

HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Parents

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018 • VOL. 23, No. 2

The Power of Truth

LARRY P. ARNN

President

According to its Articles of Association, Hillsdale College was founded to provide such instruction as will “best develop the minds and improve the hearts of its students.” This contains the idea that the pursuit of intellectual virtue cannot be divorced from the development of moral virtue. We provide our students with a rigorous core curriculum and difficult studies not merely that they may pursue knowledge of what is true and good, but that they may develop through habit an honorable character capable of self-government.

Our newest statue on campus, that of Frederick Douglass, reminds us of this connection. Douglass was a man whose character displays the moral and intellectual virtues on a grand scale. Born into slavery, he possessed the fierce resolve necessary to become a learned man in a society organized to deny him the benefits of education. He came to the fundamental knowledge that human nature is incompatible with slavery and that the institution of slavery was incompatible with the principles of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. When Douglass first spoke on our campus in 1863, he described slavery not only as an evil, but also as an error. The distinction is an important one. If it is an evil, it can only be fought. If it is an error, it can be argued with: one can deliberate and adduce reasons. In confronting slavery, Douglass modeled the art of statesmanship.



Our Douglass statue joins the statue of Abraham Lincoln on the south side of the campus. Both face the College’s oldest statue, that of a soldier. Created by Lorado Taft and dedicated in 1895, this soldier statue commemorates the Civil War service of our students. Douglass, who exposed the great errors of slavery through the power of his character and intellect, looks upon the soldier with resolve; Lincoln, whose command led so many to give the last full measure of devotion, looks upon the soldier with solemnity. This scene represents the price that was paid for the freedom to study the high things that animate the classrooms here. It reminds us of the sacrifices made so

that we may study without some master or tyrant telling us what to read or what to think.

Hillsdale College enjoys great privileges today. Amidst these many blessings, we must not forget the great price that was paid so that we might gather on this campus in an atmosphere of learning and friendship. We must strive to follow the example of Douglass, who demonstrated the purposes of the College so nobly through his attainment of high learning, steady and elevated character, defense of the Constitution, and insight into the nature of God and man.

In choosing to attend Hillsdale College, your child has agreed to join as a partner in our efforts to be worthy of these privileges. We remain ever grateful to you for raising such a child, and we hope you will visit us often.



A Different Point of View

Julio Suarez Brings Artistic Experience to Hillsdale

BY BRENDAN CLAREY, '18

Assistant Professor of Art Julio Suarez, enjoying his first semester at Hillsdale College, sees art as an integral part of the liberal arts.

"In order to paint or draw well, you have to be able to think well. You have to be able to see things from different points of view," Suarez says. "Painting and drawing are all about relationships—things working together and relating to each other."

Originally from Miami, Florida, Suarez attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City for his undergraduate degree and received his M.F.A. from Indiana University. He intended to become an illustrator, but he fell in love with painting instead. He made a living showing and selling his paintings as well as teaching, and eventually decided he wanted to teach full-time.

Suarez continues to paint, and recently won a Best of Show award in the Greater Michigan Art Exhibit. This semester, he is teaching courses in drawing, advanced drawing, and oil painting.



For Suarez, painting and drawing affect the way students see reality, often giving them a new perspective on the world.

"Painting and drawing train the student to see the world as it really is," Suarez says. "And apprehending the truth about things is a vitally important aim of a liberal arts education."

Reflections on 40+ Years of Teaching at Hillsdale

BY SAM KNECHT
Professor Emeritus of Art

Teaching art at Hillsdale College has been the greatest influence on my growth as an artist. In the disciplines of painting, drawing, and art history, I was continually challenged to improve. Though this was due to many factors, I especially enjoyed working with Hillsdale students, and I have been inspired by their unique character and vibrant personalities.

Naturally, my colleagues in the arts have influenced me for the better as well. Professor Joy Stewart, who hired me part time in 1973, was a model of wise advice, high teaching standards, and departmental leadership that served the best interests of the College. My current colleagues have my profound respect and thanks for their examples and dedication as well.

One of the marvels of Hillsdale is that it encourages interdepartmental learning. I could audit a cadaver class with Dr. Townsend, talk politics with Drs. Wolfram and Craig, and develop deep friendships with Drs. Steiner and Sundahl.

The funding that Hillsdale professors receive for conference

attendance, sabbatical leaves, and summer leave grants is a great stimulus for professional growth. Likewise, many of the friends of Hillsdale who visit campus have become friends and patrons of the arts, and some have bought artwork here.

I learned much about woodworking from Ted Day and Frank Bechler in the Maintenance Department and Dave Griffiths in the Theatre Department. That knowledge came in handy when helping students build frames from scratch, but also for after-hours carpentry on my old Victorian house. Regardless of department or rung of the ladder, I've learned good things from all.

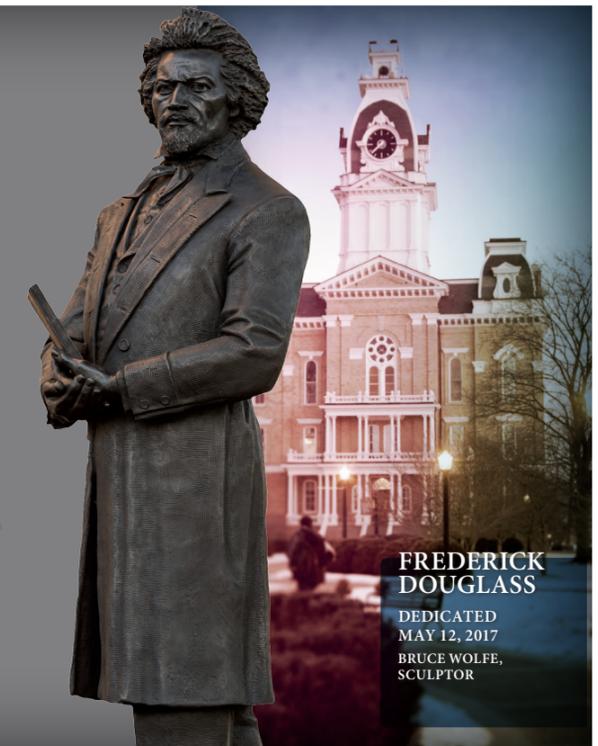
On the verge of retirement last semester, I made a list of Hillsdale faculty, staff, and administrators who have positively influenced me. The list was very long, and I knew I could add more.

To quote Jack Nicholson in *As Good as It Gets*, working at Hillsdale College has "made me want to be a better man."

THE HILLSDALE COLLEGE LIBERTY WALK

"Neither law, learning, nor religion, is addressed to any man's color or race. Science, education, the Word of God, and all the virtues known among men, are recommended to us, not as races, but as men. We are not recommended to love or hate any particular variety of the human family more than any other. Not as Ethiopians; not as Caucasians; not as Mongolians; not as Afro-Americans, or Anglo-Americans, are we addressed, but as men. God and nature speak to our manhood, and to our manhood alone. Here all ideas of duty and moral obligation are predicated."

—Frederick Douglass,
"Blessings of Liberty and Education"
September 3, 1894



FREDERICK DOUGLASS
DEDICATED
MAY 12, 2017
BRUCE WOLFE,
SCULPTOR



Jack and Jo Babbitt with their scholarship recipients at the Christ Chapel cornerstone ceremony.

A Musician's Capstone—Senior Projects and Recitals

BY HANNAH NIEMEIER, '18

On a campus where one-third of students participate in music ensembles, it's not uncommon to spend a lot of time in Howard Music Hall. For seniors, all the time spent in practice rooms is a buildup to their senior recital.

"The capstone for music majors is the senior recital," Music Department Chairman James Holleman says. "They can choose to do a full recital, or a half recital along with a project in another area of interest." Those areas include music education, research in music history or theory, and conducting projects.

"Our program is unique because many students are not music majors," Holleman says. "Nevertheless, they have studied music and participated in ensembles. Music majors or not, they want to present a recital of their work."

For senior Jonathan Henreckson, a tenor vocalist with a music major and theater minor, the senior recital wasn't enough. When Holleman asked Henreckson to direct Opera Workshop, an annual production of a famous opera, Henreckson agreed.

"This is something I've been interested in since my freshman year," Henreckson says. "In addition to directing, I was put in charge of choosing the show, casting, and costuming."

Henreckson spent much of his summer choosing the music, acquiring music rights, and preparing scores for his selected opera, *Pirates of Penzance* (pictured above), while also preparing an 18-piece quartet series of Brahms' "Lieder" for his primary voice recital in the spring. The time commitment is considerable. But for Henreckson, who wants to teach music, it's an opportunity too good to pass up.

"Directing a full show will be great experience for my future career," Henreckson says. "I will have directed a show, taught music, and conducted."

For both majors and non-majors, the senior project is more than a box to check off.

"It's important for parents and family to hear their student's recital," Holleman says. "It is the culmination of years of hard work."

HILLSDALE COLLEGE
PARENTS PHONATHON
 MARCH 12 - 15, 2018 Monday - Thursday, 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

The Hill is Alive with the Sound of Music

Christ Chapel to Feature Sacred Music Program

The completion of Christ Chapel in May of 2019 will mark the beginning of a new sacred music program at Hillsdale College.

Essential to the program will be two custom-built organs designed by Paul Fritts and Company of Tacoma, Washington. A chancel organ will be housed in the front of the Chapel and will accompany the choirs and orchestra. A grand organ will be installed in the rear of the chapel. Additional program elements will include a chapel choir, regular evensong and other music services, and courses in the sacred music of the Western world, according to Music Department Director James Holleman.

The construction progress marked a milestone on November 7, 2017. In conjunction with Fall Convocation, Hillsdale College held a cornerstone ceremony for Christ Chapel. A crowd gathered on the construction site adjacent to the rapidly rising building. After a Scripture reading and a performance by the Chamber Choir, President Larry Arnn offered some remarks. "You can't read the story of Hillsdale College without an understanding of its four central purposes: freedom, high learning, character, and God," he said.

The cornerstone, situated at the southwest corner of the chapel, bears the inscription "For God and Country" in both Greek and Latin. Jack and Jo Babbitt, who provided the leadership gift for Christ Chapel, presented a memento box to be placed in the cornerstone. The box contains a Bible, the College's Articles of Association, the Honor Code, and a copy of the cornerstone ceremony program. Dr. Arnn then spread the mortar for the laying of the cornerstone.

In the meantime, naming opportunities still exist, including for the chancel, pulpit, balconies, arches, and

the portico, among others. Scholarships for music study are needed as well. If you are interested in learning more about these giving opportunities, please contact Director of Parent Relations Mary Ewers at mewers@hillsdale.edu or (517) 607-2469.





Just Dance!

Interest and Offerings in Dance Program Expanding

BY HANNAH NIEMEIER, '18

Hillsdale College's dance program is expanding its offerings for the dance minor, the dance honorary, and the Tower Dancers, a student dance company.

Holly Hobbs, director of the dance program, is happy to be expanding. "Not only is dance a beautiful activity," she says, "but it also offers relief from the daily stress of College life. It's a lifelong pursuit, and I hope to get more students involved."

Rachel Watson, a senior English major with Greek and dance minors, has been president of the honorary, a member of the Tower Dancers, and a student in new courses on dance pedagogy and choreography. She prefers ballet, but has learned to appreciate Hobbs' specialty: modern dance.

"In the dance world, there is much more than ballet," Watson says. "Professor Hobbs makes sure students are well-rounded."

The dance minor includes classes in modern dance choreography, where students choreograph their own pieces and teach them to their peers.

"It is not uncommon for students to show up on campus without a lot of modern dance experience," Hobbs says. "Modern dance is a very expressive art form, and it lends itself well to the liberal arts."

Hobbs pointed to the dance program's history of collaborating with other departments on campus—the Dancers have worked with Tim Dolch in the Physics Department and Stacey Jones-Garrison, a teacher of percussion in the Howard Music Department. The Tower Dancers opened their 15th season with a piece called "Water Study," a collaboration with the Music Department.

"Dancing is a great creative outlet," Watson says. "It has taught me to have a greater appreciation for my academic classes."

Rebirth of Liberty and Learning Campaign Update

NANCY JOHNSON

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

The Rebirth of Liberty and Learning Campaign, launched in 2012, has entered its final year. Students are enjoying many of the fruits of the campaign, including the Margot V. Biermann Athletic Center, the renovated Dawn Tibbetts Potter Arena and Student Fitness Center, the Searle Center with its spacious lobby and dining hall, and extensive residence hall renovations.

Still more campaign projects are under way. The most prominent work in progress is Christ Chapel, now taking shape at the center of campus. The effort and cost required for such a project are great, and we are indebted to the many donors who have helped us approach our \$28.5 million construction goal. The support of the Hillsdale College Parents Association has been especially significant: to date, our parents have given \$3.9 million in gifts and pledges for Christ Chapel.

Christ Chapel will provide a much-needed home for many activities, including large-scale choral and instrumental performances. With the help of acoustician Dennis Fleisher, architect Duncan Stroik has designed Christ Chapel so that



Nancy Johnson

its sound environment will be superior among American college music venues. Two organs are being built and voiced to complement each other by Paul Fritts and Company of Tacoma, Washington. We are grateful for the generous gifts that have fully funded both organs. The chancel organ will accompany choirs and instruments, while the grand organ will fill the entire chapel with sound.

This world-class music venue will provide an enhanced opportunity for the education of Hillsdale students in the fine arts. The College seeks to endow the position of an organist-choirmaster, who will instruct students in the art of organ performance and accompaniment and develop the skill and repertoire of the choir for performance and worship. With daily evensong services, students seeking careers as church musicians will be able to hone their skills. Hillsdale also plans

to build a scholarship endowment to support organ students who will be highly trained here and will go on to share their talents in houses of worship throughout the country.

Music and the arts are essential to a traditional liberal arts education. We are grateful for the gifts of parents and grandparents who have supported the College's mission to provide this kind of education. With your help, Hillsdale students will continue to enjoy its challenges and benefits.



CRUISE RAFFLE WINNER

"I thoroughly enjoyed this trip—from the many stimulating onboard lectures to the awe-inspiring sights of Copenhagen, Gdansk, Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, and Oslo. Not to mention the many conversations with my fellow cruisers and the excellent meals, plus the time I spent simply relaxing by the pool. It was a cruise to remember. Thank you, Hillsdale College!"

—Evan Myers, Hillsdale College 2017 Copenhagen to Oslo Cruise Raffle Winner

HILLSDALE COLLEGE CRUISE

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SAN FRANCISCO
ABOARD THE
CRYSTAL SYMPHONY

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The President's Club Is Calling

We invite you to consider joining The President's Club, Hillsdale's premier donor society that recognizes members "for partnership in the College's mission, to promote 'civil and religious liberty and intelligent piety' through 'sound learning,' both in the classroom and through national outreach."

There are just over 3,386 memberships (comprised of individuals and couples) for a total of 5,534 members from across the country. Levels have recently changed for new or upgraded memberships only. Members at the Traditional level make a \$15,000 gift outright (or pledge \$1,500/year or \$125/month for ten years). Bronze members make a \$25,000 gift outright (or pledge \$2,500/year or \$209/month for ten years). Silver members make

a \$50,000 gift outright (or pledge \$5,000/year or \$417/month for ten years). Gold members make a \$100,000 gift outright (or pledge \$10,000/year or \$843/month for ten years). Platinum members make a \$500,000 outright gift (or pledge \$50,000/year). Diamond members make a \$1 million outright gift (or pledge \$100,000/year).

The list below recognizes current parents and grandparents who are President's Club members. If you are a member and your name does not appear, please contact Cheryl Clawson at caclawson@hillsdale.edu or (517) 607-2382. For information on joining The President's Club, please contact Maree Socha at msocha@hillsdale.edu or (517) 607-2601, or contact Mary Ewers, Director of Parent Relations and The President's Club, at mewers@hillsdale.edu or (517) 607-2382.

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Continued on next page

IT CAN BE A LONG WALK from Freshman Convocation to the Parents Farewell Dinner. For many parents, it is the culmination of weeks of preparation, days of travel, hours of moving in, and minutes of saying goodbye to a child we have reared for years. We are comforted by Dr. Arnn's assurance that the College will continue to build on, not tear down, what we have taken 18 years to establish. And Parents Weekend does not seem so far away.

So it was for us as first-time Hillsdale parents with Amy, '08, followed by Sam, '13, and now Isaac, '20. How indebted we are to those seasoned parents who assured us that letting go is a natural and worthy process. The exceptional education in mind

and character our children received at Hillsdale has unquestionably fed the soul of our family.

We believe Hillsdale College is unique, essential, and worthy of support. Please consider making a commitment to join us and many other parents in The President's Club, where you will play a significant part in the future of the College. We urge you to deepen your relationship with Hillsdale, helping to preserve an irreplaceable institution of learning for our children and our children's children.

— **MARTY AND JAYNE JOHNSON**
Haslett, Michigan



Sophomore Isaac Johnson (at age 9 and age 18) has fulfilled his dream of attending Hillsdale College.

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The Fine Arts at Hillsdale College

MARY EWERS

Director of Parent Relations and The President's Club and Independence Club

This issue focuses on the fine arts, which incorporate a variety of studies within each major. For example, theatre majors study speech and acting, literature, dance, and the visual arts, and develop proficiency with lighting, recorded sound, mechanics, and electronics communications media. Seniors must complete and defend senior projects, which combine research, analysis, writing, and practical theatre skills. They also have off-campus opportunities for study, including the Stratford (Ontario) Shakespeare Festival and the American College Theatre Festival.



Mary Ewers

As mentioned in the previous issue, plans are underway for an extensive renovation of Phillips Auditorium. This expansion, which will complement the adjacent Searle Center, will double the Auditorium's seating capacity and provide a new sound system and larger stage. I encourage you to consider the Seats of Honor campaign, through which you can purchase and name a seat in the new auditorium for a minimum \$5,000 contribution.

ONLINE COURSES

Hillsdale College launched two new online courses this fall. "Mark Twain: *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and Selected Short Stories" examines the classic works of one of America's most beloved authors. English Professors Kelly Scott Franklin and Benedict Whalen will lead the nine-week course, which begins with an introductory lecture by President Arnn on the study of literature at Hillsdale. "Western Heritage—From the Book of Genesis to John Locke" is an 11-week course and features lectures by President Arnn and other History Department faculty. Course lectures will be available on our website for on-demand viewing following their release. To register for these or one of our many other free, not-for-credit online courses, go to online.hillsdale.edu.

CHRIST CHAPEL

Construction on Christ Chapel has been under way since the spring, and is scheduled to be completed by Commencement 2019. To help support this project, the Parents Association and members of the Parents Association Steering Committee (PASC) have set a goal of \$2.8 million over the next few years. Gifts from parents and grandparents have a profound impact on our students at Hillsdale. From Howard Music Hall to the Grewcock Student Union, from the athletic facilities and fields to recent dormitory renovations, there are many new and improved facilities that your student enjoys. Because your gift will benefit not only your student but also those who follow, we invite you to participate in the Parents Fund today by making a gift or pledge toward the chapel. Every dollar we raise for the chapel will help the College meet a generous \$12.5 million, dollar-for-dollar challenge grant from President's Club members Jack and Jo Babbitt in support

of the construction project and a special endowed maintenance fund for the chapel.

JUST SAY YES!

Help us reach our goals for Christ Chapel and for College operations. When one of our parent callers asks you to make a donation during the Parent-to-Parent Phonathon, please say YES! Next spring's Phonathon will be held on March 12-15, 2018, from 6:00-9:30 p.m. (Eastern Time). We will call current parents and grandparents as well as the parents and grandparents of past Hillsdale students. Won't you join us as we attempt to reach our goal of 100 percent participation? If you wish to volunteer as a caller, please contact Cheryl Clawson at (517) 607-2382 or caclawson@hillsdale.edu. We hope you will join us!

or caclawson@hillsdale.edu. We hope you will join us!

CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS—JOIN THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB!

We are grateful for the increasing number of current parents and grandparents who have joined The President's Club. They know what others may not—that the \$71,376 net cost of a Hillsdale education is almost twice the \$37,352 that is charged for tuition, room, board, and fees. Privately funded scholarships, grants, and loans make up the difference. Note the chart that compares the net cost per student for 2017-2018 with the actual cost of tuition.

What a blessing it is to be able to prepare America's future leaders with an excellent Hillsdale education. Joining The President's Club is a way to follow in the footsteps of past parents and grandparents who made it possible for today's students to attend Hillsdale at a much lower cost.

We are grateful for the fine group of current and past parents and grandparents who strive to live according to the Scripture passage, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." For more information on The President's Club, please contact Mary Ewers at mewers@hillsdale.edu or call (517) 607-2382.

WILL YOU HOST A HILLSDALE GATHERING NEXT SUMMER?

Each summer, Hillsdale parents volunteer to host summer gatherings for incoming and current students and their parents. Last summer, there were 19 meetings in 14 states. These are wonderful opportunities for incoming freshman students and their parents to meet current parents and students from their geographic area, ask questions, and enjoy the camaraderie of the Hillsdale family. Will you take your turn next summer? With your help, we can host summer gatherings around the country. If you would like to host a summer gathering, please go to the Hillsdale website, click on Info For, then Parents, then Parents Association, and then Volunteer Opportunities. When the sub-committee list appears, click on the e-mail address of the chair of the Freshman/Welcome Sub-Committee. A member of the Parent Relations

staff will contact you with additional information. You may also call Parent Relations at (517) 607-2382.

HOLD THAT DATE!

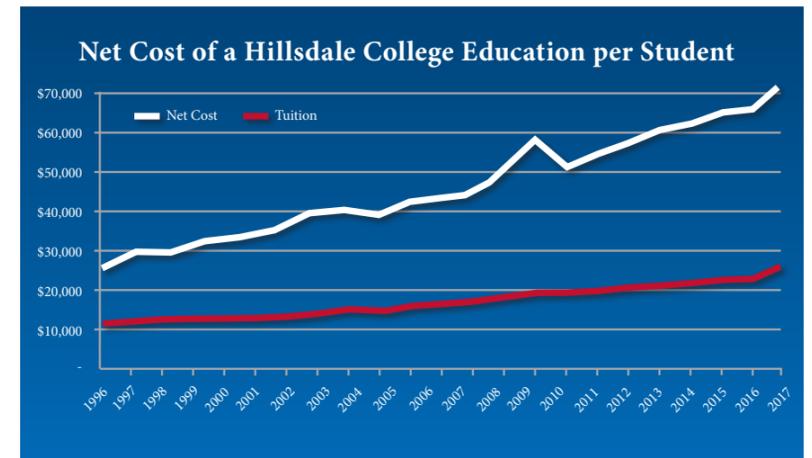
Spring Parents Weekend will be March 16-18, 2018, and the Spring Phonathon will be March 12-15, 2018. Please consider volunteering! We look forward to hearing from you.

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL

Please keep your preferred e-mail address updated. Contact Cheryl Clawson at (517) 607-2382 or caclawson@hillsdale.edu with your preferred e-mail address. Don't forget to include your name and address.

GRANDPARENT INFORMATION

If you know of grandparents who would like to receive the *Parents Newsletter* and invitations to Parent/Grandparent events, please let us know. If they do not receive *Imprimis*, we would be happy to add them to the complimentary subscription list.



The net cost of a Hillsdale education per student is based on the fiscal year operating budget and the total enrollment for the fiscal year. Hillsdale's annual tuition increases averaged 3.4 percent over the past ten years.

Come for the Send-Off Party, Stay for the Friendships

BY DR. TAMi TUCKER

Parent of Ralston Tucker, '18

Last summer, my husband and I hosted our third—and final—summer send-off party. These get-togethers are a way for Hillsdale parents to meet other Hillsdale families in their area. We unite under the banner of sending our children to a common place with a common purpose, and we learn about volunteer service and other opportunities to help the College. Many parents hear for the first time that yearly tuition only covers about half of what it actually costs to educate their child. These parties are informative and also serve to reduce parental anxiety for many sending their student so far away.

Those of us who have experienced a summer send-off party owe a debt of gratitude to Parent Relations Director Mary Ewers for her willingness to attend and for her ability to connect with parents and make us all feel like we are part of something greater. During these summer send-offs, many of us have bonded with other parents, resulting in lasting friendships. The quality of the Hillsdale community is unsurpassed. Through these gatherings, we are able to participate in this community, not only in Michigan, but also in our own backyards.



A summer send-off party at the Tucker home



Ralston, Sutton, Tami, and George Tucker



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
HILLSDALE MI
PERMIT 3

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

WINTER 2018

As Hillsdale College parents and grandparents, you are welcome to attend any of the following events. For additional information on Hillsdale College events, or to register for an event, please call the Parent Relations Office at (517) 607-2382.

January 10-11, 2018	Freedom Forum Lafayette, Louisiana
January 18, 2018	Hillsdale College Reception Jacksonville, Florida
January 23, 2018	Estate Planning Luncheon Orlando, Florida
January 25, 2018	Estate Planning Luncheon Melbourne, Florida
January 28-31, 2018	CCA III—The Sixties. On Campus
February 6, 2018	Hillsdale College Reception Scottsdale, Arizona
February 8, 2018	Hillsdale College Luncheon Tucson, Arizona
February 12, 2018	Estate Planning Luncheon Costa Mesa, California
February 15, 2018	Estate Planning Luncheon Riverside, California
February 20-21, 2018	National Leadership Seminar. Bonita Springs, Florida
March 5-6, 2018	Freedom Forum Prescott, Arizona
March 8, 2018	Hometown Lecture Series. Pensacola, Florida
March 8-9, 2018	Freedom Forum Waukesha, Wisconsin
March 16-18, 2018	Spring Parents Weekend. On Campus
March 18-22, 2018	CCA IV—Films of Billy Wilder On Campus
March 21-24, 2018	Lifelong Learning Seminar. Washington, D.C.
March 26, 2018	Hillsdale College Reception Sonoma, California
March 28, 2018	Hillsdale College Reception Henderson, Nevada
April 10-11, 2018	National Leadership Seminar. Colorado Springs, Colorado

For information on Kirby Center events in Washington, D.C., call (202) 600-7300; e-mail kirbycenter@hillsdale.edu; or visit kirbycenter.hillsdale.edu.

For information on Lifelong Learning Seminars, please call (888) 886-1174 or e-mail lls@hillsdale.edu.