

Media Advisory – Monday, Jan. 18, 2016

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The Art of Biography Hillsdale College Hosts Center for Constructive Alternatives

Famed British writer and critic Lytton Strachey referred to the art of biography as “the most delicate and humane of all the branches of the art of writing,” adding that “it is perhaps as difficult to write a good life as to live one.” No one knows this better than Hillsdale College, who in 2004 took on the massive undertaking of completing the biography of Sir Winston Churchill – the largest biography in history.

From Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, Hillsdale College will host its Center for Constructive Alternatives (CCA) to reflect on the art of biography and to consider recent biographies through the eyes of their authors. Hillsdale College’s CCA sponsors one of the largest college lecture series in America. CCA seminars are held four times a year on wide-ranging topics. Lectures are free and open to the public.

Sunday, January 31

4:00 p.m. “Why Do We Read Biographies?”

Joseph Epstien

Author, *Essays in Biography*

8:00 p.m. “Lincoln and His Modern Biographers”

Allen Guelzo

Gettysburg College

Author, *Redeeming the Great Emancipator*

Monday, February 1

4:00 p.m. “Laura Ingalls Wilder: Biography and Autobiography”

Pamela Smith Hill

Author, *Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Writer’s Life*

Editor, *Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography*

8:00 p.m. “Trustworthiness of Ancient Sources”

Barry Strauss

Cornell University

Author, *The Death of Caesar: The Story of History’s Most Famous Assassination*

Tuesday, February 2

4:00 p.m. “Billy Graham: The Relationship of Life and Times”

Grant Wacker

Duke Divinity School

Author, *America’s Pastor: Billy Graham and the Shaping of a Nation*

8:00 p.m. “What do We Learn from the Lives of Poets”

Paul Mariani

Boston College
Poet and Author, *The Whole Harmonium: The Life of Wallace Stevens*

WHAT: **Hillsdale College's Center for Constructive Alternatives**
Lecture Series: The Art of Biography

WHERE: **Hillsdale College**
33 E. College St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

Hillsdale College is an independent liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 2.9 million.

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