



May 11, 2023

Dear Friends of Houghton Academy,

It is with joy and honor that I have the opportunity to write to you today as the incoming Head of School. My family (i.e., Tannia, Emma, and Buttercup) and I are looking forward with great anticipation to joining the Houghton community this summer and participating in what God is doing through the Academy's ministry in the years to come.



On my most recent trip to Houghton, I was asked, *"Why would you take on this role?"* The individual shared with me their perspective of some of the struggles and difficulties the Academy has experienced in recent years, and they wondered, frankly, if I knew what I was taking on. My first response to that question is that we believe we are walking in **obedience to what the Spirit of God** is leading us to do.

Secondly, **the unique and compelling mission and ministry** of the Academy excite us. As career missionaries, who resided in Ecuador for many years and served on ministry projects in over twenty countries in the years preceding our time in Ecuador, **the alignment of the Academy's mission with our passions, interests, and abilities is compelling**. To have a part in the ongoing development of a school that is pursuing what it means to provide quality life-preparation mentoring to young people in a setting that is distinctively and authentically committed to Christian education while at the same time ensuring students develop a global worldview by interacting daily with others

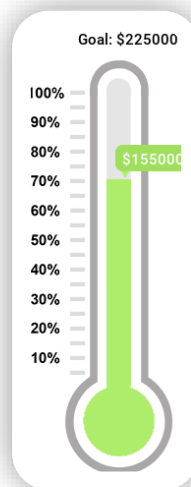
from around the world is extraordinary. **International Christian education is the type of ministry that can and has changed the world!**

And third, every ministry organization goes through times of difficulty. **God demonstrates His faithfulness and power, most frequently amid challenges and struggles**. These are the times when we experience the most significant growth in our faith and relationship with Christ. Thus, watching and seeing what God will do during times of struggle is an opportunity! (Check out James 1:2-5)

We are already seeing how **God is moving** others to come alongside during a time of significant need. Phil Stockin shared in our last newsletter about this year's Annual Fund that *"we have set a goal for \$225,000 in donations, of which we have already received slightly over \$138,000! Praising God!"* We are pleased to report that **over the past few weeks, we have received an**



additional \$17,000!



Our current need for a robust Annual Fund is in order to close the gap between current operating expenses (e.g., salaries, maintenance, classroom supplies) and lagging tuition income. **Enrollment is looking very positive for next year**. However, to finish the 2022-2023 school year strong and financially healthy, **we need approximately \$70,000 in donation income between now and June 30th**. Please prayerfully consider helping us meet that target with your contribution today.

Financial gifts to the *Annual Fund* can be securely made online at [HoughtonAcademy.org](https://www.houghtonacademy.org). Follow the link

to "Giving" or mail a check today, labeled *Annual Fund* to the

school's address. Your donation of any amount will make a difference in our ability to meet our commitments for the remainder of this year and **position us for an incredible year of ministry ahead. Thank you!**

And speaking of the year ahead... take a look at some of the **fantastic individuals God is adding to our already stellar team of Christian educators!**

Renita Buss and her family are moving this summer from **Nebraska**. Nancy Gates and her husband are members of the Houghton community. Kelly Holden and his family are moving from **Texas** to join us. And Fiona Nanungi Mulema and her family are coming all the way from **Uganda!**

Please keep them all in your prayers as they transition into their new ministry roles. Fionah and her family are awaiting the finalization of J1 and J2 visas. Fionah is joining our faculty as part of an international exchange visa program for the next few years. Again, prayers appreciated.

Finally, I want to express deep appreciation and gratitude to **Dr. Wayne Lewis**, President of Houghton University, and his team as they have already begun identifying ways to enhance our respective ministries. Dr. Lewis and I share many core values and beliefs regarding what excellent and authentic Christian education is all about. The unique partnership between the University and the Academy is **another compelling reason** why I am motivated, excited, and grateful to take on this new role.



There is so much more that I want to share with you, but that will hold until the next edition. **Until then, thank you for your prayers and support.**

Yours for His Kingdom,

Dr. Toby A. Travis

LIVE - LEARN



LEAD - LOVE

WELCOME

NEW FACULTY/STAFF 2023-2024

Renita Buss



Spiritual Life Coordinator / Bible and Spanish Teacher

- B.A. - Houghton University - Writing, English, Intercultural Studies, and Missions
- Experienced Director of Ministries, Chaplaincy, Bible Teaching, Organizational, and Systems Management
- Active Youth Ministry Leader

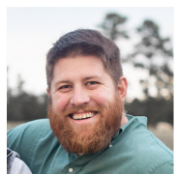
Nancy Gates



Community Connections Coordinator / MS History Teacher

- B.A. - Houghton University - English
- Highly Skilled in Communications, Hospitality, Event Planning, and Collaborative Team Management
- Experienced Christian Education Professional

Kelly Holden



Campus & Technology Administrator / IT and Bible Teacher

- B.A. - Liberty University - Biblical Studies
- Experienced Director of Technology, Creative Services, Camp Programming, and Systems
- Self-proclaimed "Jack-of-All-Trades - Master-of-Some!"

Fionah Nanungi Mulema



Biology, Physical Science, and Chemistry Teacher

- B.S. - Makerere University - Science Education
- Cert. - James Madison University - International Leaders in Education, Teaching Methods, Special Education
- Cert. - ACSI - Biology/Science Secondary Teacher
- Experienced International Christian Educator