

### **Hillsdale Academy President's Report: 2012-2013**

Hillsdale Academy's remarkable year was led by a senior class full of energy, good humor, and intellect. Among these young people were state champion runners, such as Shaley Albaugh; Dillon Murray, one of the Academy's state champion Quiz Bowl contenders; as well as Charles "Chip" Blood, one of two National Merit Scholars in the Class of 2013. The June 2 graduation ceremony was attended by Dr. Larry Arnn, Dr. David Whalen, and by Dr. Peter Schramm, Director of the Ashbrook Institute. Schramm addressed the class on the subject of "Education and Freedom," reminding the seniors that intelligent self-government is the foundation of good government. Schramm shared the podium with the class valedictorian, Dean Robinson, as well as with the class salutatorians, Christina Craig and Andrew Ruchames, who provided the ceremony with its annual Latin speech.

Throughout the school, students enjoyed a good year of academic success in the classroom and travel beyond the school's walls. The Academy's annual National Geographic Geography Bee, led by Mrs. Karen Somerville, was won by 6th grader Gretchen Birzer. Among the local ArtWorks champions were 6th grader Laura Rodriguez-Lugo, as well as 5th graders Katherine and Lydia Knecht. In the autumn, Mrs. Julie Budd took her "budding" 8th graders on a trip to Stratford, Ontario, for the annual Shakespeare festival. In the springtime, Academy juniors and seniors traveled to Greece and Italy, the K-2nd graders followed Mrs. Pam Steiner and Mrs. Carin Harner to Mackinac Island, while the 7th graders traveled with Mr. Brent Falke to the Michigan Air Zoo. In what has now become an annual event, Dr. Ellen Condict and Miss Deanna Ducher toured the Thomson-Shore book bindery in Dexter, Michigan, with the Academy's senior class. All of this activity—in and away from school—was enthusiastically supported by parents who provided chaperones, transportation and, through the Hillsdale Academy Parents Association, generous funding so that every student might benefit from these opportunities.

For nearly a decade, Dr. Victor Davis Hanson has brought his historical and political wisdom to the Academy. In the first trimester, Dr. Hanson continued this tradition in an address to the 8th through 12th grades on the ever-growing intrusion of government in the personal lives of citizens. Hanson was one of four speakers to address Academy students and faculty throughout the year. A second was children's author Donna Frisinger, while a third presentation was made to the Lower and Upper School faculty by Meghan Cox Gurdon, the children's book critic of the *Wall Street Journal*. In cooperation with John Miller, director of the Dow Program in American Journalism at Hillsdale College, Gurdon led the Academy faculty in a wide-ranging discussion of new and classic titles. In April, a final and most intriguing presentation was made by Mr. Richard Austin, a world-renowned performer of poetry by Gerard Manley Hopkins. In coordination with Dr. Nicole Coonradt and the Hillsdale College English Department, Austin recited numerous works by Hopkins to the 5th through 12th grades. Teachers and students alike were impressed by his talent and motivated to strengthen the school's long-standing tradition of public recitation.

The Hillsdale Academy athletic program also experienced a banner year. Over 90 percent of the student body, grades 6th through 12th, competed on Academy teams, and the Colt tradition of success continued with five conference championships. Several teams were ranked among the top programs in the state. The boys won conference championships in soccer, cross-country, and golf. Coach Neal Brady's soccer team retained the Hillsdale County Cup for the fourth year in a row. The boys' basketball team won a district championship and was named 2nd place for Class D Team Academic All-State honors by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. This team also received the state's "Top 100" Sportsmanship Award. Senior Chip Blood earned All-State honors in soccer, basketball, and golf and was named one of two male Class D Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Scholar-Athlete Award winners. Senior Bruce Cartwright was also named All-State in soccer and track and field. His twin, Brent Cartwright, and juniors Thomas Dinkleman and Liam Wolfram each achieved All-State recognition in track. The girls' program enjoyed great success with the track and field team winning its ninth straight conference championship. This team finished second at the MITCA Team State Championship in late May. The girls' volleyball and basketball teams won conference and district titles, while the ladies' golf team qualified for the MHSAA Finals for the fourth year in a row. Many individual girls earned honors throughout the year. Senior Elyse Lisznyai achieved All-State recognition in golf, basketball, and track and field. She was also named one of two female Class D MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award winners. The girls' 3200-Meter Relay Team of Lisznyai, junior Victoria Heckenlively, and seniors Chrissy Craig, and Shaley Albaugh won the state championship, marking the third time the Colts have won this event in four years. Juniors Mallory Erwin and Maeve Sullivan also earned All-State in Track and Field honors. And seniors Shaley Albaugh, Chip Blood, and Elyse Lisznyai shared the coveted Jennifer Beach Scholarship Award given to the Hillsdale area's most outstanding student-athletes.

The spirit of community service was strong at Hillsdale Academy this year. Throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, all of the Lower School classes and the Upper School's National Honor Society conducted various collections for local food, toy, and clothing needs. The "Doers of Good Service" (DOGS) led the "Penny Wars" for the Lingap Children's Center in Toledo City, the Philippines. Over the past several years, the Academy has worked with John Drake, '74, president of the Lingap Children's Center Foundation, to provide funding that will help feed and educate children in Toledo City. Closer to home, the DOGS worked with the school's National Honor Society and the ATO fraternity at Hillsdale College to collect canned goods for local churches. Among other activities was the annual "Turkey Trot" run and canned goods event at Hayden Park, the National Honor Society choral performances at the Medical Care Facility of Hillsdale County, and the "Sleigh Drive" collection of toiletries for Domestic Harmony of Hillsdale led by junior Sierra Russell and the DOGS.

On January 23, the faculty, staff, parents, and alumni of Hillsdale Academy gathered to kick off the Hillsdale Academy Annual Fund. This new fund gives the Academy community an opportunity to support the school's operating budget. The effort was greeted with enthusiasm as the initial six-month drive proved successful. Many members of the Academy community gave generous gifts, and a good number joined the Hillsdale College President's Club with specific designations made for the Annual Fund. In the coming years, the school will hold

Annual Fund dinners, Grandparents' days, and alumni events designed to encourage participation in this important effort.

Finally, Hillsdale Academy continued its long-standing mission of working with classical and traditional schools. The staff assisted with the public charter schools of the Barney Charter School Initiative and with the work of a local public charter, the Hillsdale Preparatory School. Dozens of private schools also looked to Hillsdale Academy for assistance. Two of the newest schools, Oakdale Academy in Waterford, Michigan, and Bridgedale Academy in Woodridge, Illinois, hired Hillsdale College graduates onto their teaching staffs.