Dear Friend,

**On Saturday, July 18, members of the Class of 2020** gathered to celebrate the culmination of their academic careers at Hillsdale College. Their families came from across the country to join them in what was a day filled with the joy of a job well done. The day culminated with the commencement ceremony, which, in light of social distancing guidelines, took place on the football field. As an overview, the Class of 2020 consists of 327 undergraduates (218 B.A. degrees and 109 B.S. degrees). Representing the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship were 17 Masters degrees graduates and one Ph.D. in Politics.

It is notable that this was probably the only Michigan College graduation with an audience of over 100 participants that took place *in person and on a college campus* this summer, which stirred an admonition from the State of Michigan governor and a declaration by the state’s attorney general that the graduation event was illegal.

That said, in true Hillsdale style, the Commencement ceremony took place despite the state government’s saber-rattling. It is important to note that the College maintained full compliance with the recommended social distancing and masking guidelines, as well as hand sanitizing stations available and temperature taking of attendees by medical personnel.

One of the highlights of the Commencement ceremony—in addition to the conferring of degrees—was the address delivered by recently retired Hillsdale College Professor Tom Conner. Click here to listen to the speech. [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdoRWFjJ3Hc**](https://info.hillsdale.edu/e2t/tc/MWLFN0wt1JhW3TFztY93hwg8W5r_q0D4cX5YyN74Pqth3p_8SV1-WJV7CgT5vW2lTns93gq-mYW7-BG1Q753hBLW5clCFW3d03kcW2bkYlq6kM3CDW3Q6Nsv8ls7bBW1xXprC78l69mW4pWP8H35H07TW5RwxjD82ry4GW6fN4c21PDmzXVzvlHh4CN6NBN7BbMRxds4w6W2wLyrz4XC3zbW6Lw-VQ548S62W7Vq5rS6L0HmmN5wyCXP3Rw9fVPqrX_1wGdfTW5-H2Hv5pgLQdW130hXc8mdm_RN3NxX0vR_pFRW8v331y2rNsGvW8tkgP35RJhPlW8RQ7QF5TcpRK31lw1)

For uplifting inspiration and hope, [**I encourage you to read the biographical overviews**](https://info.hillsdale.edu/e2t/tc/MWLFN0wt1JhW3TFztY93hwg8W5r_q0D4cX5YyN74Pqvt3p_b1V1-WJV7CgQZwVBD7Jh8WQh2LW5fSP2C27H2bmW6Bz39-2JHvL5W43CL9B1sbBrnVW4ccD8G3sbbW4YJlks2jgH9dW1WWXLh6ydN4TN3YQC6N_FpRBW107lrV7hfJK9W7CVVFX5jV1q-W5PBWgG96Lv3NW8l-Cv287mcGrW75K7k97TFqfwW7m71BL2Pjf1dW6NFKDJ8--C7QW63-85D6lksjbN6VkkCZVF0Q7W7nnYnS5NGqxgW13fJhj4-hzhKW8Cs0Jt7KTpq2W5ZhyNS3Znpv9W6nJ7102332QcW7KHB_B2_1jBgW6m9CvJ8W42j0W1cvKRh3YypZ6W5ljLgt3ytwF_W4rKVjZ7ZJp8XVdkRfg6HYthDW7jyvzN5H-L1PW2qP6xJ3Rntmr3c-Q1) of the top five students of the Class of 2020. Their futures are bright, and we are thankful for the support of friends such as you that helped to make the excellent education they received at Hillsdale College a reality.

As we look ahead to the academic year, It will be a joy to welcome you to one or more of the College’s upcoming events and so with that in mind I hope that you will [**take a moment to review the list of upcoming events**](https://info.hillsdale.edu/e2t/tc/MWLFN0wt1JhW3TFztY93hwg8W5r_q0D4cX5YyN74Pqvt3p_b1V1-WJV7CgHk7W7H8pkK3zqPVCW3PkNmX3lyt20W3-dfwF907b7lW4-Mry03g-pB5W5_CBPB2tbMrDN1n-NwRN122JVnd6Hv8X4B3kVvqrW3806nfqW6j2Xcj4FMG65MQmKXzfnCldW96QyrC3-fGZ5W1Tv9z938hTYzW2hbgyw5Ng-h-VDVML_4-hKrtW69vzNG3fKWm6W46Bz-k852ry5W4_GBL72qkB6_W52yN-x1lMww0W8ClVLy16fQkpW51PRQ93KCHw7W1Y1Swx7NYSRTW2xjcCM7PvJ7MW70vCGn39p20tW68FPsF3D5wGmW6yfrlC6FbWfdW9chHWx9m1jpqVvlzrN2yQxHQW6Zp8C_65-_FpW2g9Cn04d_dmkN8q-SS1ljq2l3l731). Please note, I have left a few of the recently completed events on this list so that you will know what has already transpired in the face of the prevailing cancel culture.

To answer a frequently asked question, yes, the College is planning on resuming classes in the fall. As to exactly what that will entail to stay within state guidelines, stay tuned. Regardless, you may rest assured that we will continue to fight the good fight and offer an excellent education to some of our country’s best and brightest students.

Should you wish to contact us, please send me an email at **associates@hillsdale.edu**. I hope that your summer is going well and that you are finding time to enjoy treasured moments with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Kathleen

Kathleen Ruddy, ’82
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