some on short-term missions trips, some as early-career educators, some as visiting faculty. Houghton's connection to Wesleyan Academy began in the 1950s, when **Robert '38** and **Norva (Bassage '38) Crosby** identified a need and helped launch an English-language Christian school. Following the Crosbys were **John '52** and **Ruth (Ross '55) Putney**. They served their entire careers at Wesleyan Academy, finally retiring in the 1990s. These early connections attracted dozens of Houghton alumni, faculty and staff to serve in Puerto Rico, including **Phillip "Phil" '67** and **Donnalee "Donnie" (Berry '68) Stockin**.

"Phil and Donnie planted in me the seed of servant leadership. Phil's investment in me was life-changing. What I learned at Houghton was a reinforcement of what Phil and Donnie taught me: The essence of servant-leadership is helping others to be successful," explains John.

When the Stockins returned to Houghton, they brought with them an energetic and inspired thirteen-year-old to study at Houghton Academy: John Román. John finished high school at Houghton Academy and launched into life at Houghton (then College) with the same gusto as he approaches everything.



Houghton Graduation '77



Houghton Graduation '77

Houghton Magazine, formerly the Milieu, shared stories of the strong ties that bind Houghton to Wesleyan Academy in Puerto Rico in a 1971 issue.





*At Houghton,* John came to a true relationship with the Lord. “I finally understood what my pastors and the Stockins were telling me,” John reflects. “The Lord made me see that I had talents from Him, and, regardless of what they were, they didn’t mean anything if I didn’t use them to testify about who God is and what He has done.”

John completed a dual degree in Spanish and physical education and pursued his calling as an educator, scholar-servant and Christ-follower. In 2002, John returned to Wesleyan Academy as the Athletic Director. In 2020, he became the Headmaster. With this role came a renewed sense of calling John couldn’t ignore.

“God put it on my heart to reestablish our connections with Houghton University and Houghton Academy. I think we, as Christian educators, are negligent if we’re not encouraging our students to attend Christian colleges.”

John wants his students to attend Houghton University. “When parents ask me why I’m not encouraging students to attend major secular universities, I tell them Houghton is a game changer. Nowhere else equals the spiritual environment that Houghton provides.”

John is constantly looking for new ways to introduce his students to Houghton. “In Puerto Rico, we say ‘kids eat with their eyes’ – that is, we have to show them Houghton so they can experience what it means when we say Houghton will treat them differently than a secular university.”

Wesleyan Academy participates in Houghton’s Partner School program. So far this academic year, twenty students are taking advantage of the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school. “There are financial obstacles for students to leave Puerto Rico to go to college. Our students can earn up to twenty college credits, which helps them with the financial ramifications of attending university in the States.”

While recognizing the financial benefits, John clearly recognizes that his students are advancing academically in preparation for whatever God has in store for them. He is hearing from his students and their families the ways that Houghton faculty go above and beyond what typical college professors will do. Decades after John experienced the care of Houghton’s faculty, his students are discovering that same level of care from the faculty of today. “No one is just a number.”

John’s passion for getting students to Houghton played out in the life of Houghton junior **Daniel Rosario ’25**. A member of the Houghton men’s basketball team and a biology major with intentions of becoming a physician, Daniel is a graduate of Wesleyan Academy. When John learned that Daniel was looking for a school where he could play ball and pursue an interest in medicine, John knew he had the answer.

“Danny is gifted academically, and he would have done well anywhere,” remarks John. “But sometimes, Wesleyan Academy is a bit of a bubble. It’s a challenge to prepare our students for life in the secular world, where they’re required to defend their faith. When I speak to Danny now, I see tremendous spiritual growth. He’s sharing with me more and more about how his faith is growing.”

What’s next for this partnership between Houghton University and Wesleyan Academy? “If you think that the only thing I’m interested in is getting our students to Houghton, you’ve got another thing coming.” John laughs when he says this, but this is the man who transferred himself to attend school in the United States at the age of 13 and ran 100 miles a week for four years of college. He might be laughing, but he’s absolutely serious.

The connections between Houghton and Wesleyan Academy are growing beyond the classroom, just as John envisioned. In May of 2020, Professor **Eli Knapp ’00** led a Mayterm ornithology course in Puerto Rico, hosted in part by Wesleyan Academy. In the fall of 2023, President Lewis was invited to speak in chapel, giving John’s students another opportunity to catch a glimpse of Houghton.

This past October break, Men’s Head Basketball Coach Jeremy Bialek led his team on a missions trip to Guaynabo, hosted by John Román, Wesleyan Academy, and fellow alumnus and Houghton trustee **Omar Haedo ’87**. The team played an exhibition game, hosted clinics and had opportunity to connect with Wesleyan Academy students. Daniel Rosario was back on his home court, alongside teammates **David Rosa ’25** and **Pedro Cruz ’25**, who also hail from Puerto Rico. *(Photos this page)*

In coming years, Houghton’s first-year Science Honors students will have the opportunity to study and conduct research in Puerto Rico as guests of Wesleyan Academy. Using drone technology, Honors students will have the opportunity to develop a research project and carry out that research.

In the future, John Román would love to see the Houghton tradition continue with student teachers and early career educators joining the team at Wesleyan Academy. Like Phil and Donnalee Stockin and countless other Highlanders, Houghton students and alumni can impact Wesleyan Academy students – students like John Román, who are ready to be equipped to lead and labor as scholar-servants in a world that so desperately needs them.

The Lord made me see that I had talents from Him, and, regardless of what they were, they didn’t mean anything if I didn’t use them to testify about who God is and what He has done.

- John Román ’77

Daniel Rosario



David Rosa



# The Ministry of Presence

For generations, Houghton students have been welcomed into an intentional, relational Christian community where they are invited to grow alongside one another into the women and men God has called them to be. This community doesn't happen by accident, nor does it continue to flourish through the decades without the ongoing, purposeful development of those who lead and labor in the work of ministering to our students.

**Katie Breitigan '09**, Houghton University's Dean of Students and Director of Residence Life, is a hallmark example of the ways Houghton continues to equip aspiring scholar-servants for a lifetime of Kingdom impact they could never have dreamed possible.

Katie came to Houghton as a first-generation college student entirely unsure of her future. She wasn't even sure what to expect at college, and it was only through her Accepted Students Weekend experience that Katie was convinced Houghton was the place she was called to be.

As a student, Katie immersed herself in every aspect of campus life, although that didn't distract from her studies. Discovering a deep enjoyment in the courses and professors in the Communication and Ministry departments, she declared a dual major in Communication and Educational Ministry. When she combined her learning with two years' hands-on experience as a Resident Assistant in Lambein Hall, Katie discovered what it meant to be a leader and to serve others in the context of a Christian community.

Katie began to refine her calling as she mentored with her Resident Director, **Rachel (Paashaus '07) Wright** and Director of Residence Life **Denise Bakerink '83**. After a rather disappointing youth ministry internship, Katie sought the guidance of Professor **Michael Walters '86**, who helped her identify her passion for college students and reminded Katie that ministry doesn't have to be in a traditional pastoral role. Denise suggested Katie consider a master's degree in higher education focusing on student development and, along with Rachel's encouragement, helped Katie realize that a role in student life could become a fulfilling career.

This foundational sense of vocational calling – combining Katie's love of communication and ministry – provided a bedrock for the many ways she serves Houghton students today. "I view it as the Ministry of Presence," Katie shares. "It's a very broad description of a complicated job. I focus on being available, approachable and interruptible – always there to step into the need of the moment."

Katie focuses much of her effort on team-building among her residence life staff, which includes Resident Directors, Assistant Resident Directors and Resident Assistants. "We're here to both challenge and support students. And we are strategically placed to facilitate collaboration across campus departments. We're not the experts; we're the liaisons on the front lines, pointing students to the experts on campus who can help them navigate whatever they're facing."

Katie guides her residence life team in developing their own spiritual lives. She challenges them to grow intentionally in their walk with Christ, encouraging an authenticity in their relationships with the students with whom they work most closely. "They're learning how to walk with their peers through difficult seasons, often while grappling with the same struggles. I've been

challenging them, and myself, to rely on the promise found in Matthew 11:28. I like the way The Message presents part of this verse: 'walk with Me and work with Me.' In Christ, we are able to live freely, to slow down and be present before God, and to recognize our leadership positions as God's work, in which we are just a vessel."

Katie navigates her team through difficult moments, working with students in crisis, mentoring students who are struggling and encouraging students who are facing disappointments. The residence life team routinely encounters students at crossroads in their lives. "It's worth it when we see students rewrite their narratives. We're able to eventually celebrate their triumphs, and we have the privilege of knowing parts of their stories they don't readily share with others. It makes days like Commencement really powerful."

As Katie daily practices the Ministry of Presence, her impact is felt across campus. Relationships are built, peer-to-peer mentoring is inspired and a surprising community of intentional care flourishes. Future generations of scholar-servants are not only developing as teachers or accountants or doctors but growing as children of God prepared to minister to the needs of the people around them.

I focus on being  
**AVAILABLE,**  
**APPROACHABLE AND**  
**INTERRUPTIBLE –**  
always there to step into the  
need of the moment.

- Katie Breitigan '09

*Katie Breitigan is a graduate of Houghton University and holds a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Development from Taylor University and a Doctorate of Restorative Theology: Trauma and Transformation from Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her dissertation was entitled "The Value of Theological Reciprocating Relationships within Faculty Pedagogy as a Response to Student Mental Health in Christian Higher Education." She has over a decade of experience in student and residential life, including serving at Gordon College and Indiana Wesleyan University prior to her tenure at Houghton.*



# IDEAL APPLIED LEARNING

Stretching back to the 1960s, Houghton undergraduates have conducted real-world hands-on research alongside their professors. Perhaps the best-known example is the groundbreaking effort of the students who came alongside Dr. Wilson Greatbatch in the mid- to late-1960s. Prior to that, however, professors like Dr. Stephen Calhoun were helping students gain vital experience in laboratory settings that equipped them for post-college studies, research and careers. In the 1990s, when **Dr. Karen (Reese '93) Torraca** was an undergraduate student in chemistry, she had the opportunity to do research alongside Dr. Larry Christensen. Today, Dr. Torraca continues this tradition through the Shannon Summer Research Institute.

Dr. Torraca shares that Houghton's interdisciplinary approach to undergraduate research makes it a standout program, setting it apart from many other places students could study. In addition to spending significant time in the lab alongside a professor, students spend time in sessions with their peers sharing research in fields as varied as biology, chemistry, computer science and physics. They're learning from one another in a complex community, which offers them an opportunity to think outside the parameters of their specific fields.

After spending the early part of her career as a senior research scientist at Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis, Dr. Torraca brought her real-world experience to Houghton in 2007. Today, students research alongside her, working on the development of green synthetic methodologies. "Undergraduates challenge me to run tests and experiments I often talk myself out of running," shares Dr. Torraca. "They also help me discover reactions that are often robust enough to work at any scale. When undergraduates,

who are just beginning to learn lab methodologies, can successfully run reactions, I know the process can be scaled for successful implementation."

Hands-on research and faculty scholarship are vital to Houghton's science students' success after graduation. A robust research program helps Houghton University recruit a vibrant and dynamic faculty, professionals who bring outstanding scholarship to bear on a student's educational experience. This kind of intentional, intimate research setting is one that undergraduates won't find at large universities. It's also a key factor in their success after graduation. Thirty-five percent of Dr. Torraca's chemistry majors go directly into the workforce, where they're highly prized as lab technicians. "They're knowledgeable enough to troubleshoot problems and informed enough to know when to ask good questions."

The combined knowledge and experience that come with applied learning make Houghton graduates highly marketable both in the field and for graduate school. Alumni will often share with Dr. Torraca how much better prepared they are for graduate school than their counterparts from larger institutions. They have had the opportunity to work with technical equipment and better address challenges in the lab thanks to their collaborative research experiences.

"The Shannon Summer Research Institute has all the hallmarks of a really successful learning opportunity: direct work with professional researchers, its interdisciplinary nature, programming that stretches beyond their time in the lab, and the social aspect of a close-knit community," reflects Dr. Torraca. "It's pretty close to the ideal undergraduate research program."



**Karen (Reese '93) Torraca** is Professor of Chemistry and the Alan & Florence Johnson Distinguished Chair in Health Sciences.

# Q & A with JOEY JENNINGS, Chair of the Board of Trustees

**Rev. Dr. Joey Jennings '86** currently serves Houghton University as Chair of our Board of Trustees. He is the Superintendent of the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church. Houghton Magazine recently caught up with Dr. Jennings during Homecoming & Family Weekend.

**HM:** Dr. Jennings, thank you for the opportunity to chat today. Can you start our conversation by giving a quick snapshot of your Houghton story?

**JJ:** Sure. I graduated in 1986 with a major in religion. I met **Maribeth (Danner '86)** as a freshman; we started dating during our sophomore year, and we were married shortly after graduation. After seminary and pastoring in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, I came back to Western New York in 2010 and joined Houghton's Board of Trustees the following January. I served on the Executive Committee as board secretary for several years and have been the Chair for one year.

**HM:** It's always great to have alumni come back and serve their alma mater. Can you give us the big picture view of your role as Board Chair?

**JJ:** My most important function as Board Chair is guiding the Board through the process of discernment, ensuring they are equipped to make the best decisions for the benefit of the University. I chair the Board meetings three times a year, and, in between those meetings, I liaison between the Board and President Lewis. I sit on seven of the eight board committees, giving me a broad view of what's happening.

**HM:** Talk a little bit about your role as Board Chair as it intersected with the work of developing the new strategic plan.

**JJ:** President Lewis and I discussed the Board's involvement in the process last January. In February, the President and Natasha

Davis [Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning and Compliance] met with each of the standing committees, asking in-depth questions about the Board members' perception of Houghton's values and identity and about the important pieces of what should come next for Houghton.

**HM:** As you think about our current strategic plan, what are we building on to move forward?

**JJ:** The mission, of course, is the same. The core values are based on substantial amounts of data from students, faculty, staff and the Board, drawing on common themes across these constituencies, which brings in both Houghton's history and current makeup. These values shape who we are and how we carry out our mission. The strategic priorities examine where we are and identify areas of focus to best carry out our mission for the next five years.

**HM:** What part of the plan are you personally passionate about?

**JJ:** The strategic plan has seven priorities and objectives. I am most passionate about the first one: Cultivating Christian Community. This is why we were founded, and it sets us apart from most other universities. President Lewis, the Board of Trustees and I all share the conviction that Houghton University must continue to intentionally cultivate a Christ-centered environment. We desire to be known as a place where students can enhance their relationship with Jesus and His Church while getting the best education possible. That is my first passion for Houghton – for our identity and mission.

**HM:** Anything else you'd like to share about the strategic plan?

**JJ:** It's important to know that, when the Board of Trustees approved the plan in April, they wholeheartedly supported it. We agree this plan lays out the direction the university needs to go and are fully committed to helping us get there.

## From the ALUMNI BOARD

The Alumni Board met in person during the October Homecoming Weekend to continue our work of representing you, the alumni of Houghton University. Our usual activities include hearing reports from multiple campus groups, sharing information we have received from alumni, and then brainstorming and implementing plans to help you actively connect with your alma mater. All of this is done in an atmosphere of prayer and deep community connection.

Christian community just so happens to be the first of the seven priorities in Houghton's new Strategic Plan. We could not help but sense the fresh spirit that seemed to pervade the campus. An infusion of hope seemed to coincide with the 272 newly-arrived freshmen. The dining hall felt full, the sports events were well attended, chapel had most seats filled, and the Saturday night SPOT was super high-energy. There was a sense that God is doing something new, and that this generation is excited about following Jesus in building the Kingdom of God in this time and this place.

It was also exciting to see classes gathering for their reunions. Faces pass you on the sidewalk and you realize that you knew that person long ago . . . they just look a little more "mature" than when you last saw them. Another great idea Houghton has implemented is affinity reunions. Last year it was people who had been in the Greatbatch School of Music. This year it was a reunion of the Honors Program participants. All of it served to increase the number of alumni who returned to see old friends.

What a privilege to have been shaped by Houghton at such a formative time in our lives. God has used this school to help us become who we are today. Please join me in thanking the Lord for all the blessings we have received through being part of Houghton University.



**Rev. Dr. Bill Allen '89**  
Houghton University Alumni  
Board President

## SAVE THE DATES!



### GOLDEN HIGHLANDER REUNION 2024

May 10-12

For the  
Class of  
1974's 50th  
Reunion!

### SUMMER ALUMNI REUNION 2024

August 2-4

For all  
alumni  
from the  
1950's as  
well as the  
Classes of:  
» 1964  
» 1969  
» 1979  
» 1984  
» 1989

### HOMECOMING 2024 October 3-5

Reunion  
Classes:  
» 1994  
» 1999  
» 2004  
» 2009  
» 2014  
» 2019







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- A Purple & Gold Week
- B Homecoming Dance
- C Homecoming SPOT: The 80's
- D Alumni Award Honorees
- E Homecoming Festival & Parade
- F 10 Year Reunion
- G CAB Purple & Gold Coffeehouse
- H Equestrian Center Open House
- I Women's Soccer Game
- J Juggling Show
- K Cross Country Meet
- L Homecoming Collage Concert
- M Honors at Houghton Reunion

**ALUMNI AWARD Honorees**  
 Back row, left to right: Justin Peck '13 & Rachel (Meier '13) Peck, Young Alumni of the Year; Jeffrey Thompson '01, Christian Service Award; David Bruno '15 & Stephanie (Ford '15) Bruno [front row, holding baby], Fearless Award; Timothy Deckert '95, Alumni Appreciation Award. Front row: Carol (Zimmerman '78) Fuller on behalf of Timothy Fuller '79, Distinguished Achievement Award; Carl Lynch '71, Alumnus of the Year; President Wayne Lewis.



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# HOMECOMING & Family Weekend 2023



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**PATRICK HAGER**

Head Men's & Women's Cross Country and Track & Field Coach

In my program, I try to not settle into one philosophy or way of doing things, spiritually. I leave room for creativity, voices to be heard, time for quiet reflection, as they come. I enjoy working each season with our team chaplains, particularly giving them the freedom to lead and be a resource to their team. I encourage focusing on hearing personal testimony from teammates; these tend to be the most meaningful messages we hear all year. The last few years, I've worked to integrate more time for reflection and journaling. I enjoy asking my student-athletes a few pointed questions, let them write their thoughts, and share with the group instead of always listening. We have a tradition of singing the Doxology after every cross-country meet. It slows things down after sometimes heated competition, and allows us to reflect in prayer, through song. I feel like it really centers us in gratitude, humility, and joy, regardless of the outcome that day. My goal is to be a positive, thoughtful, and inquisitive presence in their life during their time at Houghton, in general. When we start there, often deeper conversations and happenings follow.



**CHAD MUISE '15**

Head Softball Coach

The members from our softball team come from many different backgrounds of spiritual engagement. As a team, we find it a joy and a privilege to grow together spiritually in an understanding that God created each of us uniquely to be loved by Him and to love those around us for His glory. Together, we work to know Him better by serving the community around us, spending time praying for each other, and spending time in devotion together. As a program, we strive to practice the unconditional love that Christ shares with us.

**FOUR INSIGHTS:**  
ATHLETICS AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

...God turned my sights from striving to win toward  
**DISCIPLESHIP AND EXCELLENCE.**

-Coach Jeremy Bialek

**JEREMY BIALEK**

Head Men's Basketball Coach

There came a time about 15 years ago when God turned my sights from striving to win toward discipleship and excellence. Everything I had been doing was directed at becoming more competitive as a team and it was affecting the way I treated my players, my family, and myself. Once I allowed God to change my heart and I started working with Him to change my players' hearts, winning naturally followed. Players that play free, knowing that their identity and worth are not tied to athletic performance, tend to see better results. It behooves me to make God's love, Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, and the overcoming power of the Spirit well known to our team through devotions, chapel, team building events, practices, games, and individual meetings. Once we know we are loved, we must share that love with EVERYONE around us – even our opponents and officials. Then, our athletic activity will not just be buffeting our bodies, but truly a light in a dark sports world.



**HANNAH (ZGRABLICH '14) OGDEN**

Head Field Hockey Coach

Hospitality is a pivotal building block to the spiritual formation on our team. It is important to me to create an environment within my team where everyone feels comfortable to both generously share and graciously receive one another's time, energy, homes, families, viewpoints, love and care. I strive to build a culture of hospitality, first, tangibly—sharing meals together, interacting with each others' families, and offering more hands to make light work. By making regular practice of tangible hospitality with one another, I see hospitality building and growing in meaningful intangible ways—trust grows, willingness to give and receive accountability increases, and there is an overall sense that, though we may have different questions, backgrounds, and viewpoints, we are walking through life together. My goal and my prayer is to continue actively demonstrating hospitality—an open home, a loving family, and a sense of community, where my athletes feel safe to join in the process of both the building and the being built.



# Trusting in God's GUIDANCE

I'm seeing so many benefits of growing in my faith and my calling and growing in an understanding of the world I live in.

- Michael Carey '27

As **Michael Carey '27** contemplated his future, he wasn't sure if college was even part of the picture. He thought it was possible that his vision of becoming a pastor could be fulfilled through internships with his church, where he's already been preaching for a few years. As he prayed, however, Michael sensed God calling him into a season of preparation, during which he could refine his skills and ready himself to meet that calling.

Michael's attempts to find the right school were challenging. The first few he considered were expensive, far from home or both. "I didn't want to pay for an education in a place where God wasn't calling me," Michael shared. "And I didn't want to put the financial burden of an expensive education on my mom."

Michael is a triplet, so determining the next steps and their financial implications was significant for his family. "I trusted God's guidance," reflected Michael, "but I wasn't seeing the open door. It was a tough season, and I didn't know what to do."

Michael wanted to remain near his home outside Albany, New York, but didn't want to give up on finding a college that shared his values. He didn't want to compromise and remained firm in seeking the place God was calling him to. "I think sometimes God doesn't give clear answers right away because He wants to grow our faith."

As Michael dreaded making a college decision that he wasn't sure he could afford, God was already at work. Upon arriving home from a visit to another institution, Michael received a letter from Houghton University. It was an acceptance letter that included his financial aid package. Michael could hardly believe it was real. "I was awarded a Founder's Promise Scholarship. I looked at my mom and said, 'Can I be reading this right?'"

Two months into his first semester, Michael is learning how to balance his academics and his social life. He loves people and has quickly developed a diverse group of friends who join him in a weekly Bible study. Michael also participates in and helps lead a small group study for young men on campus and occasionally goes home to preach in his home church.

Michael is already seeing the benefits of a liberal arts education. "J.L. Miller [Chair of Religion and Associate Dean of the Chapel] told me Houghton's goal is to shape well-rounded pastors who are able to understand the times they live in. I'm seeing so many benefits of growing in my faith and my calling and growing in an understanding of the world I live in."

The Founder's Promise Scholarship is a last-dollar tuition scholarship offered to incoming students who are eligible for federal Pell grants. In its inaugural year, 33% of incoming students received the Founder's Promise Scholarship, equating to an affordable education for 90 aspiring scholar-servants like Michael. Houghton's strategic plan highlights a continued emphasis on and commitment to access and affordability for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, a commitment played out through the Founder's Promise Scholarship.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES: IBM 1130

In February of 1967, Houghton College took its first step into the computing age when an order was placed for an IBM 1130. According to the IBM website, the 1130 was first released in 1965 and was promoted as a "low-cost, medium-sized" computing option. The machine could be purchased for \$32,280, although Houghton rented its unit for approximately \$800/month.<sup>1</sup>

IBM promoted its 1130 in the original press release of 1965 in this way: "The desk-sized 1130 is designed for individual use by engineers, scientists and mathematicians. But with its range of peripheral units, the 1130 also will be used in such fields as publishing, construction, finance, manufacturing and distribution. For ease of use by many individuals, an advanced storage technique is available with the 1130 computer. Data and instructions for computer processing are recorded on a magnetic disk similar in appearance to a phonograph record. Disks are protected by a plastic cartridge. Each IBM 2315 disk cartridge can hold the equivalent of more than one million characters of information."<sup>2</sup>

Houghton's plan was to use the "incredible speed, permanent memory, high accuracy and automation operations" to facilitate course registration, grade computations, maintenance of alumni records and standard business computations. But the efficient and affordable IBM 1130 wasn't just chosen for Houghton's administration. It was also selected with Houghton's business students in mind but soon became a favorite tool of Houghton professors such as Larry Christensen, **Fred Trexler '64** and Ted Norton.

The computer was installed in "Russell House" (later known as "Pickle House") over Christmas break in 1968. It was initially operated by Gary McEwan and programmed by Houghton alumna **Donna (Stewart '67) Gross**. Donna was trained by IBM and, prior to her work at Houghton, held a contract with NASA. According to a Houghton Star article dated January 17, 1969, the first users of the computer were students, who used the computer for "socialized final exams." By 1970, students were anxiously worrying over their courses in Basic Fortran.

The IBM 1130 was later moved to the "new science building" (now known as the Paine Center for Science) and was replaced by 1978 with a PDP/1170 computer with a convenient sixteen terminals. The PDP/1170 had a remarkable 128 k of internal memory, a tape drive, a punch card reader and a graphic terminal. The installation of the PDP/1170 terminals was celebrated with the formation of Houghton's HC<sup>3</sup> – that is, the Houghton College Computer Club.

[1] [https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/1130/1130\\_intro.html](https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/1130/1130_intro.html)

[2] [https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/1130/1130\\_initial.html](https://www.ibm.com/ibm/history/exhibits/1130/1130_initial.html)



### 💡 DID YOU KNOW?

You can find digitized versions of all editions of the Houghton STAR, the Boulder, the Milieu and Houghton Magazine online through the Willard J. Houghton Library?



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to read an excellent article about the IBM 1130 written for the Houghton STAR by **Sharon (Lamos '73) Oppedisano** and published on October 1, 1971.

Or visit <https://libguides.houghton.edu/archives>

# TWO VIEWS:



**PETER MEILAENDER**  
Dean of Religion, Humanities, and Global Studies;  
Professor of Political Science

Earlier today, in my Humanities 101 class, I led a discussion of *On the Nature of Things*, by Lucretius. In it, the Roman poet expounds his Epicurean philosophy, arguing that the universe is purely material; that the soul is mortal, dying together with the body; and that we should find this teaching consoling. It was an easy opportunity to ask students: What, if anything, can a Christian endorse in Lucretius' account of body and soul?

Sometimes integrating faith and learning in the classroom is that easy. But not always. Some days I just want my students to consider why the Supreme Court reached a particular decision or the relative merits of having a single president as opposed to, say, Switzerland's seven-member executive council. On those days—which, frankly, are common—is there any integration of faith and learning going on?

I think there is, at two levels. First, we should not underestimate the Christian essence of a liberal arts education, even when questions of faith are in the background. Liberal arts education is not just about getting a job, or becoming well-rounded, or even producing good citizens. It seeks truth. And Christians believe that all truth is God's truth. When we seek truth, of any kind, we are always seeking to understand some aspect of God or his plan for creation.

Second, Christian liberal arts education rests on a kind of gamble: that, however far unaided reason may take us, our understanding of whatever we study will ultimately prove richer, deeper, and more adequate when we see with the eyes of faith. St. Anselm famously said, "Credo ut intelligam" — I believe so that I may understand. In every class we teach, again and again, we make the daring and exciting wager that by semester's end, our students will see just a bit more clearly that Anselm was right.

when we seek truth, of any kind, we are always seeking to understand some aspect of God or his plan for creation.

# ESSAYS ON FAITH & LEARNING

In her novel *Adam Bede*, Victorian novelist George Eliot (the penname of Marianne Evans) takes a chapter to explain why she writes complex characters with both admirable qualities and serious flaws. She responds to a hypothetical reader who wants her to "[l]et your most faulty characters always be on the wrong side, and your virtuous ones on the right. Then we shall see whom we are to condemn, and whom we are to approve."

Eliot's hypothetical reader has a lot in common with many of my students—especially those just starting college. Many of them come to me with categories of approval and condemnation. They would like their professors to help them sort ideas, activities and even people into those two boxes. But Eliot goes on to show where the desire for clarity can carry us. In the voice of her hypothetical reader, she says, "Then we shall be able to admire, without the slightest disturbance of our prepossessions; we shall hate and despise with that true ruminant relish which belongs to undoubting confidence." Eliot responds to a reader who wants to be able to confidently admire, hate and despise by writing characters who are difficult to wholly admire and even harder to wholly hate.

This is also a Christian way of responding to a world of ideas that are both admirable and full of flaws. Jesus modeled this for us in his responses to people. When he sat down to a meal at the house of Zacchaeus, he broke apart one box that it would have been easy to drop Zacchaeus into: the box of condemnation. This is a task I attempt as a Christian teacher when I invite my students to critically examine what they are studying and invite them, instead of simply sorting ideas into the boxes of praise or condemnation, to try to understand them well. Jesus invites us to sit down at the table with those we are tempted to regard with contempt. In a similar way, the Christian classroom invites us to an exploration of ideas that will be a mix of the admirable and the flawed—just like the characters in a complex Victorian novel.

...the Christian classroom invites us to an exploration of ideas that will be a mix of the admirable and the flawed...

**SUSAN BRUXVOORT LIPSCOMB**  
Professor of English



# HIGHLANDER ATHLETICS NEWS

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS HONORS STUDENT-ATHLETES LOST IN 1981 ACCIDENT

Friends, family, former teammates and members of the Houghton community gathered in the Kerr-Pegula Field House in October to honor the lives and legacies of **Alan "Al" Bushart '82**, **Joy Ellis '82** and **Cynthia "Cindy" Rudes '82**, three student-athletes who were among six students killed in an auto accident on October 2, 1981.

The event included the unveiling of a wall display; comments from Houghton President Wayne D. Lewis, Jr. and Director of Athletics Matthew Webb; remembrances from friends **Brian** and **Christine (Schmidt '82) Davidson '82**; and a closing prayer from Bushart's brother, Kevin.

In honor of their leadership, sportsmanship and Christ-like character, the display includes Bushart's game jersey – which has been retired by the men's soccer program – as well as photos and a written tribute to the three student-athletes. The department also officially announced the creation of the Joy Ellis and Cynthia Rudes Women's Volleyball Endowment.

Bushart, Ellis and Rudes left an indelible mark on the Highlander programs and continue to be remembered with fondness on campus and among their former teammates and coaches for their campus leadership and their commitment to their faith in Jesus Christ.

The tribute continued at the men's soccer and women's volleyball games later that afternoon as members of each team wore commemorative t-shirts with the jersey numbers worn by Bushart, Ellis and Rudes.



## TITLE CHANGE, PROMOTION AND TWO NEW FACES FOR HOUGHTON SPORTS MEDICINE

Houghton Director of Athletics Matthew Webb announced several important changes to both the administrative and sports medicine teams this fall. Deanna Hand has received a job title change and will now be Senior Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations, while Austin Walden has been promoted to Head Athletic Trainer. The Highlanders have also added two staff members to the sports medicine team; former Houghton student-athlete **Leslie Moose '19** has been hired as a full-time athletic trainer, and Connor Englert will split time between athletic training duties and serving as Houghton's first strength and conditioning coach.

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL SET FOR OPENING SEASON

Developments continue for Houghton's newest sport, men's volleyball, which was added as an intercollegiate sport last year. The department welcomed former Highlander women's volleyball standout **Lindsay (Burgher '13) Seddon** as its first head coach in the spring, and the team officially joined the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference in June. The team will begin its inaugural season in January with plans to move into conference play during the 2025 spring campaign. Seddon and her roster of 14 student-athletes have been practicing this fall in preparation for a 15-date schedule that begins January 19.



## FOUR TEAMS CONTINUE HOUGHTON'S SPORT MINISTRY LEGACY

A vital aspect of the student-athlete and team experience in Houghton athletics has been the opportunity for sports ministry. Four teams were able to continue in that legacy by participating in short-term ministry trips this summer and fall. Men's soccer and women's soccer traveled to Brazil in May with Missionary Athletes International, while women's volleyball connected with Houghton alum **Judy Fox '89** on a trip to Nicaragua with Ignite International **1**. This fall, men's basketball traveled to Puerto Rico with Push the Rock, connecting with Houghton alumnus **John Romàn '77** at Wesleyan Academy (see pp. 6-9).

Each team used the platform of sport to connect with the local communities, conducting clinics, participating in work projects and playing scrimmages against local teams.

## RECORD FALL FOR FIELD HOCKEY

The field hockey team posted another record-setting fall season. The team **2** advanced to the Empire 8 Tournament for the second straight year and had its first back-to-back double-digit win seasons since 2004 and 2005. Head Coach **Hannah (Zgrablich '14) Ogden** passed coaching legend **George Wells '47** for the second-most head coaching wins in program history. She now has 69 wins in nine seasons and trails only Donna Hornibrook (111 wins).

The Highlanders led the Empire 8 in goals scored (67), the second-most goals in program history, trailing the 2022 team by two goals. The team also tied the 2022 team for the most shutouts (6) in Houghton's NCAA-era. With 17 goals, junior **Bekah Davie '25** now has 47 goals in her three-year career, second-most in Houghton history. She trails only **Kelly Mazzeo '05**, who scored 54 career goals. Junior **Jace Hunzinger '25** became not only Houghton's single-season leader (breaking her own record, established in 2022) but the Highlanders' all-time assist leader (51) and the Empire 8 single-season and career assist leader. She led the NCAA in assists per game (1.25), her second consecutive season accomplishing the feat.

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY CLAIMS FIRST E8 TITLE; LINENFELSER WINS WOMEN'S RACE

The men's cross country program captured Houghton's fourth team conference championship in October, joining women's cross country (2019) and men's tennis (2021, 2023) as E8 champions. The Highlanders placed five runners in the top 10, led by a third-place finish by **Caleb Kasper '24** in the 8K course in 25:17.7. "This group blended skills like focus and incredible work ethic in training and compartmentalized better than I've ever seen. We'll remember this day for a long time," said Head Coach Patrick Hager. **3**

In the women's race, sophomore **Noelle Linenfelser '26** was the individual champion **4**, capturing the 6K title in 21:38.8, giving Houghton back-to-back women's titles (**Amanda Burrichter '22**) and three since 2019 (**Shelby Langlois '20**). The women finished third as a team.



# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

1958

**Robert Sabean** is retired from United World Mission and continues to live with his wife, Nancy, in Costa Rica, where he maintains active responsibilities with the Association of Christian Camps Latin America. **A**

1963

**John Hitchcock** has retired after 56 years of teaching physics and chemistry. He continues to pursue hobbies in writing and golf and recently taught a course through the online platform Thinkific.

1964

**Dr. David Droppa** was promoted to full professor in the Social Work Program at Seton Hill University, where he serves as director of that program and is the co-chair of the president's DEI Committee. He can be heard as a presenter at a national conference for social work educators annually. **B**

1965

**Elaine (Fuller) Hitchcock** has retired from her career as a fifth-grade teacher and now lives in Waco, TX, with her husband, **John '63**. They are happy to be near their adult children, including **Gregory '92** and his wife, **Charlene (Kliwer '92)**.

1966

**Rev. Dr. Clarence "Bud" Bence** and CampusEdu were awarded a 2023 Silver Telly Award for their promotional video featuring Bud's course in Church History. Telly Awards annually honor excellence in video and media.

1968

**Gary Ward** holds a position with Enterprise Holdings in Altadena, CA, where he has worked part-time since retirement from City of Hope National Medical Center, where he worked as Director of Security and Transportation until 2012.

1969

**Gary Fairchild** has relocated to Portland, ME, with his wife, **Connie (Mangham '71)**, after severe flooding in their home in Kissimmee, FL. They now live near their son, **Ryan '03**.

1977

**Tom Hodge** hosted a Class of '77 Men's Retreat in Washington State. The participants were joined by Houghton University Professor Emeritus and Class of 1977 Advisor Dr. Harold Kingdon. **C**

1978

**Langdon Hubbard** retired in March 2022 after 40 years in ministry, including serving for 20 years as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in East Aurora, NY.

**John Hugo** recently completed 35 years as a faculty member in the vocal department at Liberty University School of Music. He currently serves as the Chair of Ensembles and General Music studies. **D**

1979

**Colleen (Muckey) Richards** was recently appointed Environmental Education teacher at Willow Glen Christian School near Ithaca, NY. Willow Glen is a newly accredited multi-church collaborative school focused on a classical Christian education with a place-based emphasis on environmental education. **E**

1983

**Richard "Rich" Danielson** retired in 2022 from running a bed and breakfast in the Finger Lakes and is currently serving a three-year term as a part-time pastor for the Lockport (NY) United Church of Christ.

**Debra Newton-Carter** has retired from her position as head cook of a deli in Asheville, NC, and now resides in Amherst, MA. She is a participant in the First Draft Manuscript Program with the Pioneer Valley Writers Workshop and is writing an historical novel. **F**

1988

**Dan O'Bryon** has accepted a position as Chief Financial Officer of AHF Products, LLC, in Lancaster, PA. He recently celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his wife, Stephanie.

1990

**Keith Davie**, longtime Director of Athletics and Men's Soccer Coach at Nyack College/Alliance University, was named to the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Hall of Fame in October 2023.

1991

**Carol (Chaffee) Fielding** recently thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail. She began the trek on March 23, 2023, at the southern terminus of Springer Mountain, Georgia, and completed the journey exactly six months later on September 23, 2023, at the northern terminus of Baxter Peak, Katahdin, in Maine. She will be writing a book about her experiences hiking the 2,198.4 miles of America's most popular long trail. **G**

1993

**Tara (McRae) Davis** completed her PhD at Newburgh Theological Seminary in December of 2021.

**Sabrina (Presell) McLeod** accepted a position as Vice President of Finance for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester. She manages financial operations for the seventh largest Catholic Charities in the United States. **H**

1995

**Timothy "Tim" Deckert** began a new position as General Counsel at Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe, Inc., in October of 2023.

2000

**Kurt Fabian** completed his Doctor of Psychoanalysis at the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis in 2021. In August of 2023, he accepted a faculty position at the Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis after 10 years of private practice in the Boston area. **I**



## 2002

**Dr. Joel Barton** began a position as a pediatric and adult anesthesiologist at HCA Healthcare in Asheville, NC, in July of 2021.

**Seth Grebbien** now holds the position of Chief Ministry Officer – Pennsylvania for Mason-Dixon Youth For Christ.

## 2003

**Sarah (Bruce) Kerr** accepted the position of Assistant Director of Grants with Helping Up Mission, a residential and wrap-around services organization supporting men and women through addiction treatment and as they pursue wholistic recovery. **J**

## 2005

**Matt Halulko** was appointed Vice President of Dedicated Operations at U.S. Express, Inc., in Yulee, FL, in April 2021.

## 2007

**Danielle (Forland '07) Lefebvre** was appointed Senior L&D Project Manager for JLL at GERF in August of 2023.

## 2008

**Daniel Black** has rejoined the faculty at Houghton University as Director of Choral Activities after a one-year leave to serve as Head of School at Rochester Classical Academy, a classical Christian school he founded in 2019.

**Larissa (Strapello) Ries** recently completed the US Dressage Federation's silver medal requirements riding Houghton University lesson horse Dawson's Creek.

## 2012

**Zina Teague** completed her Master of Social Work at Indian Wesleyan University in August of 2023.

## 2014

**Brittany McLure** accepted the position of Public Policy and Legislation Committee Chair with the Tennessee School Counselor Association while continuing as a school counselor in Nashville, TN. **K**

**Suzannah Waddington (MM'16)** was selected as a 2023 candidate for the Nadia and Lili Boulanger Competition at the Centre International de Nadia et Lili Boulanger in Paris, France. **L**

## 2015

**Olivia (Neveu) Morales** completed a master's degree at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Intercultural Studies (magna cum laude) in October 2021. She currently serves as Assistant Director for Compass Path, an organization that works with youth in their understanding of purpose and calling. In 2023, Olivia was ordained through her local church's ordination process.

## 2016

**Caleb Philips** was promoted to Director of Athletic Communications at SUNY-Plattsburgh, where he oversees publicity efforts for the school's varsity athletics teams and brand development for Cardinal Athletics.

**Emma Webb** was appointed Assistant Women's Soccer Coach at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, in August of 2023.

## 2017

**Hannah (Simmons) Bailey** completed her MA in Psychology from Indiana Wesleyan University in November 2023 and was recently promoted to Wellness Counselor in Houghton University's Center for Student Success, where she provides programming and resources for students' mental health and wellness. Hannah also continues to serve as an assistant coach for the Houghton University softball team. **M**

## 2018

In October 2023, **Dr. Theresa "Tess" (Taggart) Bub** successfully defended her dissertation as a PhD candidate in microbiology and immunology at University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

**Daniil Zhuravlev** accepted a position as Test Technician with MicroVision in July of 2023.

## 2019

**Theresa Patnala** started a new position at Strong Ties, University of Rochester, as a Crisis Therapist in October 2023.

## 2021

**Kara (Cusker) Couch** was promoted to Client Success Partner at Gartner Business Services in October 2023.

**Evan Logee** accepted a position as Lead QC Analyst – Raw Materials with Regeneron in October 2023.

## 2022

**Hannah Heintl** started her master's degree studies in Biomedical Sciences at Midwestern University. She anticipates completing her degree in May 2024.

**Evan Tsai** now holds the position of Finance Project Manager at Alfred University. **N**

## 2023

**Mary Vandenbosch** began a new position as Natural Resource Specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services in October of 2023.

**Makaila Van Wie-Adair** is currently serving the seventh-grade students at Rochester Prep as a social studies teacher.

## CORRECTION:

In Houghton Magazine Summer 2023 edition, there was an error that requires correction. We apologize for any confusion caused by this error. The following correction should be noted: on page 23 in the Book Shelf, the author listed as Carol (Brinneman '69) Gratrix should be corrected to read Carol (Gratrix '69) Brinneman. We are committed to upholding the highest editorial standards and ensuring accurate content in Houghton Magazine.

## CONNECT WITH US

Houghton Magazine welcomes letters, alumni news, and art or photographs for possible inclusion in the magazine. All are subject to editorial discretion, and the opinions expressed are those of the authors or their subjects and not necessarily shared by the college or the editor. Submissions and address changes should be sent to [Magazine@Houghton.edu](mailto:Magazine@Houghton.edu) or Houghton University, Houghton, NY 14744. Written permission is required to reproduce Houghton Magazine in whole or in part. Contents ©2024 Houghton University

## BOOK SHELF

## John Hitchcock '63

I'm Done... You're Not **1**

*Independently Published | August 19, 2022*

## David Clifford '76

Being the Medicine **2**

*Independently Published | July 22, 2023*

Cynthia (Kinard '85) Machamer  
with Gail Mazourek

Dreaded Voice **3**

*Independently Published | August 25, 2023*

Laura (Clark '04) Hopkins  
with Patricia Edwards, Kristin White and Ann Castle

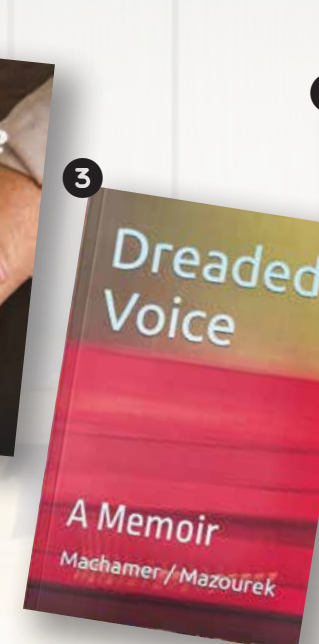
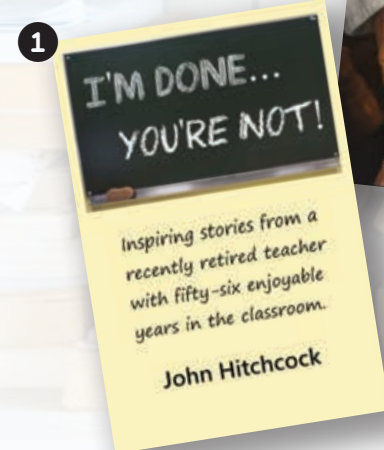
Teaching with Literacy Programs **4**

*Harvard Education Press | October 2023*

## Rachel Wightman '05

Faith and Fake News **5**

*Eerdmans Publishing Co. | May 30, 2023*



# DOWN the AISLE

**1 Beth (Boshart '70) Steria** was united in marriage with James Rush in Lowville, NY, on October 22, 2022. Alumnus **Keith Zehr '91** joined with their friends and family to celebrate the occasion.

**2 Colleen Kane '75** tied the knot with David Reynolds on May 21, 2022, in Pennsylvania. Upon sharing her news, Colleen remarked, "This is my first marriage! Whatever the prayer request, let's not give up!"

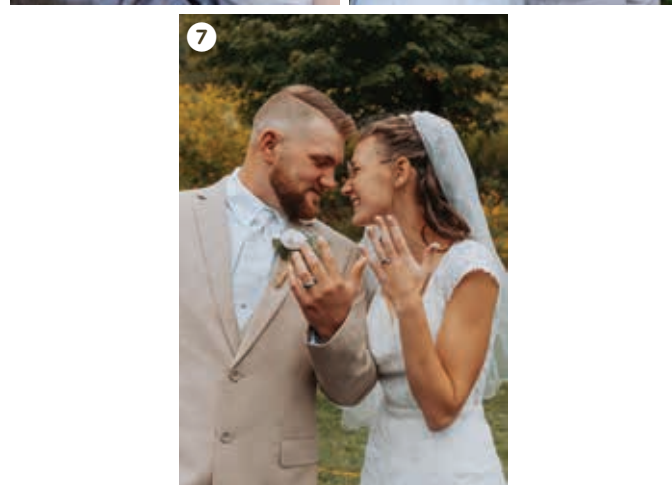
**3 Rachel Anacker '15** wed Tyler Dague on May 12, 2023, in New York City, NY, at Central Presbyterian Church. Celebrating with the couple were Houghton alumni including **Meghan (English '15)** and **Benjamin Hardy '15**, **Stephanie (Lasselle '15) Brewer**, **Suzannah Waddington '14 MM '16**, **Stephanie (Ford '15)** and **Dave Bruno '15**, **Bethany (Hillegas '15)** and **Josiah Evans '15**, **Shelby (Weil '15)** and **Brandon Bennett '15**, **Luke Rosamilia '16**, **Colin Belt '15**, **Bennett Minchen '11**, and photographer **Chelsea (Lee '16) Johnson**.

**4 Olivia Neveu '15** married Jonathan Morales on March 3, 2018, in Massachusetts.

**5 Elizabeth Smallwood '18** tied the knot with Kevin Garcia on November 3, 2020. They celebrated with a reception on May 15, 2021, and were joined by Houghton Alumni **Jessica (Robinson '18) Buckwalter**, **Elyssa (Pickering '17) Schreppel** and **Rebecca Loomis '19**, who photographed the event.

**6 Elisabeth Tate '20** was joined in marriage with **Micah Christensen '21** on July 29, 2023, in Chittenden, VT. They were joined in their celebration by numerous Houghton alumni including **Erin Maggio '21**, **Keirstyn Gurney '21**, **Joy (LoHouse '21)** and **Noah Ewing '21**, **Bekah (O'Reilly '21) Mayer**, **Hannah (Prentice '13)** and **Justin Bowersox '12**, **Philip Christensen '12**, **Paul Christensen '06**, **Naomi Christensen '08**, **Bethany Christensen '10**, **Lydia Christensen '22**, **Jessie-Fay Abbott '22**, **Christine (Forster '96)** and **Joel Tate '95**, **Sarah (Paulson '01)** and **Josh Tate '00**, and **Ruthie Brown '07**.

**7 Mikayla Bond '23** wed **Austin Schaumleffel '23** on September 9, 2023, in Turtlepoint, PA. Houghton alumni joined the bridal party, including: **Rebekah Scharf '21 MM '23**, **Jocelyn Kagoro '22**, **Cassie Cavell '23**, **Sarah Burton '23**, **Ashley Burton '23**, **Kevin Zientara '21**, **Zach Parr '22**, **Jeremey Wilcox '24**, **Chris Van Cheri '24**, and **Sebastian Rodriguez '23**. The ceremony was performed by **Alan Trotter '07** and photographed by **Rylee Archambault '23**. Along with many other alumni and current students, Houghton faculty also joined the celebration, including **Brian Retinour**, **Dr. Tim McGarvey**, **Dr. Kevin Dibble '11 MM '13**, **Dr. Angela McBrearty**, **Professor Amanda (Young '01) Cox**, **Dr. Kimberly Prins-Moeller '05**, **Dr. David '05** and **Dianna (Harter '04) Clem**, and **Dr. Sharon Johnson**.



# Future Highlanders



**3.24.23** | Katherine Joy Sheridan (McAlister '17) and Christopher Knecht '16

**4.18.23** | Charles Elliott Ben Wendell '09 and Becca Wendell

**5.14.23** | Maverick James Carolyn (Varner '12) and Jeffrey Fisher

**5.16.23** | Alara Margaret Elizabeth (Smallwood '18) and Kevin Garcia

**5.25.23** | Prairie Rose Joyce (Taylor '12) and Mike Bingeman

**6.16.23** | Benaih Rowland Ellenore (Tarr '18 MM '20) and Austin Kewin '15 MM '17

**7.5.23** | Lydia Grace Joanna (Stolzenburg '11) and Michael Raimo

**7.6.23** | Zane Wilson Kayla (Miller '17) and Michael Ganger '17

**7.7.23** | Tessa Abbey Olivia (Morse '17) and Andrew Meyers '18

**9.11.23** | Norah Winona Kara (Ashley '18) and John Witmer

**7.22.21** | Amos Robert & Ruby Caroline Rebecca (Fuller '05) and Christopher Crocker

**6.27.22** | Liliias Maryam Shannon Ames Fuller '12 and Andrew Ames Fuller

**9.21.22** | Dani Wayne Mikayla (Gaffney '21) and Aldo Rico '21

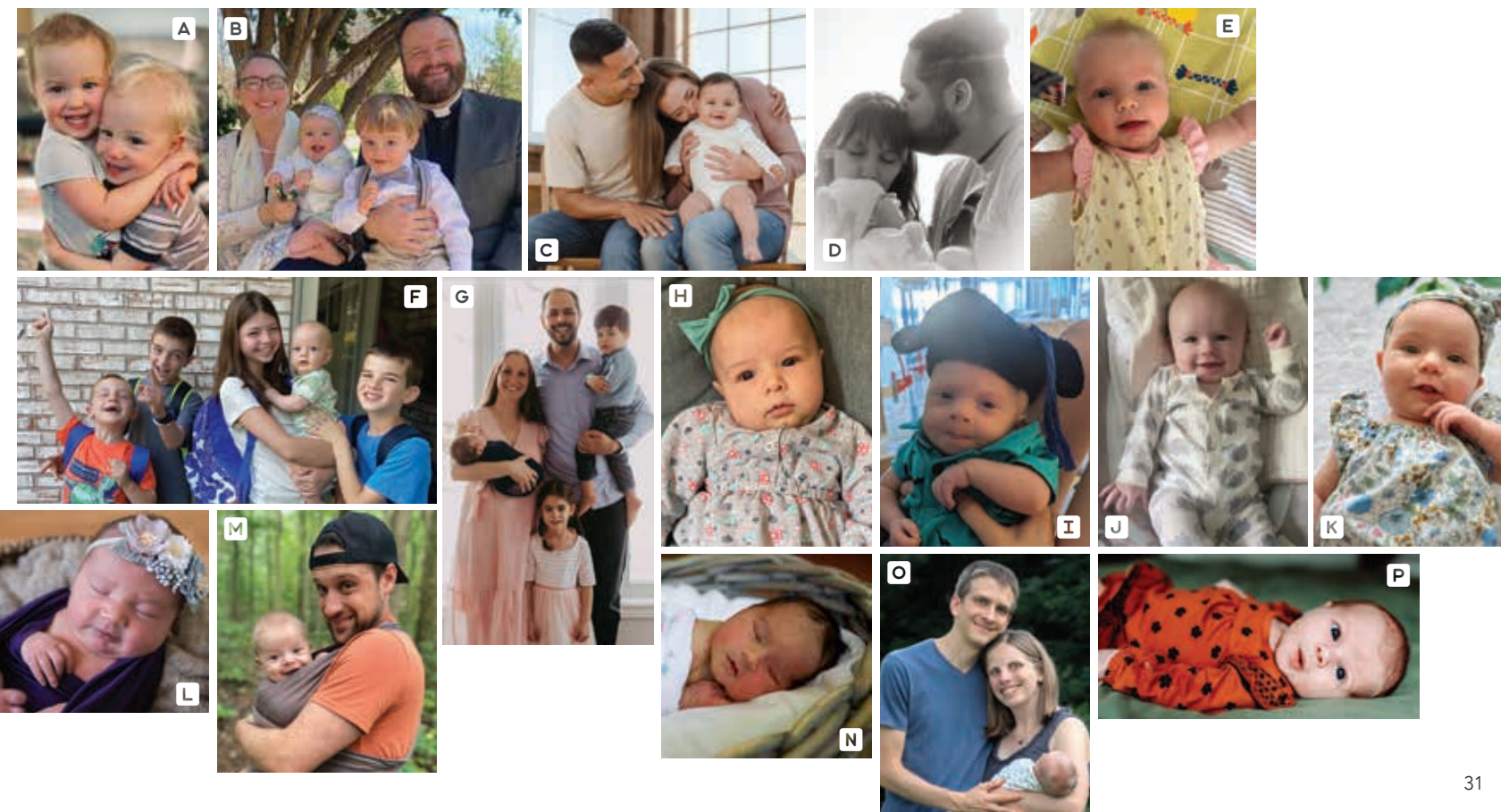
**12.23.22** | Samaya Kurt Fabian '00 and Spouse

**1.4.23** | Miles Olivia (Neveu '15) and Jonathan Morales

**1.17.23** | Jericho Mae Rosa (Gerber '03) and Josh Jaeger

**2.18.23** | Stephen Matthew Laurel (Hoffman '06) and Matt Moran '04

**3.12.23** | Isaiah David Rebekah (Giammarino '09) and David Makary





# In MEMORIAM

## 1941

**Velma (Smith) Charlesworth** passed away on November 1, 2021. She was a longtime educator in Stratford, CT. She is survived by one son and four grandchildren and is fondly remembered by her great-niece, current Houghton student **Rachel Guarino '24**.

## 1949

**Ronald Miller** passed away peacefully at the age of 94 on May 17, 2023, in Rochester, NY. A veteran of the Korean War, Ron spent his civilian career as a chemist at Eastman Kodak. He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren.

## 1950

**Dr. Robert Simpson** passed away on July 22, 2023, in Cedar Falls, IA. Dr. Simpson was a beloved professor at University of Northern Iowa. He leaves behind two daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

## 1952

**Sheila (Aron) Felts** passed away on May 31, 2023, at the age of 94. She leaves behind 3 children, including Houghton alumni **Stephen Felts '78** and **David Felts '83**; 13 grandchildren, including Houghton alumna **Danielle (Felts '10) Turner**; and 18 great-grandchildren. She dedicated her career to working with children with learning disabilities.

**Cynthia (Comstock) Kumatz** died on May 3, 2023, in Brentwood, TN, at the age of 92. She spent most of her career as a research librarian at Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals and served her community as town historian, church organist and secretary of the UMW. She is survived by her son and two grandsons.

## 1953

**Rev. Howard Gifford** of Marlton, NJ, went home to be with Jesus on July 4, 2023, a few weeks shy of his 94th birthday. He is

mourned by his four children, including alumna **Susan (Gifford '85) Elsner**; 13 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Rev. Gifford was a dedicated minister of the gospel, serving particularly in pulpits for the United Methodist Church.

**Dr. John Wilson**, beloved husband, father, step-father and grandfather, passed on to his heavenly home on August 4, 2023, with his wife at his side. Dr. Wilson was a veteran of the United States Army and dedicated his civilian career to junior high and high school education.

## 1954

**Rev. Robert Aldrich**, age 91 of Geneva, NY, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on September 8, 2023. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including daughter **Karen '82** and grandson **Adam Randall '22**. Rev. Aldrich was a lifelong servant of the gospel and served in pulpits throughout central New York and beyond.

**Rev. Dallas Decker**, age 90, passed peacefully on April 6, 2023, in Reidsville, NC. He dedicated his career to serving in the pastorate and to Christian education. He leaves behind his wife, **Mary Beth (Mead '55)**; three children; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Rev. William "Ted" Dürr**, age 90, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2022, surrounded by his family. A longtime resident of Roland Park, MD, and dedicated Presbyterian minister, Rev. Dürr is mourned by his three children, nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

**Rev. Robert Goode** of Allegany, NY, went to be with his Lord and Savior on September 7, 2023. He was a beloved minister of the gospel in many churches in New York and Pennsylvania. He is mourned by his wife, stepchildren, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## 1955

**Ingeborg (Schneider) Carena**, age 89, of the Bronx, NY, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 5, 2023, after a short illness. She is survived by her husband, her son and his family. Ingeborg was a long-time employee of Bloomingdale's, spending much of her career working for the company's president.

**Dorothy "Dottie" Cushman** passed into the presence of the Lord on October 7, 2023, at the age of 90. She dedicated over 40 years of her life to ministry, teaching and training in Egypt. She is survived by a niece and is fondly remembered by many friends including **Rachel (Zuber '58) Bedford**.

## 1958

**Rev. Roy Blyden**, 91, departed to his heavenly home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, October 25, 2021. A native of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, he was a Korean War Navy Veteran but most commonly known as Pastor Blyden. He spent his career in social services work and in Christian broadcasting. He is mourned by his wife, three children and eight grandchildren.

**Anne (Musser) Honeywell**, 86 of Mechanicsburg, PA, was received into Glory by the Lord on July 3, 2023, after a lengthy illness. Anne was a gifted musician and longtime professor of music and organist for Roberts Wesleyan University. She leaves behind her husband, Charles.

**Ruth (McKelvie) Kendall**, 86, of Bath, NY, passed away on January 8, 2023. She is mourned by her children and grandchildren.

## 1959

**Rev. David Allen**, 84, of Butler, PA, passed away on February 12, 2022. He dedicated his career to the Department of Public Assistance and was also an ordained minister who worked with a jail ministry. He leaves behind his wife and two step-children.

**Lois (Perry) Bowers** went home to be with the Lord on September 23, 2023. She is survived by her husband, **Ronald '59**, two daughters, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Lois was a dedicated homemaker.

**Rev. Robert Gustavson**, age 84, of Grand Rapids, MI, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on June 9, 2022, while at home surrounded by his family. Robert served as a Baptist minister in six different churches and also served as a chaplain for a veterans' medical center and for hospice. He leaves behind his wife, children, step-children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Jerry Jane "Jeri" (Cuttino) Sweany** went home to spend eternity with Jesus on June 18, 2022. Jeri was an educator, secretary, author and poet. She leaves behind her brother and two sons.

## 1960

**Joan (Walker) Sather**, 84, died January 18, 2022, in Greensboro, NC. She spent her career as a dedicated educator. Joan leaves behind her husband and two siblings.

## 1961

**Alvin Carpenter** of Warsaw, NY, passed away on May 20, 2023, at the age of 83. He spent over 30 years as an educator at Letchworth Schools. He is fondly remembered by his three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Dr. David Lachman** went to be with the Lord at the age of 83. He died peacefully at home in Wyncote, PA, surrounded by his wife and three children. Also surviving are 12 grandchildren. David was a scholar who specialized in Scottish church history as well as an antiquarian bookseller who specialized in theological works that predated 1700. He was also a longtime lay-servant in the Presbyterian church.

**Grace (Bagley '61) Snyder** of Orlando, FL, passed away on September 11, 2023. She was 83. Grace was a teacher and guidance counselor in Florida Public Schools for many years. Grace is survived by a brother, **George E. Bagley '54**, and sisters-in-law, **Dian (Frew '54) Bagley** and **Evelyn (Hipps '56) Bagley**. She is also survived by a niece and six nephews including **Dr. Daniel M. Bagley '80**.

## 1962

**Rowland Benedict** passed away on December 25, 2022, at the age of 82. He lovingly pastored churches in the Free Methodist and Wesleyan denomination for 35 years. He is fondly remembered by his wife and children.

**Joel Lloyd**, age 83, passed away in Muskegon, MI, on August 29, 2023. Joel dedicated his career to work as a school psychologist. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, **Rowena (Reagles '63)**; three children, including alumna **Rebecca '97**; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Stuart Sheldon**, 82, of Aiken, SC, entered peacefully into eternal rest at home surrounded by loving family on September 9, 2022. He spent his career in industry, first at a customs brokerage and then as a logistics specialist for Ford Motor Company. He is survived by his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

## 1963

**Elizabeth (Loney) Duern** of Grimbsy, Ontario, Canada, passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023, in her 80th year. She leaves behind two children and three grandchildren.

**Berneta (Baldeck) Reed**, 82, of Greenwood, IN, passed away on June 24, 2023, with her loved ones by her side. Berneta was a dedicated educator, partnering with both private Christian schools and home-educating families. She is survived by her 5 children, 20 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

## 1965

**Barbara (Doll) Coman**, 80, of Sevierville, TN, passed away on September 24, 2023. Barbara was a dedicated and supportive military wife and worked in education and family services on many Air Force bases. She is survived by her husband, **Robert '66**; her two daughters; two grandsons; and sister, **Carolyn Doll '68**.

## 1967

**Henry Abbink** passed on July 17, 2023, in Newark, NY, at the age of 78 after a long illness. He spent his career first as a biology teacher and later as a school psychologist in the Rush Henrietta school district. Henry was an active volunteer at LifeSpring Community Church in Canandaigua, NY. He leaves behind his wife and children, including daughter **Amy '94**.

**Vance Agee** of Lewiston, WI, died March 2, 2023, at the age of 78. He taught German and English and served as a school administrator. He is survived by his wife, **Kathleen (Reed '71)**; one daughter; and three grandchildren.

## 1974

**William "Bill" Getty** of Fillmore, NY, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on August 15, 2023. Bill spent a part of his career as an HVAC technician

for Houghton University. He is survived by his three children, including **Lisa ('04) Speta**, and six grandchildren.

**Rev. James "Jim" Long**, 73, of Bradenton, FL, met his Savior on August 13, 2023, after a few years of poor health. Jim dedicated his life and career to missions work through the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, spending many years in Bangladesh. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two grandchildren, and two sisters, including Houghton alumna **Susan '77**.

## 1976

**Dr. Adam Chepkwony**, age 70, passed away in August of 2023 in Kericho, Kenya. He spent his career as a theologian and professor first at Moi University and later at the University of Kabianga. He is fondly remembered by his wife and three children.

## 1977

**Deborah Kenney**, 66, passed away on April 15, 2023, in Spencerport, NY, after a brief illness. She is mourned by her two sons and five grandchildren.

## 1978

**Peter Hamilton** of Medford, NJ, died July 6, 2023, at the age of 67. He is survived by his wife, **Debbie (Feiler '79)**; daughter, **Katherine (Hamilton '08) Glenn**; four grandchildren; three sisters, including **Sandra (Hamilton '67) Arthur** and her husband, **Jim '67**; and many nieces and nephews, including **Kimberly (Arthur '01) Figueroa** and **Brian Arthur '93**.

## 1979

**Ruth (Hurd) Fuller** of Olean, NY, passed away on April 26, 2023. She dedicated her career to music education at Hinsdale Central School. She was predeceased by her husband.

## 1983

**Scott Sheldon**, 62, of Albany passed away unexpectedly on July 15, 2023. He had a passion for working with New York State residents in the area of employment. He leaves behind many friends who mourn his loss.

1989

**Scott Wight**, age 58 of Davisville, WV, was ushered into the presence of God where he now worships Jesus Christ on April 11, 2023, after battling an undiagnosed illness for over a year. Scott spent a decade of his career as a physical education teacher at Hopi Mission School and later served as a pastor. He is survived by his wife, **Melinda (Pollock '02)**, and his siblings, including **Jeffrey Wight '86**.

1998

**Amy (Lewis) Rial** was called home by her Lord and Savior on September 7, 2023, after a long battle with cancer. She dedicated 25 years to serving the students of Horseheads School District as a beloved educator. She leaves behind her parents, husband, daughter and siblings, including sister **Melinda (Lewis '00) Hanawalt**.

1999

**Derek Otto** of Springville, NY, unexpectedly passed on May 28, 2023, at the age of 46. Derek was a librarian focused on digital systems and library computer programs and a local historian. He is survived by his mother and two brothers, including alumnus **Christ Otto '93**.

2003

**Eli Coats**, 41, of Goleta, CA died May 7, 2023. He spent much of his career as a manager with Channel Islands Technology Integrators' Group in California. He leaves behind his wife and one son, his mother, and two siblings.

2007

**Linda Lovell** of Hinsdale, NY, passed away suddenly at home on August 5, 2023, at the age of 60. Linda was a graduate of Houghton's PACE program and completed her JD in 2010 and was admitted to the NY State Bar in 2011. She spent 8 years in town government and the last 12 years of her career in the Cattaraugus County Public Defender's Office. Linda is survived by her husband, two children, her mother and three siblings.

MM '17

**Ronald "Ron" McEntire**, 73, of Jamestown, NY, passed away quietly on July 3, 2023, with his children by his side. Ron was a gifted organist and school administrator. A longtime church organist, he was presented with the Bishop's Cross and made an honorary Canon of the Diocese of WNY (Episcopal). He is survived by two children, three grandchildren and two siblings.

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**David C. Hoselton** went home to be with the Lord on September 7, 2023. A prominent Rochester business man, he was in the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the Hoselton Auto Mall. Mr. Hoselton was known for his generosity, including endowing the Hoselton Chair of Private Enterprise and Ethics at Houghton University. He leaves behind his wife; three children, including **Katherine (Hoselton '85) Durgo** and **Drew Hoselton '93**; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



**TIMOTHY "TIM" FULLER '79**, a longtime Houghton employee and dedicated servant in the field of Christian higher education, passed peacefully in his sleep on June 6, 2023, at his home in Indianapolis, IN. Tim began his career in higher education at his alma mater in 1980 after graduation with a history degree from Houghton University. He dedicated 27 years of his career to Houghton, beginning as a recruiter and eventually becoming

Vice President for Enrollment Management. Throughout Tim's time at Houghton, enrollment grew, leading to some of the largest incoming classes in Houghton's history. Between 1980 and 2007, thousands of Houghton students found their places and their callings because of Tim.

In 2007, Tim took on the challenge of serving as a consultant with Credo Higher Education, where he increased the company's reach from 10 Christian colleges to more than 150 campus partners. In 2020, Tim founded his consulting firm, Fuller Higher Ed Solutions, relying on years of experience and expertise in enrollment, strategic planning and case building. In addition to consulting with over 100 Christian colleges, Tim led ongoing research for the North American Coalition for Christian Enrollment Professionals for 15 years.

Tim's passing cut short his profoundly impactful career. From the individual lives of recruited students to entire college campuses to the landscape of Christian higher education across the U.S., it would be nearly impossible to measure the breadth of Tim's impact. To those who knew and worked with him, he was far more than a wise and experienced voice; Tim was a friend with a wonderful sense of humor and a tremendously compassionate heart.

At Homecoming 2023, Tim was posthumously honored with the Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award. His wife, **Carol (Zimmerman '78) Fuller** accepted the award on Tim's behalf (photo page 16). The citation noted that throughout his forty-year career in higher education, Tim demonstrated exceptional achievement, coupled with the highest standards of faith and integrity.

Tim is mourned by his wife, Carol; his children, Jonathan and wife Abby, **Rebecca '05** and husband Christopher **Crock**, and **Daniel '06** and wife Kristin; his seven grandchildren; and friends and colleagues across the country, all of whom will sorely miss Tim's kindness, gentleness, compassion and sense of humor.



Partner School:  
**WESTMINSTER  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

High School Academic Lead Alyssa Knight shares a little about why Houghton University's Partner School program is an ideal fit for Westminster Christian Academy:



"Our administration struggled to find a quality dual-enrollment partner that shared our educational and Christian values. Houghton empowers our teachers to teach information from a biblical worldview while having a quality partner to give us information, resources and direction in our courses. As a byproduct, our students now have the opportunity to take dual-enrollment classes directly from our school, allowing them to gain college credit from an accredited institution and helping them as they prepare for college."

Houghton empowers our teachers to teach information from a biblical worldview while having a quality partner to give us information, resources and direction in our courses.

"A large majority of our students go to college, so we have expanded our dual-enrollment opportunities to all of our students. We have seen several students who were struggling in their academic career experience success in a dual-enrollment course because they see the practical value of the course. Westminster Academy has experienced extraordinary growth because of our partnership with Houghton, launching and expanding our dual-enrollment program. We have hopes of expanding it every year, and we can see a clear path toward that with Houghton."



PURSuing  
**FEARLESS**  
FAITH

**Johanna Borges Edwards '25** always dreamed of traveling from her home in Costa Rica to study in the United States, and she found Houghton to be the solid Christian university she was looking for—while also the most affordable. As a Highlander, she has fallen in love with residence life, her friends, photography and the opportunity to immerse herself in the culture. Currently planning for internships that will give her experience in both business and marketing, Johanna is confidently looking forward to a future career in the hospitality industry.

High school juniors and seniors can complete fully online early college courses for a radically reduced cost of only \$60/credit.  
[Houghton.edu/EarlyCollege](https://Houghton.edu/EarlyCollege)



# HOUGHTON SUMMER CAMPS

[www.houghton.edu/summer-camps](http://www.houghton.edu/summer-camps)

## 2024 CAMP DATES - QUICK REFERENCE\*

Equestrian Camps	Weekly from June 16-August 2
Girls Basketball Camp	June 30-July 4
Building for the Future Basketball Camp	July 1-4
Boys Basketball Camp	July 14-18
Tennis Camp	July 21-25
Girls Soccer Camp	July 21-25
Girls Soccer ID Camp	July 26-27
Girls Volleyball Camp	July 28- August 1
Boys Soccer Camp	July 28- August 1
Soccer Mini-Camp	July 29- August 1
Boys Soccer ID Camp	August 2-3

\* Please visit our website for full details, pricing and age brackets.