

# Parents Newsletter



SPRING 2024 • VOL. 29, NO. 2



## College Services for Students Registrar's Office

*This is the ninth in a series of articles about student support services at Hillsdale College.*

Located in the basement of Central Hall, the Registrar's Office is one of the hubs of campus life. The Office collaborates with several other departments in order to provide a variety of tools and information to students to ensure a smooth journey from admission through graduation. Registrar Doug McArthur explains:

*Our principal responsibility is to present the curriculum to students in a way that is understandable and logical so they can work their way through it while achieving their individual goals. We ensure they are fulfilling the requirements for the core, as well as for their major and minor areas of study.*

The Registrar's Office assigns students a faculty advisor, registers them for courses, and helps them track their academic progress. It is also responsible for creating the College's schedule of courses each semester, assigning hundreds of offerings among 58 classrooms in seven buildings on campus, as well as the Washington, D.C., campus. "Making the course schedule

involves fitting a lot of different pieces together," McArthur says. "I like to compare it to working on a large puzzle."

The Office adjudicates student transfer credits, sets the start and end dates for the academic year, and assists with accreditation and surveillance audit processes. It also works with Online Learning with its for-credit online courses for high school students and helps with general oversight of the three graduate schools.

Although there is still a lot of foot traffic in the Registrar's Office, many services are available online. McArthur especially encourages parents to tell their students about the self-auditing tool, which shows whether they are meeting major, minor, and other graduation requirements. Although a full audit is done when students apply to graduate, they can avoid unwelcome surprises if they track their progress throughout their time at Hillsdale.

To learn more about the Registrar's Office and to view important information it makes available for students, including the academic calendar and *Course Catalog*, please visit [hillsdale.edu/academics/academic-resources/registrar](https://hillsdale.edu/academics/academic-resources/registrar). ■





# The Art of Governing

**LARRY P. ARNN**  
*President*

This spring I am teaching a course called “The Art of Governing” at Hillsdale’s Van Andel Graduate School of Government in Washington, D.C. The graduate students in D.C. are a highly impressive group of young but established professionals who come from a diverse set of educational backgrounds.

Why do people working long hours in fields like journalism, law, and government take time from their busy schedules to study the writings of Aristotle, Shakespeare, America’s Founders, and Churchill? These writings address enduring problems of

human and political life—problems that are not unique to us or to our times. We should find comfort in that fact.

For Aristotle, knowledge is a good that is best enjoyed in common, and our nation’s Founders knew that education is the primary means by which to perpetuate a free country. Although we live in worrisome times, we remain hopeful that the work of teaching and learning that goes on at Hillsdale will help see us through any crises that might arise.

In carrying on this joyful work, we remain ever grateful for your partnership and support. ■

**SAVE THE DATE**

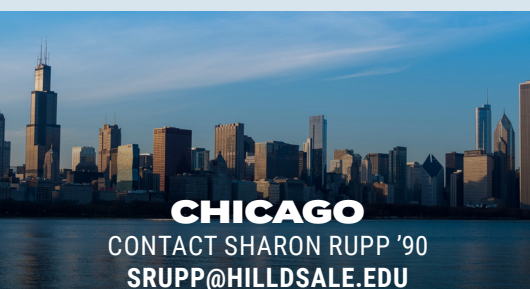
**CAREER SERVICES OFFICE**

## ANNUAL EXPLORE PROGRAM

**CHICAGO, NASHVILLE, WASHINGTON, D.C.**

For students interested in securing a summer internship or job, Hillsdale’s Career Services Office will host the annual Explore Program during Fall Break on October 17–18, 2024. Students who participate in the program will visit one of three cities: Chicago, Nashville, or Washington, D.C.

The Explore Program offers students the opportunity to network with local alumni and visit businesses and organizations in these cities. Interested students should contact one of the following Career Services staff members:



NOTE: Program cost varies depending on the city and includes transportation, lodging, and most meals.





## Krav Maga

### College Offers Self-Defense Course

In 2022, Ben Judge and his wife Jean moved with their children from Southern California to Hillsdale to work at the College. Jean, who had previously worked remotely providing part-time legal support to the K-12 Education Office, is Assistant General Counsel, while Ben teaches in the Sport Studies Department. A former intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy, he practices Krav Maga, an Israeli self-defense system.

Judge first learned of Krav Maga while a junior at Claremont McKenna College in California, and he has been hooked ever since. Translated as “contact combat,” Judge explains that it

*is not considered a martial art because of its practical nature. It is a self-defense system that was developed in Czechoslovakia in the 1930s by Jewish boxers and wrestlers who wanted to protect their families and their neighbors during Nazi-inspired riots. They had discovered that their boxing and wrestling skills were insufficient for practical fighting.*

After Israel was founded in 1948, the Israel Defense Forces adopted Krav Maga along with the motto, “So one may walk in peace.” About 40 years ago, the hand-to-hand combat system began making its way to the United States and is typically offered at gyms as one of many workout programs. But Judge believes

mastering the system requires regular practice and following a rigorous step-by-step curriculum. He also thinks anyone can benefit from it, regardless of height, weight, sex, or age.

*There are many self-defense courses available that are based on particular scenarios, and some of them are quite good. But Krav Maga is unique because it is a system, and that’s an important distinction. The goal is to develop a certain mindset—to be comfortable with the idea of defending yourself, not scared of it—and then to add tools to your toolbox.*

Student interest has grown quickly, and Judge is now teaching multiple sections for beginners and for those with experience. “The students love it,” he says, “and I’m delighted to be teaching at a school that emphasizes the development of moral virtues such as courage.”

In addition to teaching Krav Maga at the College, Judge is president of The America Fund, an organization devoted to preserving the American way of life. The recipient of a Ph.D. from the Claremont Graduate University, he is co-editor of *United and Independent: John Quincy Adams on American Foreign Policy* and creator and executive producer of the documentary *Right Makes Might: The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*. ■





# Four Pillars Campaign Update

## Learning, Character, Faith, and Freedom

**NANCY JOHNSON**

*Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

**W**e are in the final year of the Four Pillars Campaign, and with your help we have achieved many of our goals. Because of your generosity, we have increased scholarship support for undergraduate and graduate students, undertaken a number of campus improvements, and expanded our educational outreach programs.

The largest Campaign goal is \$261.2 million for **annually donated and endowed scholarships**. I am pleased to report that we are within \$30 million of our goal, thanks in part to the Parents Association's state scholarship fundraising effort (see pages 8–9). As ever more public universities offer “free tuition” at taxpayer expense, our privately funded scholarships allow Hillsdale to remain competitive. A named, endowed scholarship may be established with a minimum gift of \$100,000, which may be pledged over a number of years. A named, annually donated scholarship may be established with a minimum commitment of \$5,000 a year for four academic years. Scholarships may include various criteria, such as academic major, leadership roles, and participation in athletics or the arts. Donors receive annual progress reports and may have the opportunity to meet their student at a College event.

One of the many capital projects being funded through the Campaign is the **Sajak Visual Media Center**, which is under construction next door to the recently dedicated Stanton Foundation Center for American Classical Education. The Sajak

Center will expand the resources available to students enrolled in the Film and Documentary Program, and will be used for the production of online courses and K–12 instructional videos. A leadership gift from Board of Trustees Chairman Pat Sajak and his wife Lesly inaugurated the project. It will feature a film studio with interchangeable sets, conference rooms, production offices, and state-of-the-art equipment. An anonymous donor is offering a \$1 million challenge grant that will match gifts in support of the film studio dollar-for-dollar. All challenge grant donors of \$10,000 or more will be recognized on a plaque placed prominently in the studio. Room naming opportunities are also available.

Another Campaign goal is a \$20 million endowment for **online courses**, which are grounded in Hillsdale's liberal arts curriculum and are taught by College professors and visiting fellows. To date, over 3.7 million people have signed up for these courses. Last year we also began offering for-credit online courses to high school students in American history and American government.

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](mailto:jcervini@hillsdale.edu), or me at (517) 607-2314 or [njohnson@hillsdale.edu](mailto:njohnson@hillsdale.edu). To make a gift, please call Donor Services at (517) 607-2727 or go online at [secured.hillsdale.edu](https://secured.hillsdale.edu). ■

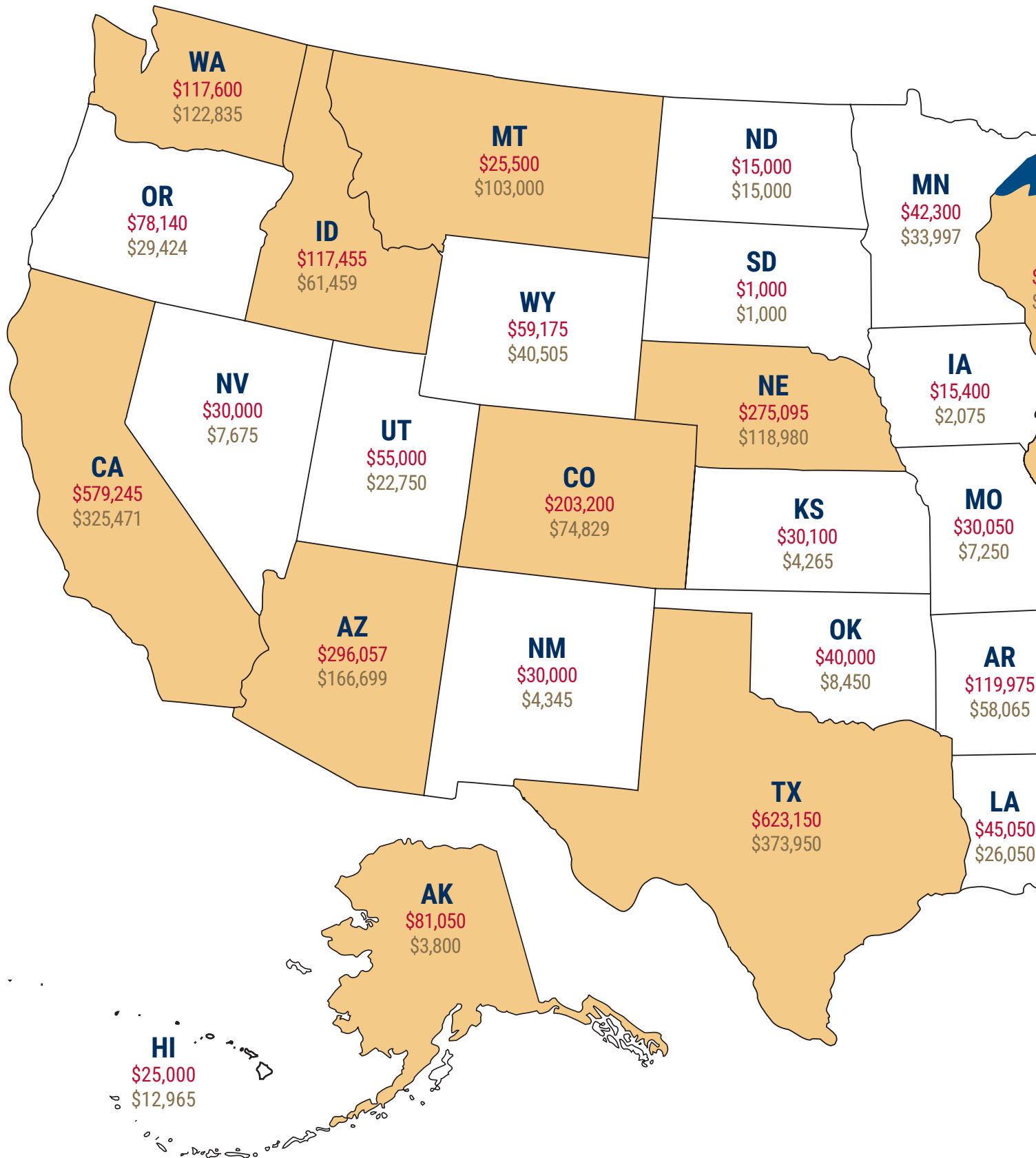
HILLSDALE COLLEGE

# PARENTS PHONATHON

FEBRUARY 19–22, 2024

**PARTNER WITH US AND WITH OUR STUDENTS BY SUPPORTING A STATE SCHOLARSHIP.**

# STATE SCHOLARSHIP



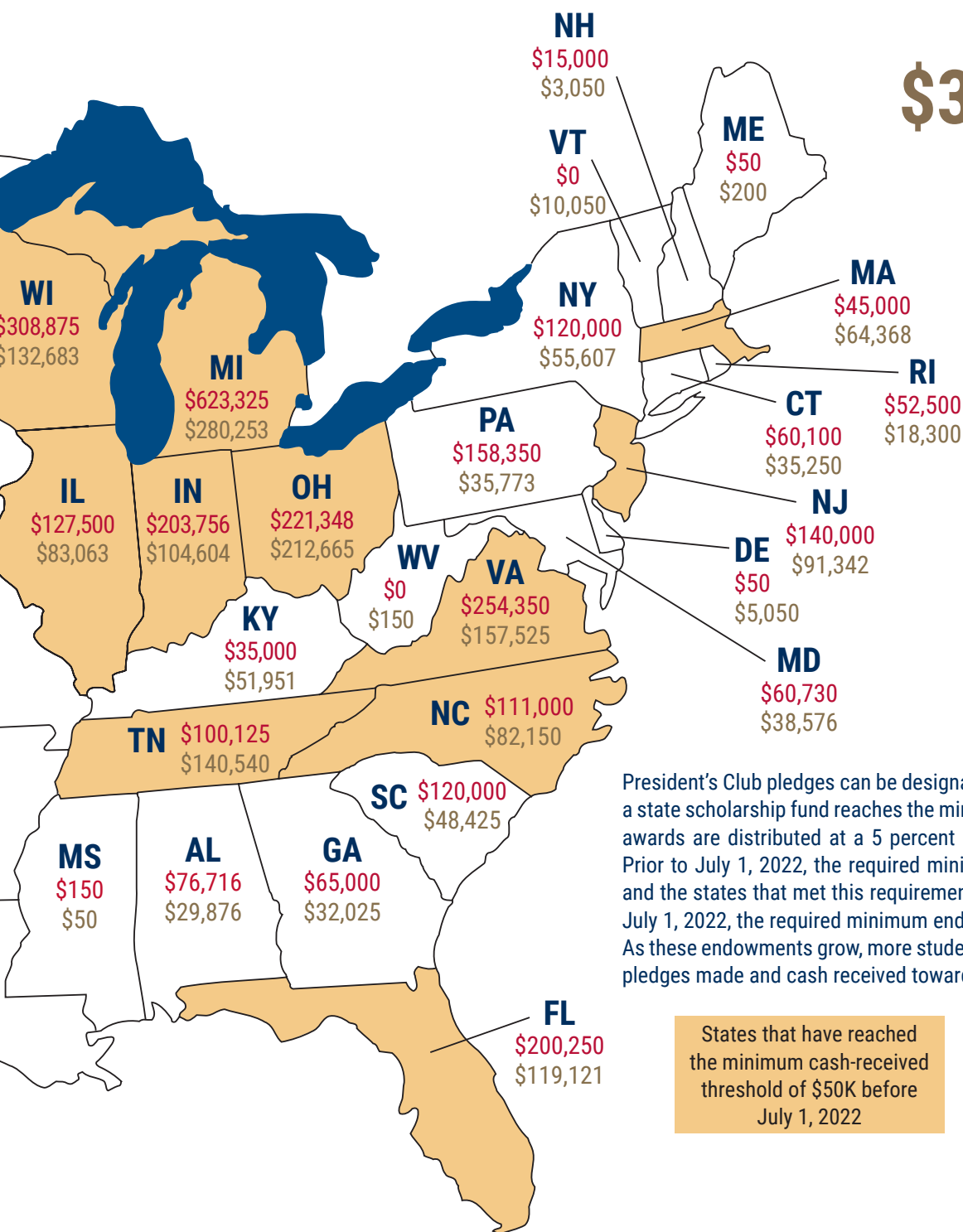
## FUNDS RAISED TO DATE

**\$6,033,717**

PLEDGED

**\$3,457,488**

RECEIVED



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.

States that have reached the minimum cash-received threshold of \$50K before July 1, 2022

States that have not reached the minimum cash-received threshold





# Continuing to Climb High!

**MAREE SOCHA**

*Director of The President's Club, The Legacy Society, and Parent Relations*

**G**reetings! What another incredible year! Hillsdale parents and grandparents continue to “climb high” by giving to and serving the College. I am proud to announce another record-breaking Fall Phonathon, which raised more than \$1.8 million!

I admire the willingness of parents, grandparents, emeritus parents, and friends of the College to give in these uncertain economic times. Thank you for partnering with us in our relentless pursuit of truth and liberty. Keep charging and vigorously running this race!

If you have any questions about Parent Relations, please feel free to contact me at (517) 607-2382 or [msocha@hillsdale.edu](mailto:msocha@hillsdale.edu).

## STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Because scholarships are so essential, the Parents Association Steering Committee will continue to direct its efforts toward student aid funding. We surpassed our \$3 million goal to support Hillsdale's private scholarships, grants, and loans.

However, we continue to 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?

## ONLINE COURSES UPDATE

Two new online courses will be released this spring: “History of Music,” featuring concert pianist and distinguished teaching fellow Hyperion Knight, and “Exodus,” featuring Professor of English Justin Jackson. The College plans to release a course on communism and another on totalitarian novels in the fall.

To date, more than 3.7 million citizens have registered for one or more of our free, not-for-credit online courses. All of Hillsdale's online courses are archived at [online.hillsdale.edu](http://online.hillsdale.edu).

In addition, the College continues to offer a for-credit online learning program for a limited number of high school-age students. Three courses are being offered this spring: two in American history and one in 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 19–22,

2024. If you wish to volunteer as a caller, please contact me at (517) 607-2382 or [msocha@hillsdale.edu](mailto: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 \$103,510 net cost of a Hillsdale education is far greater than the \$45,272 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](mailto: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 23 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 Margie Osborne, the chair of the Freshman/New Parent Sub-Committee, at [margieaosborne@yahoo.com](mailto:margieaosborne@yahoo.com). You may also sign up by calling the Parent Relations Office.

## SAVE THE DATE – FALL PARENTS WEEKEND

Fall Parents Weekend will be November 1–3, 2024, with Phonathon dates of October 28–31, 2024. Please volunteer! We look forward to hearing from you.



## Brad and Cyndi Miller

### President's Club Member Spotlight

**B**rad and Cyndi Miller met at a grocery store in the Metro Detroit area when they were both working in consumer product sales—Brad for a candy company and Cyndi for a cookie and cracker company. They spent the first twelve years of their marriage in Michigan, and the subsequent twelve in Bentonville, Arkansas, where Brad works as a supplier for Walmart.

Brad and Cyndi first learned about Hillsdale from Rush Limbaugh's radio show in the 1990s, and acquainted themselves further with the College after they started homeschooling their three daughters. "We were delighted to discover that Hillsdale offers a comprehensive liberal arts education with a large core curriculum that includes a course on the U.S. Constitution," Cyndi says. "The College also refuses to accept government funding, and we love that."

After attending their first Parents Weekend and, as Cyndi puts it, seeing first-hand "what being in the President's Club was all about—manning tables, assisting guests, and going to Broadlawn," they decided they wanted to do more to help.

Cyndi works at the Parents Phonathon, helping to raise money for student scholarships, and Brad conducts mock interviews with students and gives them professional advice through the College's Career Services Office. They are also members of the Parents Association Steering Committee. Their increased involvement "was a natural progression," says Brad. "We love the school and its values, and we enjoy being ambassadors for it." Whenever possible, they attend President's Receptions and National Leadership Seminars and discuss their experiences as Hillsdale parents and President's Club members with other friends of the College.

After their youngest child, Kara '25, arrived on campus as a freshman, the Millers decided to endow a student scholarship in honor of Cyndi's late father James Long. As a result of their gift, they automatically became President's Club members. Cyndi says,

*We were thrilled knowing that we were helping other students and that the scholarship would continue in perpetuity. After we're gone, it will still be there to bless somebody. It felt like the right thing to do, and we are so grateful that we could support Hillsdale's mission. ■*

#### UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please keep your preferred email address updated. Contact me at (517) 607-2382 or [msocha@hillsdale.edu](mailto: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. ■





HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

## Calendar of Events

As Hillsdale College parents and grandparents, you are welcome to attend any of the following events. For additional information, please contact Special Events at [special.events@hillsdale.edu](mailto:special.events@hillsdale.edu) or (517) 437-3941.

February 4–7	CCA III—The Art of Biography . . . . . Hillsdale College
February 6	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon . . . . . Pinehurst, North Carolina
February 11–14	K–12 Education School Leader Conference . . . . . Hillsdale College
February 14–15	National Leadership Seminar . . . . . Naples, Florida
February 14–16	K–12 Education Classical Schools Job Fair . . . . . Hillsdale College
February 19–22	Parents Phonathon . . . . . Hillsdale College
February 20	Drummond Lectures in Christ Chapel Series. . . . . Hillsdale College
February 23–25	Parents Weekend. . . . . Hillsdale College
March 3–7	CCA IV—The American Musical . . . . . Hillsdale College
March 5	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon . . . . . Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania
March 7	President’s Reception . . . . . Dana Point, California
March 11–12	Freedom Forum. . . . . Tulsa, Oklahoma
March 14–15	Freedom Forum. . . . . Irving, Texas
March 21	President’s Reception . . . . . Scottsdale, Arizona
March 22	President’s Luncheon . . . . . Tucson, Arizona
April 3–6	Hillsdale Hostel—American Foreign Policy . . . . . Somers, Connecticut
April 5	Center for Commerce and Freedom Conference. . . . . Hillsdale College
April 9	Center for Military History and Strategy Lecture Series. . . . . Hillsdale College

*\* Dates and locations are subject to change.*

Cover Photo: Faculty/Student Dessert Reception | Photo by Mason Dice