College Services for Students

Information Technology Services

This is the seventh in a series of articles about student support services at Hillsdale College. The following is an interview with Jason Sherrill, Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services, and Heidi Bargerhuff, Senior Director of Academic Technologies and Technology Training.

HOW DOES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS) HELP HILLSDALE STUDENTS?

JASON: ITS provides a wide array of services that are available to students from the time they are preparing to come to Hillsdale until graduation. Questions frequently asked by incoming freshmen include: What kind of technology do I need to be successful academically? Should I buy a Mac or PC? What is RAM, and how much do I need? When new students arrive on campus, we provide them with a technology orientation and help them set up their accounts. We also provide training in a number of software programs, such as Box, Canvas, and Microsoft Office. We encourage students to email their questions to the ITS Help Desk, or come and see us in Moss Hall.

HOW DO CAMPUS COMPUTER LABS BENEFIT STUDENTS WHO HAVE THEIR OWN LAPTOP?

HEIDI: In addition to the training courses held in the labs, students can print their papers and access specialized software, such as Adobe, ChemDraw, and MestReNova. Also, if a student’s laptop isn’t working, there are many computers available, and the labs are open until 2 a.m.

DO HILLSDALE STUDENTS WORK IN ITS?

JASON: Yes. We employ anywhere between four and ten students each semester as technicians. They serve as the first point of contact for their fellow students.

HEIDI: We also employ about 20 students each semester in the computer labs, and they are available to answer questions. All of our student employees gain a lot of valuable experience, which looks good on a résumé!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
The Cradle of Good Citizenship

LARRY P. ARNN
President

This spring I am teaching a course on “Education in America” in our new Master of Arts in Classical Education program, which trains students to be teachers and headmasters at classical K–12 schools. Education is the ground upon which the battle for our country is being fought, and we are preparing our students for the frontlines. We are teaching them about the purpose of education and how it relates to the political life of our country.

The classics thought education was essential, and the American Founders agreed. They knew that education is the primary means to preserve and perpetuate a free country, by teaching young people how to be good citizens. For much of our nation’s history, this was the main purpose of K–12 education, and it is to this purpose that our schools must return.

Despite the lamentable state of education today, I remain hopeful that freedom can be preserved because of parents like you. The family is the cradle of good citizenship and the foundation of every just political community. As your children’s first teachers, you are the custodians of our shared way of life. You raise them up in it and pass it on to them. This is good and noble work, and I thank you for your partnership and support.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ITS IN HILLSDALE’S NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM?

JASON: ITS works with program faculty to ensure the relevant software is in place so that students can learn about computer science through hands-on training. They are learning by doing. For students who are considering a career in IT, it’s a great opportunity to gain real-world experience.

EXPLAIN THE ITS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

JASON: We recently began an internship program for students who are interested in a career as a software developer. Their current project is assisting with the College’s online learning program, which means that not only are they learning about software development, they’re also helping to build a system that supports millions of users.

HEIDI: The internship program has proven to be so popular that there is currently a waitlist. The students really enjoy working with the ITS software development team, and they are learning a lot.

HOW DOES ITS SERVE THE MISSION OF THE COLLEGE?

JASON: Our role is to equip students with the technological tools they need to get the most out of their Hillsdale education. The College was founded to educate students in the liberal arts, and ITS contributes to that goal.
The list below recognizes current parents and grandparents who are President’s Club and Legacy Society members.

List is current as of December 19, 2022.

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AGE  RATE*  75  85
60  4.9  76  6.6
61  5.0  77  7.0
62  5.1  78  7.2
63  5.2  79  7.4
64  5.3  80  7.6
65  5.4  81  7.8
66  5.5  82  8.1
67  5.6  83  8.3
68  5.7  84  8.5
69  5.8  85  8.7
70  5.9  86  8.9
71  6.0  87  9.1
72  6.2  88  9.3
73  6.3  89  9.5
74  6.4  90+ 9.7

*SAMPLE ONE-LIFE RATES—LOWER TWO-LIFE RATES ALSO AVAILABLE.

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Hillsdale College Parents Newsletter 5
President’s Club pledges can be designated to state scholarships. Once a state scholarship fund reaches the minimum endowment requirement, awards are distributed at a 5 percent rate annually and in perpetuity. Prior to July 1, 2022, the required minimum endowment was $50,000, and the states that met this requirement are distributing awards. As of July 1, 2022, the required minimum endowment increased to $100,000. As these endowments grow, more students will benefit. This map shows pledges made and cash received toward each state's scholarship fund.
Parents Association Steering Committee

“The Stronger the Parents Community Is, the Stronger the College”

While Hillsdale parents are automatically enrolled in the Parents Association, they are able to get actively involved by joining the Parents Association Steering Committee (PASC) and one of its five sub-committees—Career Opportunities, Events, Fundraising, Freshman/New Parent, or Parent Prayer Partners.

The PASC coordinates volunteers to help at the annual Freshman Parent Farewell Dinner and at the Fall and Spring Parents Weekends. The PASC works in consultation with the Parent Relations Office, three faculty advisors, and President Arrnn.

Director of Parent Relations Maree Socha is grateful for the help:

The parents on the PASC serve the College in many ways, and we couldn’t do what we do without them. Parents Weekend events run very smoothly because of the PASC’s help. It’s a well-oiled machine!

PASC chairs for 2022–2023 are Dennis and Marily Fassett, who are completing their tenth and final year as parents (Victoria ’17, Catherine ’19, Dennis Jr. ’21, and Anika ’23). “The stronger the parents community is, the stronger the College,” says Dennis. “Serving on the PASC is a great way to help.”

One major PASC initiative is the Phonathon, which is managed by the Fundraising Sub-Committee and takes place over the four days prior to Parents Weekend. Parents make calls to Hillsdale supporters across the country to raise student scholarship funds. It’s become so popular that there is a waitlist to be a caller. “The parents have a blast,” explains Marily. “They love to do it because they feel they’re making a huge difference.”

Dennis adds:

Where else are you going to find a higher concentration of people who are so aligned with your values? Ten years have flown by for us, so we encourage parents not to wait to establish friendships with other parents. These are relationships that will last long after graduation.

From the day our daughter arrived on the Hillsdale campus as a freshman, we knew we were part of a very special family. As members of the PASC, we have the opportunity to serve the College that is so beautifully serving our children. We focus on harnessing the energy of parents, and we have a lot of fun along the way with our new and wonderful friends! The PASC has become our way of “attending” Hillsdale College, too.

RICH BACIGALUPI AND CAROL GRISWOLD-BACIGALUPI (KELSEY ’25)

We joined the PASC as a way to give back to Hillsdale, which has been so good to our family. The College relies heavily on parents and other volunteers to put on the fantastic Convocation and Parents Weekend events. We have a blast helping out. The biggest blessing has been meeting and becoming friends with parents from around the country. We are like one big family working for the College’s success.

STEPHEN AND ELISA FLEISCHER (MICHAEL ’22, JOHN HENRY ’26)

Our love for Hillsdale has only grown since we became members of the PASC. The people we have met are honest and kind, give selflessly, and bring fresh perspectives, while honoring traditional values that reinforce the College’s mission. Parent involvement is so important for Hillsdale’s future, and we are honored to be able to help.

MARK AND MICHELE HAMMONS (JACK ’23)

Serving on the PASC has allowed us to meet other parents who share the same vision of enriching students’ lives. There are many ways to get involved. We have especially enjoyed hosting Summer Send-Off parties and working at the Phonathon on campus. The PASC meets twice a year during Parents Weekend, and at every meeting we pray for the students, faculty, and staff of the College. We love being a part of the PASC and building relationships with parents from around the nation!

TROY AND KRISTI KINNEY (CALVIN ’19, MAX ’25)
The Four Pillars Campaign
Securing Hillsdale’s Independence

NANCY JOHNSON
Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Hillsdale was founded 179 years ago to serve four purposes: learning, character, faith, and freedom. The Four Pillars Campaign aims to equip the College to serve these purposes well into the future.

In October, Hillsdale held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Lenda and Glenda Hill Baseball Stadium and Delp Field. One of three projects that constitute the first phase of our outdoor athletic facilities improvement plan, the stadium will feature synthetic turf and a covered, 300-seat grandstand. Second, the track will be relocated from the football stadium to Hayden Park, allowing the College to host large-scale meets, including national championships. Third, the softball stadium will be relocated and will feature synthetic turf and a grandstand. Many naming opportunities are available for these three projects, beginning at $50,000.

The John Anthony Halter Shooting Sports Education Center is the home of Hillsdale’s shooting teams and of the USA Shooting National Team and also hosts a variety of programs for College guests. Olympic shooters train regularly at the Halter Center, which will also host National Olympic and Paralympic team selection matches, Junior Olympic championships, and youth development programs. To accommodate the increased activity at the Center, the Campaign includes a goal to fund a facility that combines an indoor Olympic air rifle, air pistol, and archery range with an outdoor Olympic smallbore rifle and pistol range. Several naming opportunities are available, including outdoor rifle and pistol lanes for $75,000 each and indoor Olympic archery lanes or Olympic air gun lanes for $25,000 each. We also aim to raise a $1.5 million scholarship endowment for Hillsdale students who participate in the shooting sports and a $2 million endowment to support the position of a shooting sports instructor and recruiter.

More than one-third of the funds raised through the Campaign—$260.2 million—will be dedicated to scholarships, and during the current academic year we aim to raise $30 million toward that goal. Thanks to the many generous contributions to the State Scholarship program (see pages 6 and 7), an initiative of the Parents Association, we are well on our way to meeting our goal. Parents and grandparents may choose to contribute to the scholarship endowment for their state, or they may establish a named, endowed scholarship with their own criteria, which could specify involvement in athletics, the fine arts, or campus leadership, or a specific academic major. A minimum endowment of $100,000 is required for a named scholarship, and that amount may be donated over the course of a number of years. The scholarship may bear your name or the name of someone you wish to honor.

Your support is essential to the College’s continued independence, and we remain grateful for your generosity. To learn more about these and other giving opportunities, please contact John Cervini, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at (517) 607-2670 or jcervini@hillsdale.edu or me at (517) 607-2314 or njohnson@hillsdale.edu. To make a gift, please call Donor Services at (517) 607-2727 or go online at secured.hillsdale.edu.
Going Above and Beyond

MAREE SOCHA
Director of The President’s Club, The Legacy Society, and Parent Relations

What an incredible year! Hillsdale parents and grandparents go above and beyond by giving a great gift to their students—a liberal arts education—and by serving the College’s mission by contributing their time, effort, and treasure. Those of you who are members of our President’s Club and Legacy Society provide additional and indispensable support.

I am proud to announce that during the Fall 2022 Phonathon, parents of current and past students raised a stunning $1,762,544, an increase of 91.7 percent over the previous record!

One of my greatest wishes is that you will find time to attend one or more of the many events we host here on campus and around the country. The work of the College continues to grow, and we are ever mindful that your generosity helps to make this possible. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support. Thank you.

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS
Because scholarships are so essential, the Parents Association Steering Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward student aid funding for the next three years. We are making good progress toward our goal to raise $3 million to support Hillsdale’s private scholarships, grants, and loans.

To that end, we seek to endow a scholarship for each of the 50 states. We encourage parents and grandparents to help. What a blessing to be able to help a student from your state who wishes to attend Hillsdale!

Parents may give directly to the state scholarship of their choice, or they may join The President’s Club and designate their pledge to a particular state scholarship. They may also consider setting up a named, endowed scholarship with their own criteria. Distributions from an endowed scholarship begin when the fund reaches $100,000.

Many of you have already contributed generously to a state scholarship, and all of us at the College are deeply grateful. For those of you who are considering supporting this endeavor, we welcome your partnership. Won’t you pay it forward, as those who came before you have done for your child?

NEW ONLINE COURSES
Three new online courses will be released this Spring: “The American Left: From Liberalism to Despotism,” featuring Associate Professor of Politics Kevin Slack; a course on chemistry, featuring Professor of Chemistry Matthew Young; and a course on American foreign policy, featuring Lecturer and Research Fellow Michael Anton. The College plans to release a course on ancient Christianity in Summer 2023 and a course on Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol in Fall 2023.

To date, more than 3.2 million citizens have registered for one or more of our free, for-credit online courses. All of Hillsdale’s online courses are archived at online.hillsdale.edu.

In addition, the College launched a for-credit online learning program for a limited number of high school-age students. Two courses are being offered for credit this Spring: American History and American Government.

SPRING PHONATHON
Help us reach our goals for scholarships and College operations. When one of our parent callers asks you to donate during the Parent-to-Parent Phonathon, please say, “Yes!” Parent volunteers will be calling parents and grandparents of current and past Hillsdale students from 6:00-9:30 p.m. EST on February 27–March 2, 2023. If you wish to volunteer as a caller, please contact me at (517) 607-2382 or msocha@hillsdale.edu. We would love to have you join us!

JOIN THE PRESIDENT’S CLUB!
We are grateful for the increasing number of parents and grandparents who have joined The President’s Club. It is a privilege to partner with those who understand that the $91,488 net cost of a Hillsdale education is far greater than the $42,182 that is charged for tuition, room, board, and fees. Joining The President’s Club is a way to follow in the footsteps of the parents and grandparents of past students who gave so that today’s students can attend Hillsdale at an affordable cost. I am honored to be part of this fine group of parents and grandparents who continue to support the College’s mission. We are grateful, as is every student. For more information about The President’s Club, please contact me at (517) 607-2382 or msocha@hillsdale.edu.

SUMMER SEND-OFF PARTY
Each summer, Hillsdale parents volunteer to host send-off parties for incoming and current students and their parents. This past summer, there were 27 parties in 17 states. These are wonderful opportunities for freshmen and their parents to meet other parents and students from their geographic area, ask questions, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes from being part of the Hillsdale family. It is an ideal way for parents to get involved with Hillsdale College and all it has to offer them. Won’t you consider hosting a party next summer?

Our office coordinates these send-off parties in response to the many calls we receive from freshman parents inquiring about such events. If you would like to host a summer send-off party, please contact Glee Hoohnout, the chair of the Freshman/New Parent Sub-Committee, at whollyoilsandwellness@gmail.com. You may also sign up by calling the Parent Relations Office.
Brent and Michelle Gentry
“The Community Connects Us to the Mission”

Brent and Michelle Gentry met as students at Henderson State University in Arkansas, where they earned degrees in business and nursing, respectively. They now reside in Mesa, Arizona, where Brent is a CEO of an architectural build firm and Michelle worked as a nurse at Chandler Regional Hospital until their first child was born. She then became a full-time homemaker and has been homeschooling their children—Keara ’25, Israel, and Trinity—for the last ten years.

The Gentrys learned about Hillsdale from their friends and fellow Mesa residents Jeffrey and Heather Ventrella, whose children were attending the College. “They were huge advocates,” says Brent.

“We love Hillsdale’s commitment to its mission, and we appreciate the straightforward approach that comes from the top. When we were told, ‘This is what the school is about, and it’s going to be hard,’ we were very much drawn to it.”

The Gentrys are particularly grateful for the faculty, especially Assistant Professor of History Edward Gutiérrez, who helped Keara adjust to campus life. “Dr. Gutiérrez was fantastic. He helped her to focus,” explains Brent. “She’s happy, and she loves Hillsdale.” Gutiérrez is also helping Israel, a senior in high school, by giving him book recommendations in preparation for college.

Delighted to be in their second year as Hillsdale parents, Michelle participated in her first Phonathon in Fall 2022.

The Phonathon was an incredible experience—getting to know other parents and members of the staff, and helping out behind the scenes. It made me more excited to be a part of Hillsdale.

This year they decided to get even more involved by becoming President’s Club members. “It’s really great to be part of The President’s Club—a community of like-minded people,” says Michelle. “Everyone we meet is incredibly passionate about the College and its mission. It’s an honor to be able to invest in the future of our country.” Brent adds: “The community connects us to the mission.”

SAVE THE DATE - FALL PARENTS WEEKEND
Fall Parents Weekend will be October 27-29, 2023, with Phonathon dates of October 23-26, 2023. Please volunteer! We look forward to hearing from you.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
Please keep your preferred email address updated. Contact me at (517) 607-2382 or msocha@hillsdale.edu with updates. Don’t forget to include your name and address.

INFORMATION FOR GRANDPARENTS
If you know of grandparents who would like to be connected to their grandchild at Hillsdale College and receive their own Parents Newsletter and invitations to Parent/Grandparent events, please contact our office and let us know. If they are not Imprimis readers, we can add them to our subscription list free of charge.
2023 Calendar of Events
As Hillsdale College parents and grandparents, you are welcome to attend any of the following events. For additional information, please call the Parent Relations Office at (517) 607-2382.

February 5–8  CCA II—Classical Greece and Rome ...........................................On Campus
February 6  Stanton Foundation Center for American Classical Education Dedication ............................On Campus
February 14  Center for Military History and Grand Strategy Lecture ...........................................On Campus
February 16  Pulliam Journalism Fellow Lecture .............................................................................On Campus
February 21–22  National Leadership Seminar—America’s Uncertain Future .....................Indian Wells, California
March 3–5  Parents Weekend ........................................................................................................On Campus
March 5–8  CCA IV—Big Pharma ...................................................................................................On Campus
March 13–14  Freedom Forum—Freedom and Western Civilization ..................................The Villages, Florida
March 16–17  Freedom Forum—Freedom and Western Civilization ........................................Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
March 21  Hillsdale College Luncheon .........................................................................................Charleston, South Carolina
March 23  Hillsdale College Reception .............................................................................................Charlotte, North Carolina
March 29–April 1  Hillsdale Hostel—American Foreign Policy ........................................Washington, D.C.
April 6  Center for Military History and Grand Strategy Lecture ........................................On Campus
April 13  Convocation and Dedication of the Christ Chapel Gallery Organ ................................On Campus
April 18  Hillsdale College Reception .............................................................................................Mobile, Alabama
April 20  Hillsdale College Luncheon—Museum of the Bible .................................................Washington, D.C.
April 21–22  Somers Seminar—Separation of Church and State .............................................Somers, Connecticut
April 24–25  National Leadership Seminar—America’s Uncertain Future ..........................Irving, Texas

* Dates and locations are subject to change.

Cover Photo: Hillsdale College Children’s Garden in the Slayton Arboretum | Photo by Scott Galvin/Galvin Photo, LLC