



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Parents Newsletter

SPRING 2025 • VOL. 30, NO. 2

College Services for Students

Faculty Advising

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

All Hillsdale undergraduate students are assigned a faculty academic advisor to help them navigate their many course options. While student schedules are mostly filled with Core Curriculum courses during the first two years, they must also consider courses that fulfill major and minor requirements as well as those related to graduate school and career plans.

While all full-time faculty members serve as advisors, the Registrar's Office also plays a key role in the advising process. It assigns each student an advisor, assists students who request a change in advisor to a faculty member in their major area of interest, and works closely with professors to answer their questions and provide academic performance data.

Students interested in psychology or in the hard sciences—biology, chemistry, math, and physics—are assigned to an advisor in one of these five disciplines, and the Registrar divides the remaining students equally among the other

professors. According to Chairman of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department (and Dean of Faculty) Thomas Treloar, Hillsdale seeks to ensure that “every advisor is a Core Curriculum advisor and every advisor is a major advisor.”

Students may change advisors with the approval of the Registrar and the requested faculty member to align better with their academic interests. Advisors rely on input from the Registrar, the Career Services Office, and other professors who teach in a student's major or pre-professional area of interest, such as pre-med or pre-law.

Students are required to meet with their advisors before registering for courses each semester. “When I meet with my advisees, we discuss their academic plan,” Treloar says. “We also talk about a backup plan, because sometimes classes fill up.” Students may request additional meetings with advisors at any time, and advisors also occasionally host meetings or informal get-togethers. ■



Evensong Service in Christ Chapel



LARRY P. ARNN
President

Given the fact that human beings naturally long for perfection, it should come as no surprise that the most sublime and elevated music has been composed in honor of God.

Hillsdale's Christ Chapel was designed for this beautiful music. The acoustics are splendid. And on most Sundays during the academic year, the Chapel Choir performs an Evensong service, a centuries-old Anglican tradition that is open to Christians of all faiths. During Advent, the Chapel Choir anticipates the glories of Christmas through lessons and carols. And once every four years around Easter, the choir and orchestra perform Handel's *Messiah*, marking the height of the Christian liturgical year. They will do so this year on April 25 and 27.

I encourage you to attend Evensong the next time you are on campus. If you are able, come for one of the *Messiah* performances. It is one of the greatest and most challenging works ever composed. It is a marvel to see our young men and women perform it so well. ■

PARENTS ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hillsdale parents are automatically enrolled in the Parents Association but can become more actively involved by joining the Parents Association Steering Committee and one of its five sub-committees—Career Opportunities, Events, Fundraising, Freshman/New Parent, or Parent Prayer Partners. The following are the members of the Steering Committee for the 2024–2025 academic year.

CHAIRMEN

Troy and Kristi Kinney

CO-CHAIRMEN

Tom and Amanda Wiermann

MEMBERS

Don and Cammy Davis
Stephen and Elisa Fleischer
Rich and Carol Griswold-Bacigalupi
John and Margaret Kerr
Brad and Elizabeth Lamoreaux
John and Kristy Luke
Brad and Cyndi Miller

Jeff and Pamela Morris

John and Margie Osborne

Jim and Anita Pappalardo

Scott and Melissa Sibert

Stan and Gretchen Smith

Matt and Danelle Sturdy

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

Mark A. Kalthoff

Donald J. Westblade

Matthew Young

For more information about the Parents Association Steering Committee, please visit hillsdale.edu/support/parents-association.



Founding Fest

Annual Celebration of the College's History and Mission

In December 2019, Hillsdale's Student Activities Office hosted the first Founding Fest—a winter-themed event for students, faculty and staff—as an extension of the College's 175th anniversary Gala Celebration that October. Held outdoors in heated tents and featuring vendors, craft stations, live animals, and music, Founding Fest marked Hillsdale's founding in December 1844 while providing an opportunity to gather together and enjoy festive, holiday activities.

Because of the event's popularity, it was held again in Fall 2021 and has since become an annual tradition. "The Alumni Relations Office is delighted to manage this event and to do our part to establish a new College tradition," says Associate Director of Annual Giving Braden VanDyke '21.

This past December, Founding Fest attendees enjoyed Christmas carols sung by the Chamber Choir and heard remarks from President Arnn. The program also featured ornament-making and s'mores-making stations, a winter market, yard games, alpacas, and a Christmas tree lighting. ■





Developing Minds and Improving Hearts

BILL GRAY '01

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

As I write, finals week is in full swing here at Hillsdale. Mossey Library is packed with students tucked in every corner preparing for exams with books, flashcards, and study guides. This reminds me of Hillsdale's primary purpose as stated in the College's Articles of Association: to "develop the minds and improve the hearts" of our students. In other words, the rigorous education they receive also shapes their character and prepares them to lead lives of virtue as productive and patriotic citizens.

The sight of all those students in the Library is a happy one, but it also points to a problem: we need additional space, especially in our library, but also for the many historical documents, archival materials, and special book collections that Hillsdale has acquired over the years. To meet these needs, we plan to expand the north side of Mossey Library. The project will add a large reading room, a new lobby, and several parlors and study rooms. An exterior grand staircase, located between the Library and Grewcock Student Union, will lead down to the East Lawn, where we hold Freshman Convocation and Commencement.

This is one of several projects planned for the north quad that will bring it into architectural harmony with Central Hall and Christ Chapel. The Diana Davis Spencer Graduate School of Classical Education building is under construction on the west side of the quad, and work has recently begun on a new façade for the student union that will match the exterior of the Library addition.

We also plan to renovate the Knorr Student Center—adding a welcome center for prospective students and guests—and the north face of Central Hall. A new war memorial and arcades will connect many of these new structures. We are grateful for the generosity of all those who have made these projects possible, especially the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation for its lead gift for the Graduate School of Classical Education building and Berniece Grewcock for her support of the renovation of the Grewcock Student Union façade.

We are also thankful for the good work of the Parents Association. This dedicated group of current and former Hillsdale parents and grandparents has set a goal to raise \$5 million over the next five years for the Mossey Library project. In recognition of their efforts, the renovated circulation area in the Library will be named for the Parents Association. Future generations of Hillsdale students, as well as the many visitors who come to Hillsdale, will benefit from their dedication to Hillsdale's 180-year-old mission.

Thank you for the many ways you support the College as parents and grandparents. To learn more about supporting the Library expansion, including several named giving opportunities, please email me at bill.gray@hillsdale.edu. I would be happy to send you more information about this project or about the College's other funding priorities. To make a gift, please call Donor Services at (517) 607-2727 or go online at secured.hillsdale.edu. ■



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

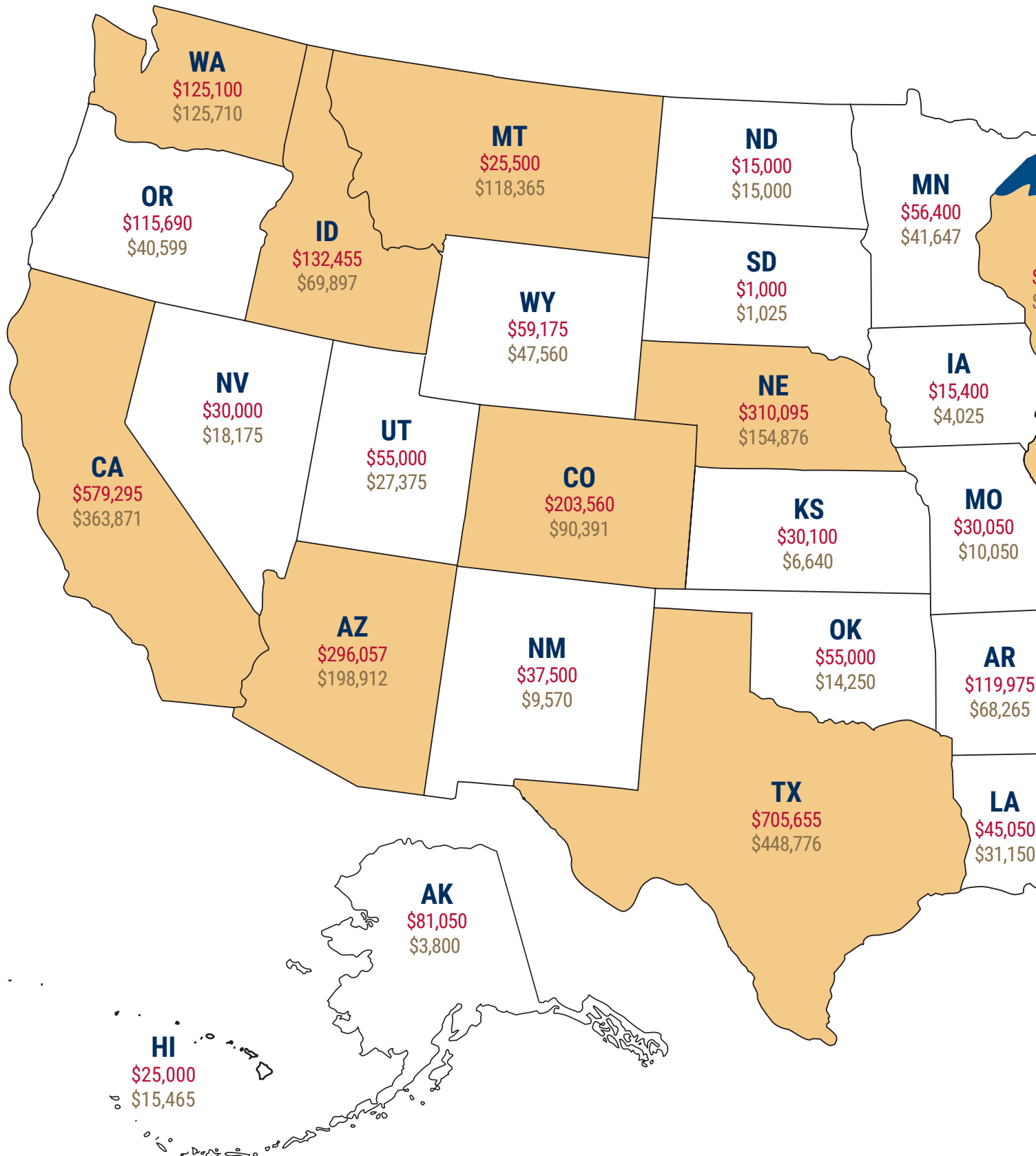
PARENTS PHONATHON

SPRING PHONATHON: FEBRUARY 24-27, 2025

FALL PHONATHON: OCTOBER 20-23, 2025

PARTNER WITH US AND WITH OUR STUDENTS BY SUPPORTING OUR LIBRARY EXPANSION.

STATE SCHOLARSHIPS



IPS

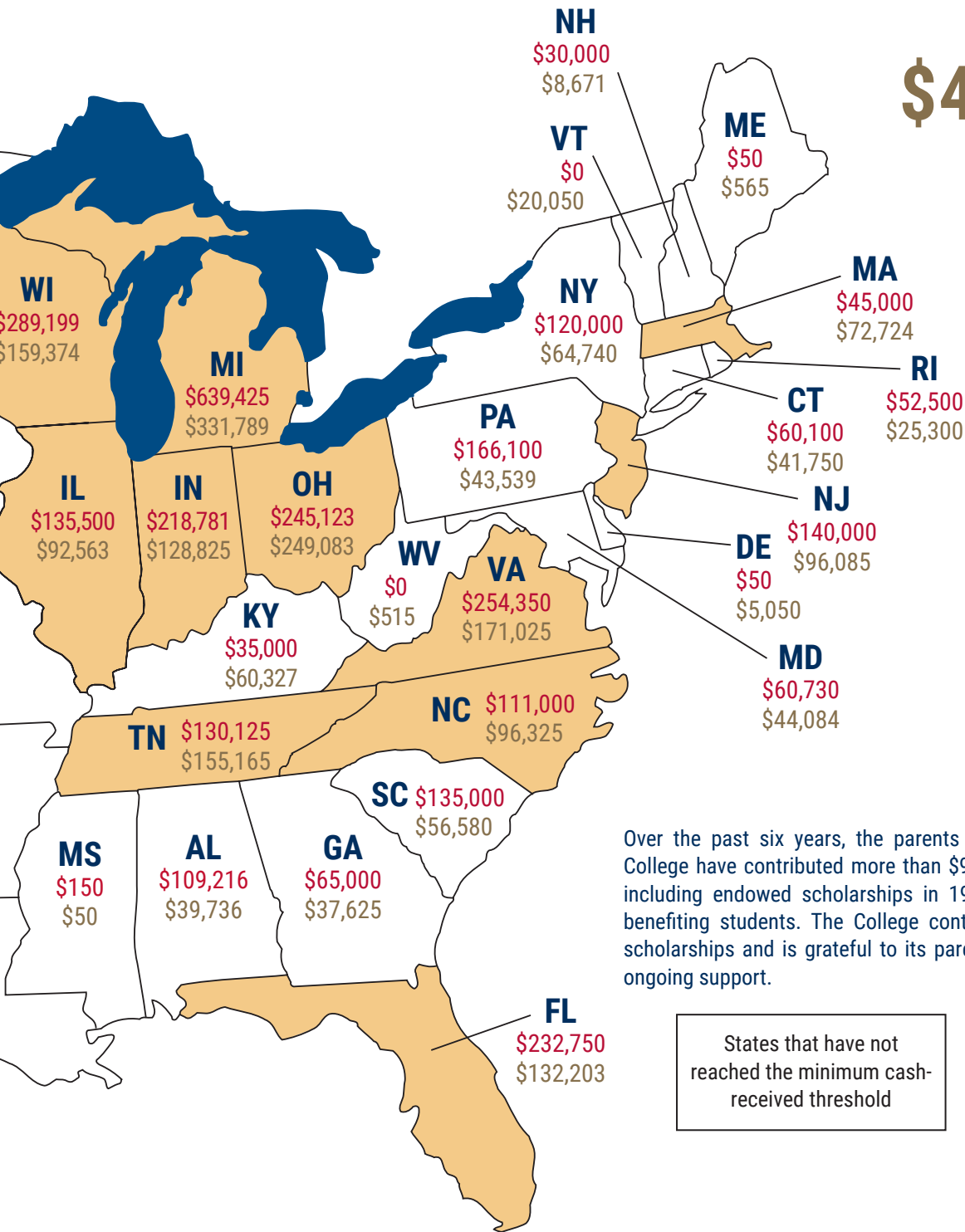
FUNDS RAISED TO DATE

\$6,424,256

PLEGGED

\$4,059,137

RECEIVED



Over the past six years, the parents and grandparents of Hillsdale College have contributed more than \$9 million for state scholarships, including endowed scholarships in 19 states (highlighted) currently benefiting students. The College continues to raise funds for state scholarships and is grateful to its parents and grandparents for their ongoing support.

States that have not reached the minimum cash-received threshold

States that have reached the minimum cash-received threshold of \$100K after June 30, 2022



Finish Strong!

MAREE SOCHA

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

As our students are in the midst of another semester and striving in their studies, let us encourage them to finish strong.

We parents have a front row seat to watch our children pursue excellence. While their journey is often fraught with difficult challenges, we know their characters are being molded through the pursuit of truth, beauty, and virtue.

Let us reflect on their accomplishments, whatever class they are in. We can wonder at the magnificent ways they change and mature, revealing that this educational endeavor they have undertaken helps to fulfill that part of our soul that yearns to be free.

Upcoming events that you are invited to attend include faculty conferences during Parents Weekend in March, Commencement in May, and one of the numerous summer send-off parties we will hold around the country beginning in June. I hope you will make time to attend one or more of our many on- and off-campus programs. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership, prayers, trust, and support.

PARENTS FUNDRAISING GOALS

For several years, the Parents Association Steering Committee (PASC) has directed its efforts to raising money for student scholarships. I am proud to report that over the past six years, we raised more than \$9 million to fund scholarships, grants, and loans. This includes a parent-led effort to endow a scholarship for each of the 50 states. Currently, 19 states have endowed scholarships (for more information, see pages 8 and 9).

Last fall, the PASC set a new goal of raising \$5 million over the next five years to support Hillsdale's planned expansion of the Michael Alex Mossey Library. The new addition to the Library will include a spacious reading room, study rooms, and an exterior grand staircase. The classical exterior design will complement Central Hall and Christ Chapel.

If we reach this goal, the Library's renovated circulation desk and lobby area will be named in honor of the Parents Association. We welcome your partnership in this new and exciting effort.

ONLINE COURSES UPDATE

A new online course, "Paradise Lost," was released in October, featuring Professor of English Stephen Smith. This spring, the College plans to release courses on totalitarian novels, capitalism, and *The Federalist Papers*.

To date, more than four million students have registered for one or more of our free, not-for-credit online courses. All of Hillsdale's online courses are available at 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. Two courses are being offered this spring: one in American history and one in American government.

PARENTS PHONATHON AND PARENTS WEEKEND EVENTS

For the 2024–2025 academic year, the Spring Phonathon will take place on February 24–27, followed by Parents Weekend on February 28–March 1. For the 2025–2026 academic year, the Fall Phonathon will take place on October 20–23, followed by Parents Weekend on October 24–26. Please volunteer and help us reach our goals for the Library expansion, scholarships, and College operations. 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 \$109,865 net cost of a Hillsdale education is far greater than the \$46,789 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 group of parents and grandparents who continue to support the College's mission. We are grateful, as is every student.

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 30 parties in 22 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 let us know!

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please keep your preferred email address updated. 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. ■

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
MAREE SOCHA AT (517) 607-2382 OR
Msocha@hillsdale.edu.**



Matt and Danelle Sturdy

President's Club Member Spotlight

Matt and Danelle Sturdy fondly recall when they first met at a roller-skating rink at the age of 14. They started dating after high school and were married in their early 20s. During their 40-year marriage, they have raised six children, including Hillsdale students Joseph '24 and Daniel '27, and have lived in several states, including Nebraska, Utah, and Washington.

The Sturdys eventually returned to their home state of Michigan and now reside in Portage, 90 minutes from Hillsdale's campus. Their proximity allows them to visit the College frequently to enjoy their sons' musical performances and to be active members of the Parents Association Steering Committee (PASC).

Matt is in his 40th year in transportation industry sales, and Danelle is in the 19th year of her teaching career, during which she took a 15-year hiatus to stay home with their children. Certified to teach any subject from kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as ninth grade science, she also teaches choir and drama.

Danelle grew up knowing about Hillsdale because her paternal grandmother attended the College in the early twentieth century. She and Matt remember their first visit to campus, amazed they could leave Joseph's bassoon unattended and moved by the graciousness of the students. Those initial impressions have only been reinforced in subsequent years. "We were at the College recently for a Christmas concert, and I hugged one of Joseph's professors as though we were long lost friends," Danelle says. "It's so authentic and so unique."

Matt chairs the PASC Fundraising Subcommittee, which is responsible for the Parents Phonathon, an event he says is a natural fit for him.

Most people think that a dental procedure would be more enjoyable than spending a week calling and asking for donations. But it is so much fun, and the parent volunteers are great people. There have been some very meaningful phone conversations over the years, and long-lasting friendships have been forged among the volunteers.

Danelle helps wherever there is a need. She especially enjoys making fellow parents feel welcome during Parents Weekend.

The Sturdys were eager to join The President's Club and considered it a "stewardship calling." It was also an expression of their deep admiration for President and Mrs. Arnn's generosity and passion for the students. "The family is instrumental to what the College does," Danelle says. "It's not just about attracting bright kids; it's also about family involvement."

"Being a President's Club member requires you to be an engaged and active participant in the College community," Matt says. "There's a partnership and a covenant between the College, the student, and the student's family. And that's not just a talking point—that's real." ■



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 or (517) 437-3941.

February 2–5	CCA III—Artificial Intelligence	Hillsdale College
February 8	Parents Association Wine Tasting and Dinner	Newport Beach, California
February 11	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	Ruston, Washington
February 13	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	Roseville, California
February 18–19	National Leadership Seminar	Phoenix, Arizona
February 24–27	Parents Phonathon	Hillsdale College
February 25	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	Long Beach, California
February 27	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	Camarillo, California
February 28–March 1	Parents Weekend	Hillsdale College
March 2–6	CCA IV—History on Film	Hillsdale College
March 10–11	Freedom Forum	Mars, Pennsylvania
March 13–14	Freedom Forum	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 18	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	Round Rock, Texas
March 20	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	Eules, Texas
March 20	Online Course Premiere	Sarasota, Florida
March 25	President’s Reception	Charlotte, North Carolina
March 27	President’s Luncheon	Wilmington, North Carolina
April 1	Gift and Estate Planning Luncheon	San Jose, California
April 4	Center for Commerce and Freedom Annual Conference	Hillsdale College
April 9–11	50/60-Year “Plus” Reunion	Hillsdale College
April 10	Salmans Golf Building Dedication	Hillsdale College
April 15	Hillsdale College Reception	Boise, Idaho
April 17	Hillsdale College Luncheon	Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Dates and locations are subject to change.

Cover Photo: Chapel Choir in Christ Chapel | Mason Dice