

HOUGHTON

SUMMER 2025



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INSIDE:

04 FROM THE PRESIDENT

06 EARLY COLLEGE

16 COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS

**24 HIGHLANDER ATHLETICS
UPDATES**

26 ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES





Dear Friends,

Serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky as Commissioner of Education was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. Much of my team's work during that period centered on transforming the high school experience. Data and conversations with students and families made it clear that high school was not meaningfully preparing many of our students for success in college or the workforce, and that, in many cases, the core requirements for the high school diploma took much less than the prescribed four years to complete.

With that understanding, we expanded access to high quality postsecondary experiences for high school students, including industry recognized certificates, apprenticeships, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate coursework, and of course, college coursework. Expanding access to college courses positively impacted the high school experiences of thousands of students, and in alignment with the findings of educational research, increased the likelihood of students' matriculation to college after graduation. Further, I saw first-hand the power allowing well-prepared high school students to access college coursework.

When I arrived at Houghton in 2021, there were very few things I insisted should be part of the institution's path forward. One of those areas was expanding high school students' access to high quality Christian coursework through Houghton University. Serving high school students was not new for Houghton, but beginning in 2021, we worked to expand their access through the establishment of Houghton's Early College, the expansion of courses available to high schoolers, and the establishment of Houghton's Partner Schools program. Today, with nearly 50 partner schools, domestic and international, Houghton serves more high school students through dual enrollment and Early College coursework than ever before, with growing numbers of those students matriculating to Houghton following high school graduation.

With the continued expansion of postsecondary coursework available to high school students across the U.S., it has become common for first-year students to begin their college careers with accumulated college credit. The only question for Houghton was whether we intended to be one of the postsecondary options high schools and students choose from as an early college partner. As you will read in this issue of Houghton Magazine, our response has been an unequivocal yes.

Yours in Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne D. Lewis, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct 'Jr.' at the end.

Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.



The Role of Early College

Tammy (Joubert '01) Dunmire

High school students now, more than ever before, have many educational options and opportunities. The three most common options for high school students to get ahead in their collegiate academic journey are through Dual Enrollment courses, AP (Advanced Placement) Courses, and Early College Courses. Each of these three options offer different benefits to students. Dual Enrollment courses are taught through a local high school by high school teachers, but credit is given through a partner college or university that has approved the teacher and syllabus. AP courses are also taught by a high school teacher, designed to be taught at a college-level, concluding with an exam that can potentially earn the student credit, based on their score in the course.

Early College courses are taught by a college or university professor at the college level and transferrable credit is earned. All three options complete both high school requirements and college requirements (potentially) simultaneously.

Since its beginning, Houghton University has been a place to find a rigorous Christ-centered education. Houghton has remained faithful to this mission over the years, and continues to do so as we have grown our Early College program. We continue to provide an economically affordable option that is comparable in price to a local community college, but with the academically challenging environment we have always been known for. Our courses provide an opportunity

for students to be stretched both academically and spiritually as they are taught by professors who not only are experts in their fields, but also tie in their strong personal faith.

As the Director of Houghton Online, I have been excited to see Houghton grow into this expanding space so that everyone has the opportunity to sample our courses and see what kind of an academic experience they can have through Houghton.

Three of my own four children are current Houghton students. My children took AP courses, Dual Enrollment courses and Early College courses. The Early College experience best prepared them for starting as a matriculated student at Houghton. Taking courses taught by Houghton faculty who pushed them to learn how to study challenged them beyond what they were receiving



from their high school teachers. They were able to realize that they could integrate their own faith into their learning experience. This was life-transforming for them, and helped them begin to see the world in a way that integrated their faith in all they rather than compromise their faith as something separate. I felt this experience best prepared them to enter college, and also increased their options—to graduate early, add a second major, or complete distinct minors—allowing them to customize their Houghton experience to better prepare themselves not only for graduate school, but also for their careers as scholar-servants in a changing world.

Tammy (Joubert '01) Dunmire

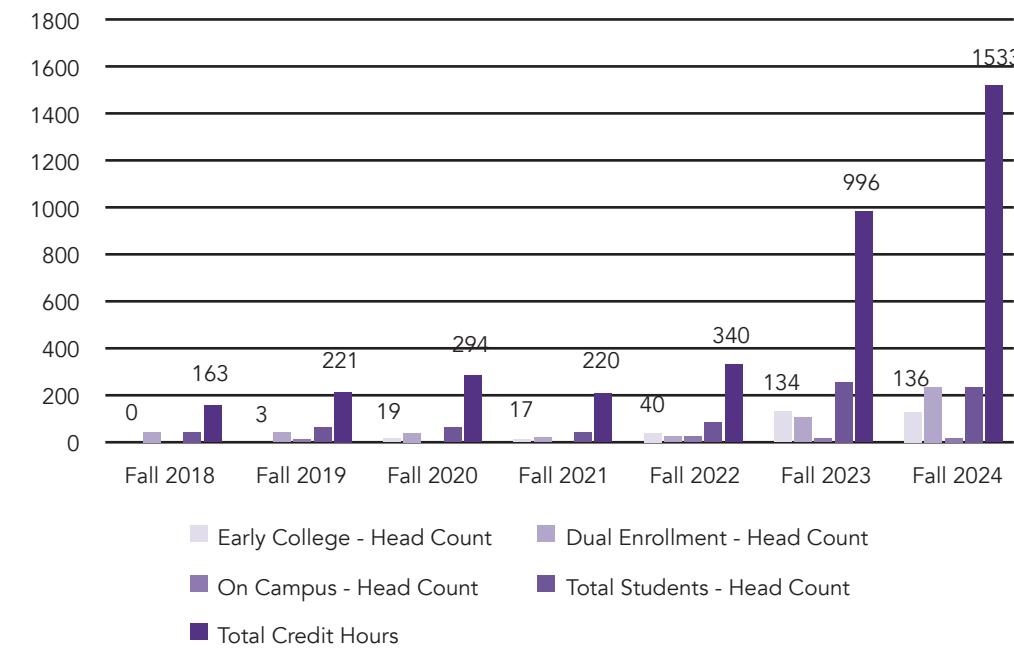
serves as Houghton University's Director of Houghton Online. She lives in Painted Post, New York, with her husband Steve Dunmire '01 and children Hannah '26, Jonathan '28, Matthew '28 and Joshua.

Early College Facts & Figures

Jumpstart Your College Education

High school juniors and seniors seeking to earn college credit while in high school and expand their educational horizons are invited to enroll in Houghton's courses. This can include dual enrollment, taking your course at your high school, and dual credit courses. You will receive the same high-quality instruction from the expert faculty for which Houghton has received national recognition as you complete courses fully online.

Fall Early College and Dual Enrollment



Students can earn up to 30 college credits in their junior and senior years

Complete their degree in 3 years

Save up to \$36,621

(Based on national average of college tuition)

Houghton University Partner Schools



Houghton University is proud to have 47 partner schools worldwide. 27 of our partners are located in the Northeast United States (NY, PA, MA and CT). 11 are located across the US and 9 are located internationally. To find a partner school near you, the full list of schools can be found at Houghton.edu/Partners



Online to On Campus: A Place of Welcome

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

Ryan Kullander '27 began his Houghton journey as a high school student when he enrolled in online Early College courses. A homeschool student from Anchorage, Alaska, Ryan and his family searched for college credits that would count toward completion of his high school diploma and help him get ahead in college. While Ryan had taken college classes through similar programs, when he and his family found Houghton University's Early College program, it struck a chord.

Ryan has always had an interest in Christian education, which attracted him to Houghton's offerings. The tangible benefits of Early College, however, were the affordability of the classes and their asynchronous format that allowed him to participate in spite of time zone differences and his other responsibilities.

"Online can feel a little distant at times," remarked Ryan, who has experience with online classes from other institutions. "But I felt the distance between me and my professors less because of the way they recorded their lectures or wrote in emails or discussion forums. I felt very welcomed. I felt my professors really cared."

Ryan, an elementary education major with a focus in humanities and a minor in Bible, began his Houghton Early College experience with introductory-level classes, Biblical Literature with Rev. Dr. **Ron Duttweiler '85** and Intro to Sociology with Professor **Suzanne (Brenneman '94) Beardsley**. He went on to complete at least two more higher-level online courses, including Board Game Science with biology professor Dr. Ransom Poythress and Developmental Psychology with Dr. Hannah Kim.

Being able to take college classes in high school allowed me to realize that college really was the right fit for me and to decide if math was a major I wanted to pursue. It also allowed me to find out what level I needed to work at in a college setting, instead of just being told what college was like. I was able to interact with professors who treated me like the rest of the class and expected me to work to the same level as any other student.

Taking early college courses reduced my credit load, allowing me to get some basic general education requirements out of the way and go straight into classes that I wanted to pursue in advanced mathematics. I also had less fear trying classes that sounded interesting, because I had a solid base of required classes built. I had time to do things like German I, German II, and Hebrew, and have enjoyed adding Lyric Theatre to my college experience. I think the best benefit I had was an early introduction to a college setting and college-level work without any buffer or speculation about what college was really like.

Warren Torraca '26



As a homeschool student, independent course load management wasn't entirely unfamiliar to Ryan. His time with Early College, however, pushed him to hone practical skills in time management. Board Game Science, a summer course, provided Ryan the opportunity to learn to balance his summer job with his studies, not dissimilar to the way he juggles a busy schedule on campus now.

"I think those Early College classes cultivated my abilities so that I could then confidently take on five classes at once and then the London Honors program the next semester," noted Ryan.

The Early College courses set a high standard within the context of a welcoming and Christ-centered community. Both Developmental Psychology and Board Game Science had a mix of college students and high school students. "It was real work," said Ryan, as he compared his Early College courses with his undergraduate work on campus, "with a real final project. The classes felt like a pretty real workload in a real class."

Ryan enjoyed his time in Early College, but wasn't convinced about coming to campus for his undergraduate degree. His youth pastor, Houghton alumnus **Ross Atherton '21**, encouraged Ryan to submit an application to Houghton University anyway. It was Ross's description of Houghton's welcoming community and opportunities for spiritual growth that inspired Ryan to apply.

Over the past two years, I have taken eight college classes, including Humanities 101, Foundations of Digital Communication, Introduction to Psychology, and Biblical Literature. I've benefited from getting to know some of my future professors and classmates while discovering my interests and deciding on a major. I've finished many of my general education requirements and completed enough courses that I may be able to graduate early.

Alexander Burgett
Member of the Incoming Class of 2029



Ryan stepped on Houghton's campus with a desire to engage with community and an enthusiasm for a wide array of activities. His first collegiate Houghton experience was with the Highlander Wilderness Adventure program prior to the start of his first semester. He joined the Roaring Sheep Ultimate Frisbee Club, where he crossed paths with Dr. Poythress for the first time in person. Ryan joined a Bible study, hosted by **Matthew Foster '25**, whom he had first met through Board Game Science's online discussion forums. Ryan auditioned as a guitarist for Sunday night's Koinonia services, and has enjoyed the connectedness and corporate worship as a member of a Koinonia team. Ryan also stepped into a leadership role on campus as a resident assistant (RA) in Rothenbuhler Hall, where he welcomes young men into Houghton's community the way he was welcomed.

Ryan shared that his experiences on campus at Houghton live up to everything he imagined and more. Thanks to completing his introductory Bible classes as a high schooler, in his first semester on campus, Ryan enrolled in an upper-level Bible course studying the Pentateuch with Dr. **Andrew Walton '06**. He was the only first-year student in his class. That class presented an opportunity to build a relationship with Dr. Walton, and Ryan has taken a class with him every semester since.

Ryan isn't the only member of his family to benefit from Houghton's Early College courses. His younger brother, Caeden, has also taken Biblical Literature online, as well as Dr. Peter Meilaender's course on C.S. Lewis. Caeden loved the class and shared with Ryan how eye-opening and challenging it was. Caeden will be joining the ranks of Highlanders on campus in the Fall of 2025 and, like his brother, will spend Spring 2026 in London with the London Honors program.

"Houghton sets high standards from the moment you hear about it," said Ryan. "The things that are always talked about are Houghton's really strong and welcoming community and its Christ-centeredness. Those are high bars to live up to, and when I got here, I found Houghton really does go above and beyond what I anticipated. Every week, I find myself really appreciative and amazed."

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano serves as the Director of Advancement Communication and Editor of Houghton Magazine.



In their words:



Early College courses not only give students a head start on college credits but also help acclimate students to the style, format, rigor and personal touch of Houghton. Sometimes, first year students struggle to adjust to a Fall semester so full of new things. Early College classes can help ease students in a bit. Plus, they get to see some of what makes a Houghton education so special: the fully-orbed, Christ-centered approach to academics and the friendly, caring personal touches the professors add to their courses.

Ransom Poythress
Associate Professor of Biology



Early College at Houghton University offers motivated high school students a meaningful head start on their academic journey. I've seen firsthand how it opens doors, not just to college credit, but to academic growth and opportunity. One student I worked closely with, Ryan Kullander, was able to take upper-level courses as a freshman at least in part because of the foundation built through the program. Further, the program made it far easier for him to add a Bible minor to his chosen course of study. I believe that Early College has the potential to cultivate both confidence and college readiness for those students who take advantage of it.

Andrew Walton '06
Associate Professor of Old Testament

FEARLESS CAREERS

Your Student's Financial Aid Could Cover the Cost of Tuition

With the Founder's Promise Scholarship, Houghton will elevate Pell-eligible students' financial aid to equal the cost of tuition. This is just the latest example of how Houghton is making the cost of college more transparent and affordable for families, including setting tuition and fee costs well in advance of the new academic year.

START SAVING NOW

Juniors and seniors can complete fully online early college courses for a radically reduced cost of only **\$60/credit.**

Houghton.edu/Academics

Early College Impact



Carolyn Powers is a homeschooled high school senior from Warwick, New York. She enjoys ballet, goat farming, crochet and spending time with children. Carolyn will enroll in Houghton University in Fall 2025 and is considering a dual major in Music Education and Inclusive Childhood Education.

Houghton University's Early College program has been life-changing for me. This program allowed me to earn over 30 college credits while still in high school, meeting all my general education requirements for my undergraduate degree. Because of this amazing head start, I plan to have a dual major or graduate a year early. Participating in these courses gave me an opportunity to develop the academic and time management skills I needed to adjust to the rigorous requirements of college-level work. My confidence grew as I went along and experienced success, easing my fear of attending college full time next year.

Not only has this program made an impact on my academics, but it has been an extremely rewarding experience for me. The relationships I have made while completing my courses have been invaluable. Multiple professors faithfully took time to connect with me during personal meetings. They were genuinely interested in getting to know me and always made sure I had the support I needed for their courses. They learned personal things about me and would remember to ask for updates. For example, I have a small goat farm, and one of my professors frequently asked me how my goats were doing. Another professor knew that I had a big ballet performance coming up, prayed for me, and asked me how it went the following week. My professors also greatly encouraged me in my faith when I shared personal struggles with them, and they reminded me to continue trusting in the provision of God. These personal relationships that I formed with my professors made me feel valued as a student, person, and Christian.

The forums and discussions throughout my Early College courses had a major impact on my biblical perspective as I processed the material we covered. We were encouraged to share our views and discuss each topic at a deeper level. This helped me refine my view on sensitive

topics and explore things from various points of view. I'm thankful for the format of Houghton's classes because it requires a higher level of thinking and analysis, rather than rote memorization of meaningless facts.

I am extremely excited to attend Houghton University next fall. After experiencing firsthand the individualized, personal attention that students receive at Houghton, I know I will feel at home. I am confident I will receive the same support and encouragement that I did during the Early College program, so I am no longer nervous about the workload for my freshman year. I am also looking forward to meeting some of the friends I've made during my classes. Houghton's Early College program has significantly impacted my life, as it has allowed me to make an extremely smooth transition from high school to college while deepening my relationship with God and connections with Christians at the same time.





College Credits Through Dual Enrollment

One of the ways Houghton provides access to Early College courses is through dual enrollment arrangements with our partner schools. Houghton's partner school network comprises more than 40 private Christian schools, some as close as Houghton Academy, or Northstar Christian Academy (Rochester, NY), and some as far as Rift Academy (Kijabe, Kenya) and Alliance Academy International (Quito, Ecuador). One of the many benefits Houghton provides to our partner

school is the opportunity to offer dual enrollment courses to their high school students. Dual enrollment courses, unlike online early college courses, are taught by approved high school teachers in a traditional classroom setting. The instructors and their syllabi are reviewed and approved by Houghton's academic department to ensure appropriate academic content and rigor, and students who complete their classes earn college credits for those classes.

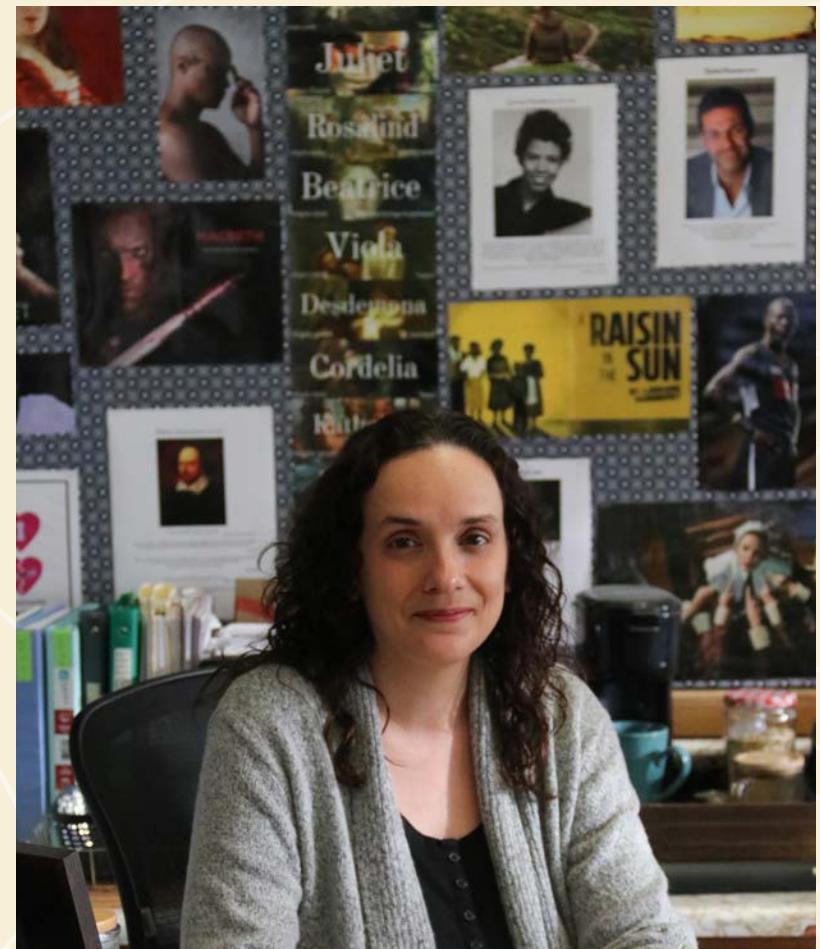
Alumna **Lori Miranda '02** is the English department chair, director of curriculum and instruction, and English teacher for grades 10, 11 and 12 at Northstar Christian Academy in Rochester, New York. Lori is one of Houghton's approved dual enrollment instructors, who teaches College Literary Studies for seniors at Northstar Academy. Lori holds a BA in Writing from Houghton University and an MA in Missions and Intercultural Studies from Wheaton College Graduate School. She's been a teacher at Northstar Academy since 2016. Prior to her work at Northstar, Lori taught high school English at Webster Christian School.

Lori shares the following about her early college dual enrollment course:

My Houghton Early College class, College Literary Studies, appeals to students who want to continue challenging themselves in their last year of high school. I rarely have students who plan to study literature in college, so my students are selecting this class very intentionally for its academic rigor and impact. That is quite a contrast to many other seniors who seek to make their academic load as light as possible. My students don't want a simple, passive final year of high school studies. Instead, they want to continue growing in their academic skills and understanding. By partnering with Houghton, I am able to reward those students' diligence. Additionally, beyond the academic benefits of the class, my students gain the immediate, concrete benefit of earning college credit, which they can apply wherever they study. The significantly discounted tuition for the course is greatly appreciated by my students, many of whom are preparing to take significant financial responsibility for their lives for the first time in the near future.

Lori asked her students for anonymous feedback on the impact of the class and was happy to share some of their insights.

"This class has benefited me in many ways. Firstly, it has made college more affordable, as the classes are cheaper to take here at NCA rather than at any college, and I found this class worthwhile. I enjoy coming into class every day to learn about the author's true intentions of what we have read. Some of the works we have covered this year have impacted the way I think and look at the world in a positive sense."



"...[T]his class has challenged me much more than the typical English class, which I greatly appreciate. I just feel like this class makes literature and grammar much more interesting and displays it as something worth learning more than just another subject we have to learn. I love the curriculum because everything we do has a purpose. ...This class has been beneficial for not only my academics but my overall high school experience."

"This College Literary Studies class has been of benefit to my outlook on things, and how I think about things. This class has helped me improve articulated thinking, and has helped me to retain information better... This class is both entertaining and educational...and I now see myself implementing and paying attention to the techniques we've learned in class when I'm reading on my own time."

Intention & Integrity

Amanda (Shine '05) Zambrano

Ask anyone who has taken courses on campus at Houghton University: a hallmark of the Houghton experience is the faculty who embody academic excellence with intentionally integrated faith, and who pair that excellence with a deep care and concern for the individual student. It might be challenging to imagine this distinctive Houghton feature applying to students who aren't on campus. Faculty members at Houghton, however, approach online education—including Early College courses—with the same intentionality and academic integrity they bring to their physical classrooms.

The theme of intentionality rings throughout Houghton's faculty as they discuss their approaches to Early College coursework. Dr. **David Clem '05 MM'07**, Dean of the Greatbatch



School of Music, said, "We [the faculty] are dedicated to a Christian worldview that permeates our syllabi. We take the same approach to Early College education and expectations—with a bit of extra patience and grace—as we do the courses we teach on campus. The faculty all feel strongly about maintaining the integrity of a Houghton education."

One of the ways Houghton maintains this academic integrity is by offering Early College coursework taught by full-time professors, a distinctive from many other institutions that rely on part-time or adjunct instructors.

For some Early College courses, high school students have the opportunity to interact with college students, discussing ideas and working off the same course expectations. There is no "free pass" for Early College students.

Whether Dr. Clem is teaching Intro to Film Music or Dr. Gates is teaching Writing in the Liberal Arts, they both prioritize integrating a Christian worldview into their course content. This isn't simply tacking on a devotional or prayer, or exclusively exploring Christian works—this integration of faith and learning helps students develop a Christ-centered framework for how they think about a topic and how they apply their learning.

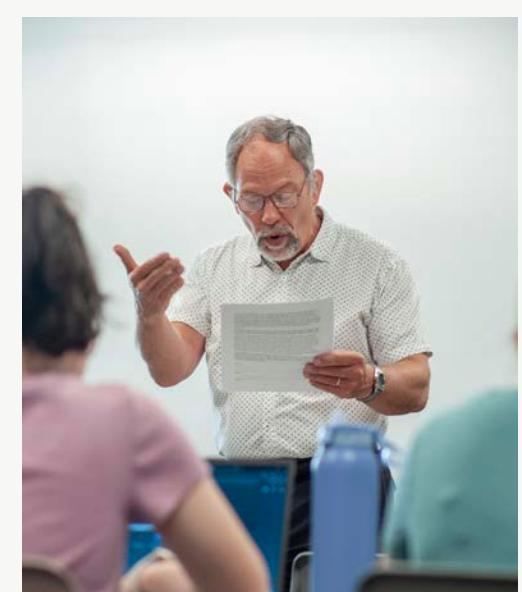
"We want to help students develop critical thinking skills on complex issues within the guides of a Christian worldview," remarked Dr. Clem. "Early exposure to these concepts will help students in the future, whether insuring they're prepared to attend Houghton or supporting their personal development if their educational

futures take them elsewhere."

Dr. Gates designs Writing in the Liberal Arts with intentional time for students to reflect on the interrelationship between "the character of The Word, words, and our own words," then helps students to understand the direct relation of their reflections to their studies. "Students long to know writing matters to who they are and who they're becoming," said Dr. Gates. "This class is an opportunity to explore that."

Dr. Gates dedicates hours to interacting with his Early College students through Zoom meetings, email and online chat-style platforms for course dialog. In these contexts, he writes to them extensively, modeling the types of thoughtful, well-constructed written responses he expects of his students. "I want students to grow in love and enjoyment of writing, while recognizing it is a difficult task."

When Houghton's distinctive qualities rely on personal relationships, it can be challenging to understand how online Early College classes can provide a



"real" Houghton experience. "The delivery is different," observed Dr. Clem, "but it is there."

"This is a college course," Dr. Gates **The care with which we structure our courses strives to maintain the relational academically challenging, Christ-centered education for which Houghton is known.**

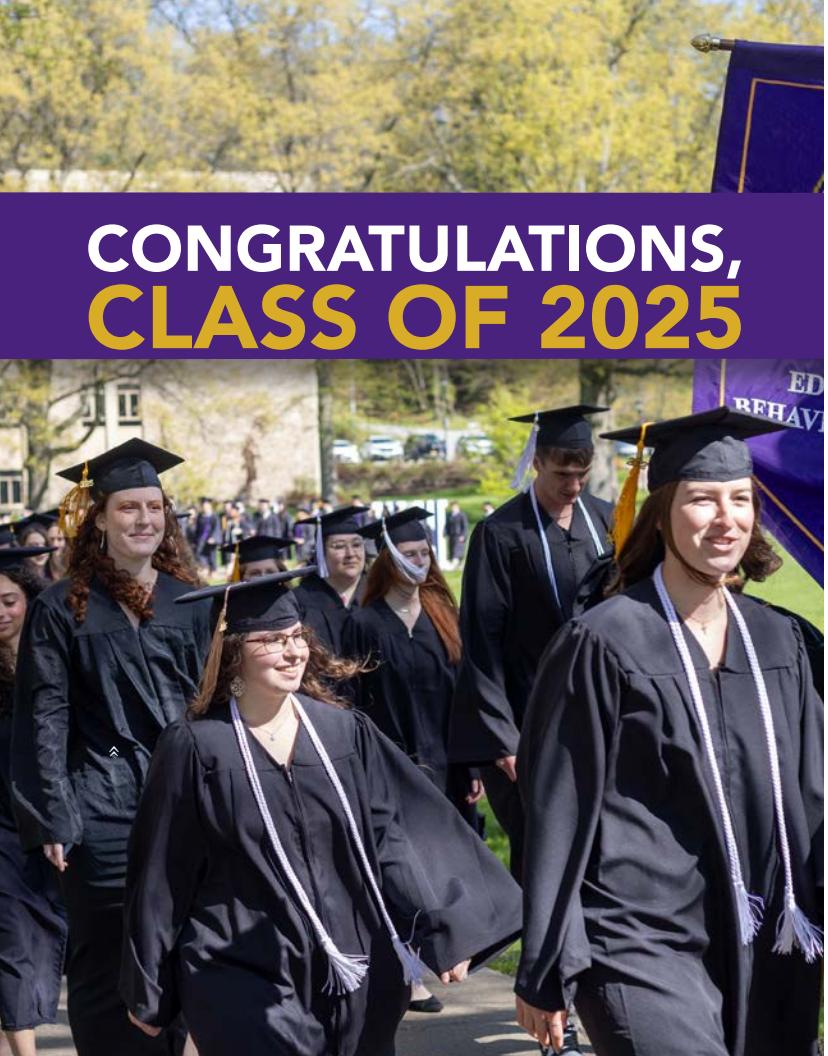
stated quite plainly. "It's the real deal. Some Early College students struggle because they're not ready for college coursework, and we build in off-ramps for those students who are in over their heads. But when my students begin to view themselves as writers—that is, someone who writes regularly and well—it is truly rewarding. Seeing even my youngest students increase in confidence and competence, I know that their needs are being met."

"Online coursework, including Early College coursework, exists and it isn't going away," remarked Dr. Clem. "If



high school students don't get Early College coursework from Houghton, they'll get it somewhere else. Houghton has the opportunity to speak into the online educational arena with the same distinctives that it speaks into in-person education. A Houghton education is what it is for reasons that go back to our founding; those reasons are applicable in the online space and we have the ability to bring Houghton experiences to students who might otherwise not have that opportunity."

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2025



^ Provost David Davies '01, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Joey Jennings '86, Saluatorian Esther Mun Hung Tse, Valedictorian Noah Christopher Hunt, President Wayne D. Lewis, Jr.



« Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, president of the Christian College Consortium, delivered the keynote commencement address.



CLASS OF '25 FAST FACTS

 **191**
Graduates

Many countries were represented, including: Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Ghana, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Puerto Rico, Rwanda and United Kingdom



TOP MAJORS

Biology (including Exercise Science, Biomedical Sciences, Environmental Science, and Biology), Business Administration, Psychology, Education, and SRWM

7
Associate
165
Bachelor's

19
Master's

37
Double Majors

78
Honors





FROM THE ARCHIVES:

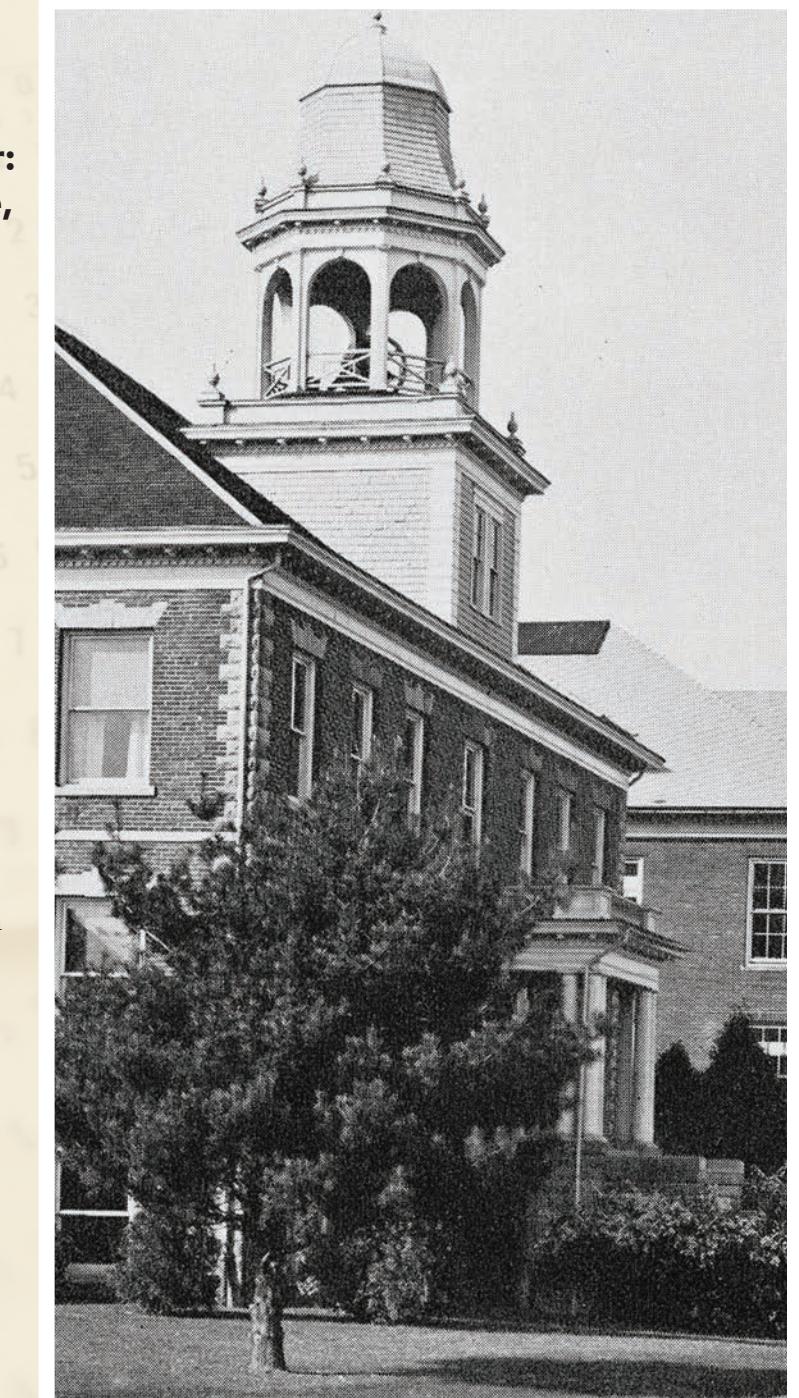
Excerpts from *And You Shall Remember: A Pictorial History of Houghton College*, written and edited by Frieda A. Gillette and Katherine W. Lindley

The Houghton University we know and love is a four-year, residential liberal arts college offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. The idea of a high school student taking Houghton courses might be a foreign one to some of us. At Houghton's founding, however, in 1883, there were no collegiate courses at all. Houghton Seminary's purpose was not college degrees, but rather accessible, affordable, Christ-centered education. Students as young as 11 enrolled at Houghton, and the first accredited college diplomas weren't awarded until 1925. The high school division remained, however, and eventually became Houghton Academy.

When [Old Sem] was dedicated in August 1884, no one knew how many students would enroll in September, who would teach them, or how much of the building would be completed. Although the building was only partially finished on September 15, 1884, school opened with “70–80 scholars” under Principal-Preacher William Henry Kennedy and his assistant, Luther Grange. Miss Alice Boardman taught the high school courses and Miss Eva Davis taught the English Course for students not prepared for high school. “Sister Mary DePew to take oversight of the lady students and to give them weekly lectures,” wrote Willard Houghton in his ledger. James S. Luckey, who enrolled in the second of the three terms of that first year, later wrote, “Equipment, to say the least, was scarce. I think one globe was to be found and perhaps one or two maps, but nothing else in the line of apparatus. I was told there were no blackboards, but they had come at the beginning of the second term” (The Houghton Star, April 1911).

Although the curriculum included only the upper elementary grades and the first year of secondary school in that first year, one year of high school was added annually until a four-year diploma was issued. Melvin E. Warburton received the first diploma in 1887 and James S. Luckey the second in 1889.

As faculty became available, new programs could be added. When Gussie C. Dodd, an accomplished artist and wife of the new principal, A.R. Dodd, moved to Houghton, the Seminary added “a complete course in drawing, crayoning and oil painting.” Luther Grange started a commercial and business course in 1885 for “young men and ladies too, if they desire;” in 1890 Miss Effie Crow initiated a music department; in 1893 a two-year elementary teacher course was introduced. In 1895 the church approved an Advanced Department, i.e. “college equivalent work,” and in 1901 John Willett of Levant, New York, completed that course, the first graduate of the Advanced Department.



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 more of President Luckey's reflections on Houghton Seminary, use the QR code to see the April 1911 edition of the Houghton STAR.

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

Thank You!



ONE DAY GIVING CHALLENGE 2025

Thanks to your generous support, we achieved this year's One Day Giving Challenge! Together, we raised **\$2,225,920** for student scholarships and other priorities across campus from **2,177 donors**. This is truly an incredible outpouring of support that will significantly impact the lives of Houghton students.

DECade Challenge

The following classes are winners of this year's Decade Challenge, each class winning a \$1,000 current-use scholarship named in their honor and supporting a Houghton student:

1950s | **1958**
1960s | **1969**
1970s | **1977**
1980s | **1980**
1990s | **1993**
2000s | **2005**
2010s | **2017**
2020s | **2023**

CLASS CHALLENGE

We are excited to celebrate the winner of the Class Challenge: **Class of 1977**. This will add \$30,000 to the existing Nick Bohall Scholarship!

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE

The **Class of 1969** will grow its existing scholarship and the **Class of 2005** will start a new endowed scholarship with \$12,500 each.

From the ALUMNI BOARD

Hey, Highlander family,

Kaylee here — a proud graduate of Houghton's Class of 2019 and a member of the Alumni Board.

UPDATES FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD

At our Alumni Board meeting this past spring, we reviewed the results of the alumni engagement survey, which focused on Homecoming and Family Weekend and other key ways for alumni to stay engaged with the University.

On behalf of everyone on the board, I want to give a big thank-you to all of the alumni who participated. To everyone who completed the survey — and now everyone reading this magazine — I want you to know that, regardless of your current level of connectedness with Houghton, your personal convictions or how long it's been since you've returned to campus, you are a welcome member of the Houghton family, and we are grateful to hear your perspective.

GET INVOLVED AND STAY CONNECTED

I encourage you to come back for **Homecoming and Family Weekend 2025 (Oct. 3-5)**. You can expect a wonderful time of fellowship, with some updates to the festivities made in direct response to your survey feedback. I hope to see you there.

I also recognize that some of you may not be able to come back to campus this fall. Whether the reason is distance, a busy or challenging season of life, or something else, I'd like to offer encouragement by letting you know that there are other great ways to stay connected with Houghton. Here are two ways I want to share:

- » **Pray** — There are many great ways to cover Houghton, and the people who make it such a special place, through prayer. To name a few, you can pray for the university's administration, faculty and staff, current students, future students, and recent graduates who are beginning their vocations.
- » **Alumni Ambassador Program** — Another way to get right into the action is to join the Alumni Ambassador Program. Alumni Ambassadors are authorized to offer \$2,000 scholarships to prospective students who have yet to apply to Houghton. This is an incredible way to share what Houghton offers and help the next generation of servant leaders on their educational journey.



However you choose to stay connected, know that your impact matters and continues to be part of Houghton's story.

In His service,
Kaylee (Jentsch '19) Brady



Do you know a private Christian high school that would benefit from Houghton's Partner Schools program? Use this QR code to learn more about how Houghton is supporting Christian schools and educators — and share the news!

CAMPUS NEWS

Houghton University Honors Rev. Dr. Wesley Oden

Houghton University honored Rev. Dr. Wesley Oden with the Willard J. Houghton Medal during Commencement 2025. Pastor Oden is the head pastor of Houghton Wesleyan Church, a position he has held since 1996.



The Willard J. Houghton Medal is presented to individuals who have embodied in particular and powerful ways over the course of a lifetime the commitments and aspirations that are at the heart of a Houghton education. The award celebrates Pastor Oden's lifetime of dedication to Christian leadership and service.

For 29 years, Pastor Oden has ministered to the spiritual needs of the Houghton University community and the surrounding communities. Alongside his wife, Rev. Cynthia Oden, Pastor Wes has facilitated the growth of Houghton Wesleyan Church to meet the varied needs of a diverse congregation.

Houghton Wesleyan Church has been a long-time partner with Houghton University and Houghton Academy, ministering to students from around the globe. Pastor Oden has mentored numerous aspiring young pastors both through internships and in informal contexts, taught college courses, and hosted college small groups. A humble and active community servant, Pastor Oden helps deliver Meals on Wheels, has coached little league and T-ball baseball teams, and engages with regular community outreach. He has taken on leadership roles in the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church and has written articles for the denomination.

Pastor Oden and his wife retired from Houghton Wesleyan Church at the end of May 2025.

Honorary Degrees Conferred on Dr. Andrew Westmoreland and Dr. Paul Mills '61

Houghton University awarded honorary degrees to Dr. Andrew Westmoreland and Dr. **Paul Mills '61**, esteemed leaders in Christian higher education, during Commencement 2025.



Dr. Westmoreland's career in Christian higher education has spanned more than 40 years, including two college presidencies and leadership in numerous organizations and associations that support Christian higher education institutions and their leaders. Dr. Westmoreland dedicated

his career to supporting and exploring the integration of faith and scholarship, hallmarked by a clear commitment to promoting academic excellence and rigorous scholarship. Dr. Westmoreland exemplifies the attributes of a servant-leader. He is described as the quintessential college president—humble, innovative, and dedicated—and his life is a celebration of Christian higher education.



Dr. Paul Mills, a 1961 graduate of Houghton College (now University), has spent a lifetime making extraordinary contributions to Christian higher education and specifically Wesleyan Christian higher education. Dr. Mills has served at four Wesleyan institutions: Marion College

(now Indiana Wesleyan University), as president of Bartlesville Wesleyan College (now Oklahoma Wesleyan University), Southern Wesleyan University, and Houghton College (now University). Dr. Mills has dedicated over 60 years of his life in service to the people of the Wesleyan Church, working tirelessly and selflessly to create and maintain higher education communities that are Christ-centered and student focused; where students are pushed and challenged to reach their God-given potential in the classroom, in athletic competition, and in their living.

Houghton Honors Employees

On April 29, Houghton employees gathered to celebrate those who have had a lasting impact on our community, those who have reached milestone years of service, and those who are retiring. This year, three remarkable Houghton faculty members retired after a combined 94 years of service: Dr. **Paul Young '76** (45 years), Professor of Psychology; Dr. Ted Murphy (41 years), Professor of Art; and Dr. Timothy McGarvey (8 years), Professor of Instrumental Music & Conducting.

Employees were recognized for milestone years of service for beginning with five years of service. This year, four employees celebrated a remarkable 30 years of service: Jay Livingston, Associate Director of Technology Services; **Marianne Loper '04**, Director of Student Financial Services; Dr. John Rhett, Professor of Art; and **Dale Wright '84**, Vice President for Finance and Chief Fiscal Officer.

Two long-standing annual awards and one inaugural annual award were also presented. **Sharon (Hibbard '92) Mulligan**, Director of Academic Support and Accessibility Services and Associate Director of the Center for Student Success, was recognized with the Mary Boomhower Staff Excellence Award. **Michelle Miller '20**, Associate Director of Employee Engagement, received the Ken Boon Award for community service. Rev. Dr. JL Miller, Interim Dean of Spiritual Life and Chair of Religion, was presented with the inaugural Houghton University Creek Stone Award for his lasting impact on the life of the university.

Ellen F. Donley Dean of Education and Behavioral Science

In January, Houghton University announced a \$3M gift to create an endowed chair that will be known as the Ellen F. Donley Dean of Education and Behavioral Science. The anonymous gift created an endowed fund to provide vital resources in perpetuity to support this faculty position.

The deanship honors the life and legacy of Ellen F. Donley, a Houghton alumna from the Class of 1938. Miss Donley (1917-1964) was one of four sisters whose parents had an unusual interest in providing their daughters opportunities for spiritual and educational growth. They gave their children persistent guidance and sacrificial support so that each daughter could attend and graduate from Houghton College (now University).

In May, Dr. Michele V. Vanasse was appointed the inaugural Ellen F. Donley Dean of Education and Behavior Science. She holds a PhD from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a concentration in Teacher Education and School Improvement alongside an MSEd from Montana State University-Northern and a BA in Elementary Education and Biblical Studies from Trinity Bible College. Dr Vanasse most recently served as Assistant Professor of Education at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, following previous appointments at Eastern Nazarene College and Mount Vernon Nazarene University, where she has specialized in teacher education with a focus on culturally responsive teaching methods and effective approaches to classroom instruction.



PI KAPPA LAMBDA – MUSIC

The primary objective of Pi Kappa Lambda is the recognition and encouragement of the highest level of musical achievement and academic scholarship. The Society is convinced that recognizing and honoring persons who have enhanced their talents by serious, diligent, and intelligent study will stimulate others to do the same.



Rachael McVeigh
Ryan Michael Nickelsen
Emily Lynne Quick
Samuel Roth
Timothy Roth
Evelyn Joy Simanowski

SIGMA ZETA – MATH/SCIENCES

Sigma Zeta is a national undergraduate honor society to encourage and foster scholarly activity and recognize academic scholarship in the natural and computer sciences and mathematics.



Carter Wade Benham
Josephine Lipscomb
Sara Elizabeth Carter
Faith Michele Coolbeth
James Joseph Eustace
Owen Douglas Fall
Alliah Fluent
Abigail Michelle Guiher
Nolan Anthony Zach
Noah Christopher Harley
Sara L. Maines
Isabella Matton
Abigail Elizabeth Nuzzo
Emma Ryan
Luke Yelle
Lydia Grace Zampella



HONOR SOCIETIES

PSI CHI – PSYCHOLOGY

Psi Chi is an international honor society whose purpose shall be to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship of the individual members in all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology.

Aidan Fish
Phebe Lord Grant
Evan Kurtz
Megan Anna Sensenig



HIGHLANDER ATHLETICS NEWS

Athletics Holds Induction for 2025 Hall of Honor Class

Ken German '61 and the 1998 Field Hockey Team are the latest inductees into the Houghton Athletics Hall of Honor after a luncheon ceremony among friends, family, and Houghton staff on May third.

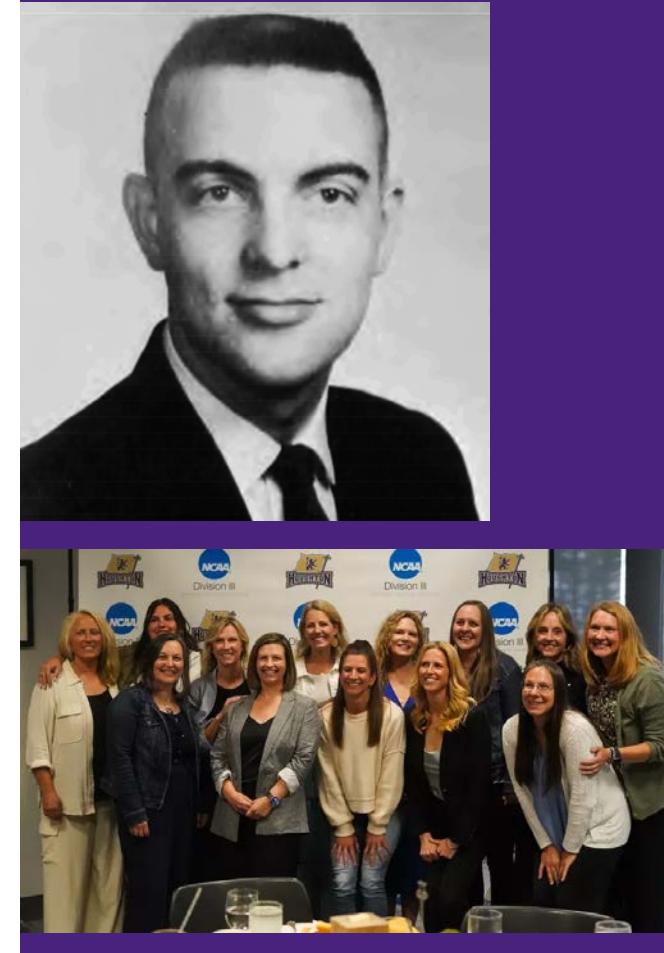
The honorees of this induction class join a Hall roster that now totals 71 alumni, coaches, teams, and contributors.

Ken German, Class of 1961

Described by his friend and classmate, Paul Mills, as "...the epitome of a scholar-athlete", Ken German excelled in four sports during his years at Houghton College, while studying pre-med and zoology. In athletics, German was best known for his accolades on the baseball field and the basketball court, but he also participated in football and track & field. A native of nearby, Cuba, New York, German studied pre-medicine under Dr. George Moreland. While with the Highlanders, he would also serve as Vice-President of the Pre-Med Club, Business Manager of the Lanthorn, and as a member of his class cabinet and student senate. German would eventually graduate with honors in the spring of 1961. Following graduation, German earned his medical degree from Temple University and practiced orthopedic surgery in Las Vegas, Nevada. He and his wife Elaine eventually moved to LaGrande, Oregon, where he retired from a private medical practice in 1997. They had three children: Brian, Laura, and Robert.

1998 Field Hockey Team

The 1997 team, which produced an upset win over Bloomsburg University, set the stage for the successes of the 1998 team. Heading into the 1998 campaign, Head Coach Donna Hornibrook labeled her young squad as talented, fast, and well-balanced, but she was anticipating a rebuilding year. The team opened with a 4-1 preseason win over defending DIII champion William Smith, and knocked off Ithaca and Juniata to open the regular season. The third game of the year brought in DII Lock Haven, a team that had won three national championships over the previous six seasons and would go on to finish as national runners-up in 1998. The Highlanders got the 4-2 upset win with Judy Johnson tallying three goals. Houghton would win nine-straight games to open the season before losing to eventual DII national champion Bloomsburg, then closed the year with six more wins to finish with a 15-1 overall record.



Night of Excellence Gala Honors 2024-25 Student-Athletes, Teams

The department held its annual Night of Excellence Awards Gala in April, honoring student-athletes, teams, and moments that highlighted the 2024-25 season.

Among those honored were Noelle Linenfelser (cross country and track and field) ① and Evan Kurtz (track and field) ②, who were the recipients of the Student-Athlete Excellence Awards that go to those who have regularly exhibited excellence in the areas of athletic performance, academic achievement and Christian character during their time as Highlander student-athletes.

Kanta Ueno (baseball) ③ and Victoria Brewster (track and field) ⑥ were selected as the 2024-25 Athletes of the Year, while Samuel Garay (tennis) ④ and Alexa Belanger (track and field) ⑦ were the Newcomers of the Year.

Track Athletes Earn All-America Honors

Victoria Brewster and Alexa Belanger ⑤ were the Highlanders' first-ever participants at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field National Championships, with both claiming All-America honors at the March event in Rochester, N.Y.

Brewster ⑥, the Empire 8 champion and regional champion in the indoor 60 meters, finished as the national runner-up in the event and produced the No. 5 time all-time DIII mark of 7.49 seconds to earn First Team All-America recognition. Belanger ⑦, also a conference and regional champion, earned Second Team All-America honors in the high jump by finishing in Ninth place with a jump of 1.68 meters.

ALUMNI News & Notes

1961

Peter Lee retired from a successful career as a faculty member at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University Schools of Medicine and, most recently, at the Penn State College of Medicine, where he taught for 25 years. At the time of his retirement in 2022, Dr. Lee was listed #2 among 100 pediatric endocrinologists worldwide under ScholarGPS as a Top Scholar, a ranking he retains today.

1971

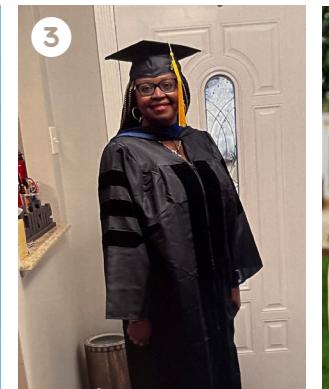
Mariellyn (Jones) Hilgeman published *Now Tell It To Me* in 2008, a book exploring language and literacy development through storytelling. The work grew out of years of service in kindergarten classrooms in Bolivia, Indonesia, Europe, and Guatemala. After retirement, she returned to Dallas, where she used her skills to support preschoolers at a childcare center. Mariellyn lives in Dallas with her husband, **Thomas '69**.

1976

Dave Johnson is the first author on two recently published articles. The first is an article in the January issue of "Leatherneck Magazine" published by the Marine Corps Association. The article, titled *Leatherneck Bards: Marines Embrace Unusual Duty Aboard U.S. Navy Ships*, highlights US Marines' deck log poetry from the 1950s through the 1970s. The second article, titled *Midwatch Deck Log Poetry Aboard US Submarines: The Early Cold War Years*, was published in the December issue of "The Submarine Review," a publication of the Naval Submarine League.

1978

Stephen Felts retired in September 2024 after 46 years of bridged service across five



1989

computer companies, ending with Oracle. He was a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Bell Labs, has published a book, and has 16 patents. Stephen noted that he started with computers using Houghton's IBM 1130, covered in the Houghton Magazine Winter 2024 edition on page 21.

1979

Dr. Stephen Lennox, president of Kingswood University, announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2025. Dr. Lennox has served the university for 10 years as its 12th president. Under Dr. Lennox's leadership, Kingswood weathered the COVID-19 pandemic and launched Kingswood Extended and Kingswood Learn initiatives.

1985

James Allein retired as deputy town clerk of Lancaster, New York, in 2010, after 10 years of service. He is currently a 15-year member of the Lancaster Village Planning Commission, the liaison for the commission to the Historic Preservation Commission, president of Lancaster Opera House and vice president of the Lancaster Historical Society.

Margrethe Hoff is currently recording an album of original Christian songs with her former Houghton roommate, **Margaret (Smith '85) Sawyer**.

Laurie (Reynolds) Miller came out of "retirement" from homeschooling her own children to accept the position of first-grade teacher at Augustine Classical Academy in Mechanicsville, New York. She completed her second year at Augustine in spring 2025.

Marc Troeger retired this spring after a long career in college administration and higher education

1990

Kristine (Paroline) Castro completed her master of arts in Pastoral Ministry from Global Awakening Theological Seminary in April 2024. Her studies support her work with her business, Shift, Inc., as she brings Christ-centered coaching, leadership development, and inspirational speaking to her clients.

1992

Katherine (Turner) Liddle completed her Master of Library Science degree at Texas Women's University in December of 2024.

1993

Tara Joy (McRae) Davis completed a PhD in Christian Counseling from Newburgh Theological Seminary in December of 2021.

Matthew Noonan maintains an active performing and teaching career as an organist in the Charlotte, North Carolina, region. In addition to recital performance, he offers his gifts in religious services. More information on his teaching and performing career can be found at mwnoonan.com.

1997

William Sortore was named to the Allegany County Athletic Association's Sports Hall of Fame in March 2025. A long-time advocate for Track and Field, Bill

consulting. He now splits his time between Michigan and Florida, working occasionally as a consultant and volunteering with food rescue programs.

began his coaching career at Bolivar Schools and supported both Houghton University and SUNY-Alfred track and field teams before taking on the role of head track and field coach at Alfred University.

2000

Daniel Jackson completed a Doctorate of Ministry in Church Multiplication in May 2024 at Asbury Theological Seminary.

2001

Cathi (Hackett) Davis, principal of Ruby Bridges Elementary (Woodinville, WA), part of Northshore School District, was named Washington State Principal of the Year for 2025. She is the founding principal of Ruby Bridges Elementary, which opened in 2019.

2003

Nan (Inge) Hassey began volunteering with the Salvation Army as a bell ringer at Christmas time, supported by her four-legged friend, Pongo, in 2023. She was excited to see the renewed partnership between Houghton University and the Salvation Army announced in April 2025, creating new pathways for Salvationists to pursue both graduate and undergraduate degrees through Houghton University.

2004

Laura (Clark) Hopkins's co-authored book *Teaching with Literacy Programs* (see Houghton Magazine Winter 2024) was selected by AACTE to receive the 2025 Gloria J. Ladson-Billings Outstanding Book Award. The award was presented during the AACTE's 2025 annual meeting. The award recognizes an author or book that significantly contributes to the knowledge base of educator preparation, acknowledging those who offer a fresh lens on current practices, reorient thinking in the field of pedagogy, and show potential for significant impact on policy or practice in educator preparation.

Walter Hopkins began his doctorate of ministry in strategic leadership in the fall of 2024. He is the

recipient of the North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals (NACCAP) scholarship. Walter currently serves as head of school for LIFE International School in Tres Cantos, Madrid, Spain, and is part of a team working to start more Christian schools in Spain to meet the significant need for Christian education in that country.

2008

Matthew Shay was named to the Allegany County Athletic Association's Sports Hall of Fame in March 2025. He was a four-year member of the Houghton University men's basketball team. He has had a

distinguished career as a basketball coach for Pembroke Central School, as commissioner for Pembroke Youth Association (PYA) Travel Basketball Program, and director of the PYA Annual Fall and Youth Basketball Clinics.

Chaplain (ILT) **Trevor Pearsall** graduated Chaplain Basic Officer Leader Course Class 24-003 in December 2024. He is headed for active duty and joins a number of Houghton alumni in the Chaplain Corps ranks.

2016

Robin (McLaughlin) Conine's 2-part choral work "Notes from Emily" was accepted for publication by Heritage Music Press. The work is based on two poems by Emily Dickinson written for women's two-part ensemble. It was recently honored as an "Editor's Choice" by music distributor J. W. Pepper.

2018

Andrew Hutton performed at the 2024 World Pipe Band Championships in August 2024, an annual event at Glasgow Green in Glasgow, Scotland. Prior to the Championships, he performed with Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band as a part of the Piping Live Music Festival.

2022

Samantha Stenzel has accepted a new position as a Senior Child Protection Services Caseworker with Allegany County Social Services, a role that allows her to further her commitment to supporting children and families in crisis.

2023

Kamaron Hillman joined the United States Army as a Military Police officer in 2023. In 2024, Kamaron was awarded the Army Achievement Medal.



Future Highlanders



Lucas Sven | 11.9.24 ①

Tiffany (Aguas '16) and Dakota Rudolph '15

Quentin Xavier | 11.10.24 ②

Megan (Springstead '04) and Jonathan Neurock

Lawrence Grant Lewis | 12.2.24 ③

Olivia (Richardson '19) and Connor Barnes '17

Vivian | 12.4.24

Daniel '17 and Mercedes (Miller '17) Hammers



DOWN the AISLE

Glenn Hampson '14 tied the knot with Meghan Little on September 21, 2024, at a family farm in Lockport, New York.

⑨ Matthew Noonan '93 married Beth Thompson on November 23, 2024, in a private ceremony on Lake Norman near Charlotte, North Carolina.



CORRECTION:

In a previous issue of Houghton Magazine, there were errors that required correction. We apologize for any confusion caused by these errors. The description of the Ortlip Family Art Trust noted on page 20 of the Summer 2024 edition of Houghton Magazine contained incomplete and thus misleading information. We encourage readers to explore the full depth of the project online at <https://ortlip.art>. Edward Jones '57 (page 31, Summer 2024) was incorrectly identified as holding a PhD; Houghton Magazine has verified Mr. Jones did not hold such a degree.

CONNECT WITH US

Houghton Magazine welcomes alumni news, alumni art and photography, and letters to the editor for possible inclusion in the publication. All submissions are subject to editorial discretion and the opinions expressed are those of the authors or their subjects and not necessarily shared by the University or the editor. Submissions and address changes can be sent to Magazine@Houghton.edu or Houghton University 1 Willard Avenue, Houghton, NY, 14744. Written permission is required to reproduce Houghton Magazine in whole or in part. Contents © 2025 Houghton University.

BOOK SHELF

Alan MacDonald '74 ①

On an Outbound Tide | *Independently published, September 25, 2024*

Barbara G. Schmitz '80 ②

No Matter What Happens I'll Be Alright: The Power of Love, Wonder and Forgiveness | *Fairway Press, October 2024*

Dana and William Wichterman '86 ③

Stewards Not Owners: The Joy of Aligning Your Money with Your Faith | *Forefront Books March 11, 2025*

Margrethe Hoff '85 ④

Norway Meets America: The Story of My Parents | *Independently Published, July 22, 2024*

Gwenn (Sheet '90) Lochstet ⑤

Rising on Song | *SoliD Glory Writs LLC, May 1, 2025*
[Published under the pen name Willamette Sutta]

J. Michael Jordan '99 ⑥

Worship in the Age of Anxiety: How Churches Can Create Space for Healing | *IVP Academic, June 4, 2025*

Daniel Pelton '01 ⑦

Rethinking Employee Resilience | *American Psychological Association, May 20, 2025*

Scott Donahue-Martens '13 ⑧

Theology, Religion, and Dungeons & Dragons: Explorations of the Sacred Through Fantasy Worlds | *Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, February 19, 2025*



In MEMORIAM

1943

Mary (Leech) Garrison of Toledo, OH, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2025, at the age of 102. Mary was a dedicated mother, homemaker, and faithful community volunteer. She is survived by her five children and their spouses, 12 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

1946

Roberta (Chess) Birch passed away in Jacksonville, FL, on August 16, 2024. She was 100 years old.

Evangeline (Ries) Shank of Hertford, NC, passed away February 16, 2025, at the age of 100. She is survived by her brother.

1947

Rev. Gerald Matson, 101, went into the arms of his Lord on December 5, 2024, in Fort Edward, NY. He spent his life dedicated to fathering, preaching, and teaching. Left to remember him are his three children and their families, including daughter **Aledra "Lee" (Matson '80) Cleavland**, 19 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

May (Sprowl) Ruhl of Orchard Park, NY, passed away on December 3, 2024, at the age of 98. She dedicated her career to teaching and was a founding member of the East Aurora Bird Club. She is survived by her three children, **Kim '81 (Robert Wilson '81), Terry '84 (Lorraine Rice '83)**, and **Mark '88**; eight grandchildren,

including **Caitlin Wilson '11, Stephen Ruhl '11**, and **Rebekah Ruhl '13**; and three great-grandchildren.

1949

James Boyd of Rochester, NY, went home to be with the Lord on September 7, 2024, at the age of 96. James spent his career as an engineer with Kodak, while also helping to found Northgate Bible Church and Camp Li Lo Li. Three daughters and their husbands survive him: **Ruth Eleanor '77 (Ted Fox '77), Nancy '79**, and **Janet '81**. He is also survived by five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

1951

Anna Belle (Russell) Leonard, 93, beloved mother, grandmother and sister, passed away peacefully on February 27, 2024, in Gillett, PA. She spent much of her professional career with Westinghouse and was a faithful member of her church. She is survived by three children and their spouses, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three siblings, including **Merlin Russell '54**.

1952

Beryl (MacMillen) Anderson, a beloved music teacher, died peacefully at 100 years of age on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, in Catskill, NY. She is survived by a son, a daughter, four grandchildren, a step-son, and two step-grandsons.

1950

Victoria (Pearson) LaBombarde, 96, passed away on December 14, 2024, in Newport News, Virginia. Vicki spent her career with IBM as a computer programmer and was an active

community volunteer in her retirement. She leaves behind one son.

Rev. Delos Tanner, 101, of Grand Rapids, MI, was welcomed into the arms of his Lord and Savior surrounded by family on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the age of 101. He spent his life faithfully serving as pastor of several Wesleyan Churches. He is lovingly remembered by his wife of 27 years, his children **Judith (Tanner '72) Stolz** and **John Tanner '77**, three stepchildren, 19 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

Virginia (Blowers) Totman, 95, passed away Friday, August 2, 2024, in Rock Hill, SC. She

WILLIS BEARDSLEY '60 passed away peacefully on January 26, 2025, with his family by his side at the age of 86. He received his BA in history and psychology from Houghton and went on to complete a master's degree at SUNY Geneseo and a PhD in Educational Administration from the University of Buffalo. A veteran of the United States Army, he began his civilian career as a 4th-grade teacher at Fillmore Central School, later becoming the principal of Friendship Central School. He took up a post in 1980 at Houghton University (then College), serving students as professor, registrar, and head of the adult continuing education program. Willis pioneered distance learning technology in support of Houghton's adult students. Willis served Houghton for over 25 years, and after retirement, he continued to volunteer at Houghton until 2024. In 2016, he was presented with a special volunteer recognition award for his service. His love of teaching led him to serve as a children's Sunday School teacher at Houghton Wesleyan Church. Willis was survived by his wife, **Elizabeth "Beth" (Seidel '70)** until March 17, 2025. He leaves behind three children, including **Jonathan Beardsley '01**, and six grandchildren.

30

dedicated her career to serving children as a school librarian and media specialist. She is survived by her two children.

1953

Maude (Hitze) Meyerend passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on March 17, 2024, in Port Orange, FL, at the age of 93. She was a lifelong lover of books and spent her career as a librarian. Maude is survived by her son, daughter, and two grandsons.

1953

Hugh Chamberlain, age 96, of Warsaw, NY, died peacefully in the presence of his family on December 17, 2024. A World War II veteran of the US Army, he spent his civilian career as a high

school mathematics teacher. He is survived by his wife, **Linda (Lombard '55)**, four children, 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1954

Richard Boyce, 92, of Lithia, FL, went to be with the Lord on February 13, 2025. Richard spent many years in radio ministry and was a volunteer with the Salvation Army and the local Chamber of Commerce. He is survived by his three daughters, seven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

1955

Diane Clinton, 91, died November 24, 2024, in Shippensburg, PA. She was a long-time teacher in Hammond, IN. She is survived by her sister and several nieces and nephews.

Dr. Charles Paine, Sr., 91, entered the gates of Heaven on July 29, 2024, from his residence in Fishers, IN. He began his career with Wesleyan World Medical Missions in India, spent a brief time in hospital administration before returning to serve on the mission field in West Africa, India, and Zambia. In retirement, he served as president and CEO of the Wesleyan Bible Conference Association. Dr. Paine is lovingly remembered by his eight children and their families, including **Deborah (Paine '80) Fletcher** and **Elizabeth (Paine '78) Spear**; his 44 grandchildren; his 66 great-grandchildren; and his sister **Anne (Paine '58) Root**.

1955

Virginia "Ginny" Hooker passed on October 14, 2024 at the age of 100, in Kings, NC. A nurse, she served as a medical missionary in Haiti for over 20 years. She leaves behind her beloved nieces and nephews, as well as many friends.

1958

Rev. David Phelps, 96, died peacefully on April 12, 2025, in Lakewood, NY. A veteran of the US Army, he was an ordained Elder of the United Methodist Church and served many congregations during his career. He also served as a chaplain at the Batavia VA Medical Center for many years and volunteered in prison ministry. He is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandsons.

1953

Rev. Charles Wheeler, Sr., 91, passed on to glory peacefully on April 26, 2025, at his home in Port Crane, NY. Charles was a minister of the Wesleyan Church, serving in churches in Central New York. He is survived by his two children, **Charles Wheeler Jr. '89** and **Cheryl Wheeler '92**, and five grandchildren, including **Abigail Wheeler '24** and **Joel Wheeler '21**.

Jane Elizabeth (Stevenson) Zike (b. 1934, Plattsburgh, NY) passed away peacefully in Grand Rapids, MI, on January 5, 2025. She and her husband **Wilbur '53** served as medical missionaries in Sierra Leone with the Wesleyan Church and raised four children together. Jane dedicated her life to her family, her community and her church in innumerable ways and is remembered for her generous hospitality and love of learning. She is survived by three of her children, including **Kristen (Zike '91) Pollock** and their spouses, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and her siblings **Suzanne '50, James '63**, and **Thomas '69**.

1960

William "Bill" Gates, 87, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2025, at his home in Ovid, NY. He was a long-time history teacher and an enthusiastic traveler. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, his three children, and three granddaughters.

Rev. Claude Hunsberger, a faithful minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, entered into the presence of his heavenly Father on January 16, 2024, at the age of 92 in Beaver Falls, PA. A US Army veteran of the Korean Conflict, he spent his career as a minister in the United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, four children, 12 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Charles "Chuck" Gommer Jr., 89, of Dallas, PA, passed away peacefully on December 2, 2024. He was a faithful servant of the United Methodist Church, serving as a minister in numerous congregations and as district superintendent and conference council director. He was dedicated to ministry and missions work locally and abroad. He is survived by his wife **Viola (Ruelke '59)**, two children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

1958

Jay Cole, 91, of Kennesaw, GA, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2024. He was a US Army veteran, an ordained minister, and a longtime employee of Rollins, Inc. Surviving

DR. IRMGARD "IRMA" HOWARD, 83, of Houghton, NY, died peacefully at her home in Houghton on December 21, 2024. Dr. Howard, a graduate of Duke University, served Houghton University as professor of chemistry for 43 years. Dr. Howard taught classes in nutrition, chemistry, and biochemistry, as well as an introductory course, "Impact: Science on Society," for non-majors. Her research fields included clinical chemistry, immunochemistry, molecular genetics, chemophobia, the history of chemistry, and nutrition. She played an active role in the "Bump the Dump" protests against New York State's plan to store radioactive waste in Allegany County. She was a popular lecture for the American Chemical Society. Her musical gifts were offered to Grace United Church (formerly First Congregational) in Wellsville, NY, as an organist for more than 30 years. She is survived by four children, including **Deborah Howard '92, William Howard '93**, and **Eleanor Howard Henebury '95**; and eight grandchildren, including **Ekaterina Nikolaeva-Howard '22**.

are five children, 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

Katherine (Vossler) Jones went to be with her Lord and Savior on August 11, 2024, at the age of 87. She served as a missionary pastor alongside her husband, Rev. Dr. Gordon Jones '58, and in retirement, taught at Sias University in Zhengzhou, China. She is survived by her husband, three children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

John Nelson of St. Paul, Minnesota, passed away on October 3, 2024, at the age of 90.

31

DAVID SMITH '73 of Rochester, NY, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on November 18, 2024. He was 72. Dave dedicated 39 years of his career to IBM Corporation, holding various management positions in operations, information technology, logistics, and manufacturing. After his retirement, he served as the Vice President of Planning and Finance at Houghton University. He also served Houghton as a member of the Athletic Advisory Board and was on the board of directors for the Rochester Ridgemen baseball team. Dave holds a bachelor's degree in general science from Houghton and was a competitive two-sport collegiate athlete, playing both baseball and basketball. In 2009, he was inducted into Houghton University's Highlander Hall of Honor for his athletic achievements. He was a devoted member of his church, serving as deacon, children's ministry volunteer, and greeter. Dave is survived by his wife, **Cindy (Dunham '73)**, his four children, **Melissa '01 (Robert Luckey '00)**, **Aimee '03 (Shane DeHaven '03)**, **Jordan '09**, and Tyler; and seven grandchildren.

Conway '85; five grandchildren, including **Joel Goetz '20**, and five great-grandchildren.

Andrew Nelson, a career missionary, passed away on October 31, 2024, at the age of 87. Alongside his wife **JoAnn (Booth '60)**, he spent over 50 years with Hi-BA both nationally and internationally, eventually serving as International Director and overseeing the ministry's merger with Touch the World Ministries. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1961

Mildred (Ivins) Birtwistle, 89, of Camden Wyoming, DE, went home to be with Jesus on February 8, 2025. Mildred and her late husband, **David '55**, spent many years serving in Christian education. In retirement, she volunteered with Christian and community service organizations. Her memory is cherished by her four children, seven grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

1962

Dr. Donald Housley, 84, of Selinsgrove, PA, passed away on October 19, 2024. He taught history to generations of students at Susquehanna University. Dr. Housley focused his research on local history and volunteered with historical organizations in his community. He also participated in missions trips and served in his church. He is survived by his wife, **Grace (Dodge '63)**, two children, and four grandchildren.

Beverly (Slosson) McIlwain, 83, passed away December 5, 2024, in Pittsburgh, PA. Bev was a talented musician and music educator, serving in schools and churches in multiple communities. She also served her community and church as a regular volunteer. She leaves behind three daughters and a granddaughter.

Dr. Robb Moses was received by his Heavenly Father on March 4, 2025. Dr. Moses was a notable medical researcher and professor. He spent most of his career at Baylor Medical College with appointments in Biochemistry, Internal Medicine, Cell Biology, and Human and Medical Genetics. Dr. Moses' influential research led to the publication of over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and led to his appointment to editorial and consulting roles with more than two dozen scientific journals. Dr. Moses was named Houghton University (then College) Alumnus of the Year in 2015. He is survived by his wife, **Audrey (Johnson '62)**, two children, and two grandchildren.

Paul Stackel, 89, of Loweville, New York, passed away peacefully on March 8, 2025. Paul worked for 25 years as a math and science junior high teacher for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, serving military families on bases around the world. He is survived by his wife, daughters, and four grandchildren.

John Vogan, of Candiac, QC, peacefully and quietly left this earth to enter his eternal home on November 9, 2024, at the age of 84. John dedicated a significant portion of his professional life to the pharmaceutical industry, working with Bristol Myers Squibb, and was a committed servant of his church. He is survived by his wife, **Madli (Prints '64)**, two children, and four grandchildren, including **Katiana Zubry '23**.

He also leaves behind his four siblings, including **Carolyn (Robert Tysinger '60)**, and many nieces and nephews, including **Rohn Vogan '84**, **Jonathan Vogan '85**, **Jeffery Vogan '91**, **Kimberly (Vogan '87) Kerr**, and **James Tysinger III '88**.

LeRoy Bechtel of Weaverville, NC passed away on January 23, 2025, at the age of 83. A retired missionary with Ethnos360 (formerly New Tribe Missions), he is mourned by his wife, two children, and their families.

Judith (Wickware) Dominguez, of Glen Ellyn, IL, passed away November 24, 2024. A school teacher and reading tutor, Judy devoted much of her life to raising a family. She is survived by her nine children and their families, including **Samuel Dominguez '92**, **Matthew Dominguez '95 (Jennifer Berger '94)**, **Benjamin '03 (Rebecca Neubert '02)**, and **Amanda Dominguez '05**. She also leaves 32 grandchildren, siblings, including brother-in-law **Lee Dominguez '69**, and nieces and nephews, including **Daniel Dominguez '94** and **David Dominguez '97**.

James Hempler, 83, entered fully into eternal life from his home in Port Townsend, WA, on October 19, 2024. A long-time healthcare administrator, Jim dedicated his life to serving the elderly through his work. He is survived by his wife, a son, three grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

1964

Helen Cronk, 92, of Jamestown, NY, passed away December 28, 2024. She dedicated 24 years of her life to teaching third grade and served her church as a Sunday School teacher. She is survived by a sister, two nieces, and two nephews.

1965

Ralph Eastlack, 82, of Wellsville, NY, passed away on December 8, 2024. Ralph was a dedicated community servant, spending over 45 years leading Allegany County Youth for Christ (later Southern Tier Youth for Christ). He volunteered with Gill's Hills County Youth Board, Jones Memorial Hospital, Wellsville Central School, and Brookside Wesleyan Church. He is survived by his wife, two children, five grandchildren, brother **Karl Eastlack '79**, and several nieces and nephews, including **Aaron Eastlack '05**, **Bethany (Eastlack '07) Stempert** and **Rachel Eastlack '15**.

Ronald Kaczala, age 81, passed away on October 24, 2024, in Wantage, NY. A science teacher by trade, Ron was also a dedicated community volunteer and member of his church. He is survived by his wife and many nieces and nephews.

Gregory Nygard died April 12, 2024, in Reston, VA, at the age of 80.

1963

Major Hollie (Allnatt) Ruthberg was promoted to Glory on September 29, 2024, from her home in Eaton, NY. Alongside her husband, Hollie was a Salvation Army Officer and Pastor for over 45 years. A talented musician, her arrangements of

Sunday School Choruses are a valuable resource for young Salvationist musicians. Hollie leaves behind her husband, her son **Brett '97**, and five grandchildren.

1966

Bonnie Andrews, 83, of Mechanicsburg, PA, died February 20, 2025, three days after her sister **Linda Andrews '69**. Bonnie spent her career in social services. She is remembered fondly by nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Dr. Harold Baxter of Burnsville, MN, passed away September 12, 2024, at the age of 81. After beginning his career as a pastor, he later became a teacher and college professor. He is survived by his wife **Kathleen (Rogers '66)**, three children, and three grandchildren.

Ida (Patterson) Case died on November 3, 2024, at her home in Angelica, NY, at the age of 81. Teaching was Ida's lifetime passion. She was a member of her church for over 50 years and a dedicated volunteer. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Charles Gardiner of Ashburnham, MA, passed away February 14, 2024, at the age of 79. Charlie spent much of his career in the antiques trade and also renovated and restored old homes. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two grandchildren.

1968

Dr. Jon Balson, 78, of Leola, PA, went home to be with his Savior on February 28, 2025. Jon spent much of his career in state service, both in Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. He worked at Houghton University in the 1980s as Executive Director of External Affairs and Professor of

Government and Public Policy. Jon also served on the Houghton University President's Advisory Board under President Daniel Chamberlain. He leaves behind his wife of 46 years, **Cynthia "Cindi" (Golias '71) daughter Jennifer (Balson '97) Reiff**; a son; and five grandchildren, including **Tobias Reiff '27** and **Simon Reiff '28**.

1969

Linda Andrews, 77, of Mechanicsburg, PA, died February 17, 2025, in her home. Linda was an elementary school teacher for nearly 40 years. Her sister, **Bonnie Andrews '66**, survived until her death on February 20, 2025. Linda is lovingly remembered by nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of friends and former students.

Susan (Deitrick) Carradice, 78, of Gainesville,

VA, lost her battle with ALS on December 13, 2024. An active facilitator and teacher of Bible Study Fellowship, Susan also used her many gifts as a school teacher at Quantico, a church musician, and an office manager. She is survived by two children, five grandchildren, and her second husband.

Dr. Wesley Hoffman, 77, went home to be with his Lord on March 24, 2025. He was a civilian employee at Edwards Air Force Base in California for 44 years and served as the Principal Scientist of the Propulsion Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory. Dr. Hoffman is the author of multiple journal articles and books. He was active in his church and taught his Sunday School Class. He is survived by his wife, three children, three grandchildren, and his brother **Dr. Wayne Hoffman '69**.

Rev. John "Jack" Kroeze passed away surrounded by family on April 20, 2025, at the age of 77. Jack dedicated his life to ministry as a pastor, serving for 37 years before retiring and continuing to provide pulpit supply. He is survived by his wife **Eva (Fleetwood '69)**, three children, and ten grandchildren, including **Brett Rosario '25**.

Joyce (Beardsley) Krupnik, 77, of Wellsville, NY, passed away January 2, 2025, with her family by her side. Joyce was a longtime school teacher at both Pioneer Central School and Wellsville Elementary School. In her retirement, she was an active and beloved community volunteer. She was survived by her brother **Willis Beardsley '60** until January 26 and her sister-in-law **Elizabeth (Seidel '70) Beardsley** until March 17. She is mourned by her husband and two daughters.

1970

Elizabeth "Beth" (Seidel '70) Beardsley, 78, of Houghton, NY, passed away peacefully on March 17, 2025, secure in the knowledge of God's love. After raising her family, Beth began a career as a teacher and later supervised student teachers for Houghton University. A dedicated volunteer at Houghton Wesleyan Church, Beth's joy in working with children was evident through many of her activities. Beth is survived by her three children,

including **Jonathan Beardsley '01**, and six grandchildren. Her husband **Willis Beardsley '60** predeceased her on January 26.

Carol (Gass) Rogers of Lititz, PA, age 76, passed away on December 17, 2024. She was a gifted church musician, serving in churches alongside her husband, **Rev. Dr. Michael Rogers '70**. She is survived by her husband, four children, 16 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1971

Theresa (Johnston) Loveless of Arva, ON, passed away on November 8, 2024, aged 75. She was a longtime musician, volunteer, and board member of her church and devoted to caring for her family. She leaves behind two sons, a grandchild, and her sister **Sheryl (Johnston '77) Wilkins**.

1974

Paul Parks of Houghton, NY, passed into his Father's Heavenly Kingdom on February 9, 2025. He worked for several small businesses in the region throughout his career and was a gifted artist and musician. He is survived by six siblings, including **Sandra (Parks '88) Blake**, **James '67 (Constance Witmer '67)**, **Howard '69 (Beth Walck '69)**, **Sally '71 (Edwin Johnson '71)**, and **Connie '76 (Charles Smith '72)**. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews, including **Jill (Parks '89) Barrett**, **Jennifer (Parks '90) Boice**, **Robert Blake '91**, **Nicole (Smith '00) Clester**, and **April Smith Keeler '04**.

Rev. Alan Raines, 76, of Allendale, MI, passed peacefully at his earth home and entered into his heavenly home on December 7, 2024. A veteran of the United States Air Force, he began his civilian career as a minister and eventually dedicated many years to International Aid, a disaster relief organization. He is lovingly remembered by his three children and three grandchildren.

Richard Sullivan of Oramel, NY, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2025, after a long illness. Rich dedicated 35 years of his life to Belfast

ALICE FLETCHER of Mukwonago, WI, and formerly of Houghton, NY, ran to the arms of Jesus on January 24, 2025, at the age of 94. Alongside her husband, Rolland Fletcher, she served in pastoral ministry for 20 years before relocating to Houghton to serve at Houghton University (then College). Rolland served on the facilities team, and Alice dedicated 20 years to Houghton, working in the college bookstore, payroll, and human resources before retiring in 1991. In 1975, Alice was elected Houghton Staff Member of the Year by her peers. Alice and Rolland celebrated 70 years of marriage shortly before his passing in 2019. Alice is greatly missed by her four children, including **Diana '73 (Terrence Stoneberg '71)**, **Laurel '75 (Jean-Marc Pinard '74)**, **Rodney '79**, and Wenda; her eight grandchildren and her seven great-grandchildren.

Central School, serving as a physical education teacher, athletic director, soccer coach, and baseball coach. He was also active in numerous community organizations, including service as a firefighter and EMT, a board member for the Town of Caneadea, and a member of the Allegany County Board of Elections. He is survived by his wife, four children, including **Mark Sullivan '96**, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1977

Christopher Lall of Mart, TX, passed away at his home on December 27, 2024, at age 76. Chris spent many years serving his community as a bus driver, postal worker, and truck driver. He is survived by his wife, four children, and two grandchildren.

1978

O. Emanuel Karlson, age 91, died January 5, 2024, in Raritan Township, NJ. An ordained minister with the New York Assemblies of God, he also shared his gifts with local ministries and EBASCO Corp. He is survived by his wife, five children, four step-children, 23 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

1979

Rev. Kevin Butler, age 67, went to meet his personal Lord and Savior after passing away at home on April 23, 2025. Kevin served for over 30 years as pastor of St. John's Community Church in Fort Atkinson, WI, and spent 25 years as editor of The Sabbath Recorder. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, four children, and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Randall Freeman, of Geneseo, NY, departed this life on October 5, 2024, at the age of 66. He was the founder and owner of Genesee Valley Dental Group and a clinical professor of dentistry at the University of Rochester. He is survived by his wife, two children, including **Teresa Freeman '20**, and one granddaughter.

1982

Sandra (Tingue) Meyers of Alden, NY, passed away on April 30, 2025, at age 76. Sandi taught at Belmont Central School for nearly 20 years, supported the Friendship Girl Scouts program, and served faithfully at Clarence Center-Akron Mennonite Church. She is survived by her three sons, **Alan '94, James '95, and Dale '99**; 17 grandchildren, including **Andrew Meyers '18, Alana (Meyers '19) Dibble, and Eva Meyers '21**; and 10 great-grandchildren.

1984

Kenneth C. Jones Jr., 64, of Townsend, DE, passed away on September 28, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

1986

Cheryl (Miller) Raduns, West Chili, NY, passed on June 5, 2024, at the age of 60. She was a dedicated family caregiver and an employee of Roberts Wesleyan University. She is survived by her husband, **Gary Raduns '86**, two children, and one grandchild.

1992

Scott McGeorge passed away unexpectedly on February 11, 2025, in Nanticoke, PA. After 25 years as a dedicated classroom teacher, Scott served as a town magistrate for five years. He was also a faithful and active member of Fillmore Wesleyan Church for many years. He is survived by his wife, **Alicia (Davis '92) McGeorge**, his children Brook and Connor, his parents Gail and **Kenneth McGeorge '66**, and his sister.

1993

Ramona (Minniefield) Ervin, 54, of Lackawanna, NY, entered into rest March 10, 2025. She was involved as an employee and volunteer at Lackawanna Schools. She is survived by her husband, daughter, and parents.

1997

Tracey (Thomson) Gabriel, 49, of Charlotte, NC, passed away on November 19, 2024. She spent much of her life pursuing a career in nursing and lived out her calling as a caregiver both for patients and for her family. She is survived by her husband, two sons, four stepchildren, two step-grandchildren, her parents, and two sisters.

2000

Donald Stoffel of Alden, NY, passed away June 7, 2024, at the age of 73. A 24-year veteran of the United States Air Force, he spent much of his retirement as a volunteer serving vulnerable children through various ministries. He is lovingly remembered by his wife, children, grandchildren, foster children, and extended family.

2002

Keith Van Nostrand, 45, passed away February 9, 2025, in Rochester, NY. A lifelong scientist and researcher, Keith was a post-doctoral associate at the Rochester Institute of Technology—School of Physics and Astronomy. He was also a gifted vocalist and instrumentalist. He leaves behind

his parents, two siblings, including **Debra (Van Nostrand '90) Scott**, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends.

2005

Phyllis Higgins of Salamanca went home to be with her Lord and Savior on January 18, 2025, at the age of 76. She had a varied career, but particularly loved serving her community through philanthropic work. She is survived by her husband and daughter.

2010

Deborah Curtin, 61, of Bradford, PA, passed away April 3, 2025. For 20 years, Deborah worked as an executive administrative assistant at Zippo. She was an active community volunteer, serving with United Way, Zippo Service League, and the McKean County Training Consortium. She is survived by one daughter and three grandchildren.

Friends

Elaine Brautigam, 74, died at her home in Westfield, NY, surrounded by her loving family on December 24, 2024. She was an active member of her community, volunteering with several organizations in Chautauqua County, including her church, and participating in short-term medical missions with her family. In addition to her community service, she fulfilled administrative roles for Westfield Family Physicians and Great Lakes Medical Research. Elaine is survived by her husband, **Donald '70**; her children, including **Heidi (Brautigam '97) Kaminski, Jill '99 (Michael Jordan '99)**, and **Joy (Brautigam '02) Sonju**; and 17 grandchildren.

Ruth Miller, of Houghton, NY, died October 7, 2024. She served at Houghton University, maintaining guestrooms, before taking on roles as a medical receptionist and small business owner. Ruth is survived by her three children, including **Cheryl (Miller '75) Hollingshead**; eight grandchildren, including **Stephanie Miller-Brandt '03, Michael Hollingshead '09**, and **Jessica Miller '11**; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Joyce Books Chamberlain

The Perfect Partner

Joyce Fay Books Chamberlain, the wife of Houghton College's fifth president, Daniel R. Chamberlain, passed away in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on December 22, 2024, at the age of 93. For more than 30 years, Joyce served the Houghton community through her generous hospitality, love of people, and keen sense of humor. Thousands of students, faculty, and staff knew her and were captivated by her energy, faith, and kindness.

Joyce served alongside her husband of more than 70 years, proving to be the perfect partner to the long-term president. She was a fourth-grade teacher for several years before arriving in Houghton in 1976. She used her experience as an educator to serve as a mentor for Houghton College student teachers. Her home was routinely open to the college community, hosting faculty and staff at the holidays and celebrating the graduating class and their families each May. And over game nights, Bible studies, and delicious baking, Joyce used her gift for hospitality to create community.

Joyce's contributions to Houghton College were vast and far-reaching. In 2005, she was named the Houghton College Alumna of the Year and received the Ken Boon Community Service Award. Though the honors speak to her years of commitment, it is the quieter moments that those who knew and loved Joyce will always cherish.



Joyce and Dan were the parents of seven children, and her commitment to them, as well as to scores of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, was unmatched. She embraced the challenges and joys of raising children, taking care of their needs, and ensuring they learned the skills and acquiring the courage and confidence needed for successful adulthood.

Joyce touched the lives of many through her roles as a wife, mother, grandmother, educator, and community leader. Her legacy of welcome, kindness, and love for Jesus will continue to inspire those who knew and loved her.



Elaine Tooley '05



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