



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

PURSUING TRUTH · DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844

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Hillsdale College Students Research Otto von Habsburg's Correspondence with Leading American Conservatives

The students interned for the Habsburg Foundation in Budapest, Hungary, this summer.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Three Hillsdale College students interned in Budapest, Hungary, at the Habsburg Foundation this summer. They studied correspondence between Otto von Habsburg and leading American conservatives including Barry Goldwater, Russell Kirk, Henry Kissinger, Burke scholar Peter Stanlis, and Heritage Foundation President Ed Feulner.

“At Hillsdale, we teach students the value of primary sources like these letters and how to study them well,” said Professor of History Richard Gamble. “Through this internship they got to apply the principles they’ve learned as history majors in ground-breaking historical research.”

Ethan Bourgeois '26, Njomëza Pema '25, and Lydia Chenoweth '25 prepared an article about Otto's correspondence with American conservatives, which will be translated into Hungarian for potential publication in a leading archives journal.

Otto von Habsburg was the eldest son of Hungary's last king and an influential statesman and politician in 20th-century Europe.

The Habsburg Foundation internships began in 2024 with Bourgeois, who was the first person to examine Otto von Habsburg's correspondence with these prominent American conservatives. At the foundation's request, Bourgeois returned this summer to work with the same correspondence, joined by Pema and Chenoweth.

During their time in Hungary, the interns also attended the Budapest Opera, concerts at the Liszt Academy, and museum exhibitions, and Bourgeois attended a centennial celebration at the official residence of the British ambassador, whom he met at the event.

For more information about the Habsburg Foundation, click [here](#). For headshots of the students, click [here](#). For photos from their time in Hungary, click [here](#). For photos of Hillsdale College, click [here](#). For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 6.9 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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